

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

16th November 2025 Thirty-Third Sunday Psalter Week 1
(World day of the Poor)



Rivers do not drink their own water, trees do not eat their own fruit, the sun does not shine on itself, and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.
Pope Francis

What a wonderful quote. Thank you, Pope Francis.

We appear to be gazing into a world that is turning in on itself due to an indifference to each other, and of course, an indifference to God Himself. Just read the news. Depressing reading at times.

Is Jesus predicting what's going on in the world today? Maybe the Gospel reading is equally as depressing. Is it an inevitability that people would become arrogant, big-headed, supposedly smart, and not feel they need to hold on to anything beyond themselves (God); and so become incredibly self-centered. *Are they rivers trying to drink their own water?* Did Jesus foresee all this? Very possibly.

Yet, we are called as followers to bear witness. Bearing witness sadly only normally happens when times are bad. What about when those in the office, or in the team at work, can't be bothered to believe, do we take that opportunity? Does Mass, Eucharist, Sacraments, Prayer, help?

Why do we come to Mass? To strengthen our faith so as we can stand up against self-absorbed unbelievers, or do we come because it's part of our mindless weekend schedule...ho hum!

When a people decide to reject any notion of God, this people is necessarily going to become self-absorbed and turn in on itself. *People who are trees trying to eat their own fruit.* A rejection of God is a rejection of the soul. This puts everything, our institutions, our laws, our morals, our ethics, everything into crisis and chaos. What else can we expect when the one who holds it all together is rejected.

As followers we are called to follow. We are called to stand up to such self-centeredness and indifference. Especially in our work teams, offices, friendship circles – all of it is our chance to bear witness. Are we prepared to? Or do we too quickly give in, because, in truth, we're scared, clam up, we have no faith.

To have faith, bear witness, knowing, mysteriously (faith) we will have the right words to say, and right actions, is what is needed. Not to run away. How people so quickly run away from confrontations!

Maybe today's Gospel reading is in fact quite positive; bad things may be going on in the world, but rather than crawl back into our shells, we can use these dreadful times as a real chance to bear witness. Stand firm for our faith. To show our faith and see joy when our faith is shared.

Yes, *life is good when you are happy; but is life much better when others are happy because of you?*

1st Reading: Malachi 4: 1-2a

Psalms: 98: 5-6, 7-8a. 8b-9b.9cd.

2nd Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 15th November	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 16th November	Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year (World Day of the Poor)
8.00am Mass	Holy Souls RIP
10.00am Mass	Confirmation Candidates (Ints)
Monday 17th November	
9.30am Mass	Deceased members of the Rayner and Griffin Families RIP
Tuesday 18th November	
9.30am Mass	Paul Gurney RIP – Rae Healy
Wednesday 19th November	
10.00am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP – Susan and Damian
Thursday 20th November	
9.30am Mass	Deceased members of the McGrath Family RIP – Helen Cooper
Friday 21st November	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9.30am Mass	James Rickards RIP – Susan and Damian Lucibello
Saturday 22nd November	St. Cecilia
5.30pm Mass	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 23rd November	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King (Youth Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	James Rickards RIP – Simon and Mark Mason

All Church Services are now Live Streamed. To take part please go to
<https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/olor>
Masses can be watched “live” or later as a recording

PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 38.24.99 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@brcdt.org	<u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am
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The Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.30pm – 5pm Saturday evenings (not in the confessional box) *Please be aware - Times and days of weekday Masses are subject to change.*
Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 23



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time. Especially..... Daniel Abel and Sheila Freeman. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please keep Robert Kauders in your prayers. Robert (Bob), formerly of our parish died recently. His funeral will be on November 19th at 12.30pm. The funeral will be conducted by Fr. Joseph Whisstock, (Parish Priest of Frinton). This will not be a Mass. Please also keep Margaret and the family in prayer too. May Robert rest in peace. †

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: Please ensure all items for the parish newsletter are submitted to the parish office by **11am on Thursdays** at the latest. Thank you

Copies of the newsletter are placed on the noticeboard inside the church porch, and parts of the newsletter inside the noticeboard outside the church. Please leave these as they are so as others may see them for quick reference. Thank you.

Holy Communion, when receiving, please consume the Sacred Host IMMEDIATELY. The Sacred Host should be consumed before receiving the Sacred Blood from the Chalice, if you do not receive from the Chalice, then consume the Sacred Host straight away in front of the Altar. Thank you.

Church Car Park: anyone who wishes to leave their car in the church car park overnight, or especially over several nights, **must check with the Parish Office first.** This is for reasons such as funeral guests having priority parking during funerals, other celebrations occurring requiring parking. Thank you.

Printed Parish Newsletters – Reminder: printed newsletters are left outside the Presbytery for those who have **NO ACCESS** to electronic newsletters. In good conscience, please honour this request. Thank you.

Learn To Pray Course Online

Would you like some tips to help your prayer life each day? The Diocesan Service Team are offering an online course running from Friday 14th November for six weeks until Friday 19th December from 7.30 to 9.00 pm. If you are interested in signing up for this course please follow this link:

<https://wkf.ms/3VcDEgl?text0=>

Please note that it is I not capital i

Our Lady of Ransom Parish Pilgrimage to Knock & Co. Mayo Ireland Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July 2026

A five-day parish pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, Ireland with three days visiting Knock and the remaining two days visiting the Fr. Peyton Centre (with light lunch provided), Ballintubber Abbey, Kylemore Abbey and Croagh Patrick. Our hotel will be in Westport, a 40-45 min drive from Knock. The Castlecourt Hotel, Westport will provide a four-course dinner each night, a bar and evening entertainment. Flights are from Stanstead Airport with an early morning outbound flight and early evening return. Price £899 per person based on two people sharing. Package includes flight with 10kg check-in luggage; four nights dinner, bed & breakfast; all entertainment, excursions and guided tours. A single room supplement of £200 – maximum 5 single rooms available. For further information and to register your interest in the pilgrimage, please contact: Shirley Hegewald email: shirley.hegewald16@gmail.com mobile: 07900 396256.

Sunday November 16th at the 10am Mass, 22 of our young friends will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Alan. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you. There will be a Coffee Morning after the Mass.

Remembrance Book – will be in the Church Porch from November 3rd, during all of November. Those whose names are written in the book will be prayed for at various Masses during November.

Pope John Paul 11 Hall Bookings -

Please contact Paul Roseman on 07470 691902 for any Hall Booking requests, thank you.

Wheelchairs and Strollers: Do you have any unwanted or no longer needed? Or any walking aids? Until recently we had a supply for people to take and use as needed. They are now all taken. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please let us know by calling the Parish Office. Thank you.

Also, a four-wheeled electric Mobility Scooter is looking for a good home. Please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday, November 12th after the 10.00am Eucharistic Service

If you wish to help about once each month, we very much need you, so come along and make yourself known. We'd love to see you

Sunday Coffee Morning -

If you are interested in running a coffee morning after Sunday 10am Mass, for a Charity of your choice, please inform the staff in the presbytery office. Thank you

There will be a coffee morning on Sunday 16th November following the Mass of the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy at 10am mass, for children aged 3 years old to school year 6)

There are 2 groups - preschool to school year 2, and school years 3-6).

Parents are welcome to settle the youngest children coming for the first few times, aiming towards them coming independently.

Children do not need to bring anything to the session- any materials needed will be provided. (If your child has special needs, please make leaders aware beforehand - we welcome everyone!)

Repository. Christmas is on the way. Advent Calendars are on sale. Boxes of 18 cards- £4.25. Packs of 12 and 10 cards respectively, plus single cards are available. All very reasonable prices. Also, cards and gift items for Confirmation.

Christmas Eve Family Mass-we are looking for adult volunteers to assist with organising costumes and practice. If you enjoy participating in the Christmas Eve family mass, please consider volunteering (ahead) to join a small group and help share a little of the preparation! Everyone is busy at that time of year, so the more it can be shared the better for everybody! Please message 07801 888787 if you can help a little or have any questions! Thank you!

Christmas Eve Family Mass- Nativity tableau

All children who would like to join in our nativity tableau, for the Gospel at our Christmas Eve Family Mass, please come and put your name down and find a costume from our parish supply, on one of the first 2 dates below! All are welcome! We will then have 2 practices/ run throughs for all involved on the two dates below:

23rd November- sign up and costume allocation (church, after 10am mass)

30th November - sign up and costume allocation (church, after 10am mass)

7th and 21st December- practices for all involved (church, after 10 am mass)

Look forward to seeing you- thank you!

*23rd November is **World Youth Sunday**, celebrating the young people of our Church. There will be a **second collection** to support the work of the **Brentwood Catholic Youth Service**, helping young people grow in faith through retreats, pilgrimages, and leadership opportunities.*

Schoolchildren's education is being affected because parents can't afford hygiene products and are too embarrassed to send their children to school. Some children are also experiencing similar embarrassment because they ARE being sent to school but in unwashed uniform.

Please consider donating these items, washing powder/liquid or feminine hygiene items to the Food Bank collection in the porch of our church. Thank you.

HARP- We are very short of items that we give to people who use our services. Here is the list:
Sleeping bags; Hand warmer; Foil blanket, take away cups; Ladies small underwear

Men's boxers small and medium; Leggings; Socks; Deodorants.

If you can help, please do let us know, we are happy to come and collect the items or you can donate to the Bradbury Centre 103-107 York Road, Southend-On-Sea, SS1 2DL.

Thank you for all your support.

Gift Aid

It is important that we have the current address for anyone who has joined the parish Gift Aid scheme. If you have moved since you signed up to Gift Aid, please email your new address to Sandra Cowdrey, our Gift Aid Organizer, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com

St. Vincent's Centre Southend... is holding an Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel on Monday 8th December at 1.30pm. Tickets are £37.50 and booking is essential. Please email NesperM@svp.org.uk to reserve your place. Various events are also held to raise funds to help those in need. Afternoon teas, dinners, plus other events. Interested?

Please visit: Nesperm@svp.org.uk **07549128877** or **01702 592980**. Thank you.

Missio Red Boxes

If you have a Missio Red Box at home, it is now time for collection. If your box is normally collected by one of our promoters, they will be in touch with you soon, but if your box hasn't been collected for some time, please let me know - we have fewer promoters than previously, but I will make sure to arrange collection.

You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email warren_katherine@hotmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio. God Bless.

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) Christmas Craft and Gift Fair will be held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on Sunday 16th November from 10.30am - 4pm. There is free parking at the venue and admission is only £1.50 for adults and free for children under 14. There will be 45 stalls selling many unique crafts, gifts and handmade fare so come along and pick up some early Christmas presents. BCCS will have its own stall selling donated gifts and crafts and there will be a fundraising raffle during the event and refreshments available too.

Celebrated biblical scholar and translator Fr Nicholas King SJ will be considering how the document on the Bible of the Second Vatican Council - entitled *Dei Verbum* - continues to help us to read, study and pray the Scriptures. The talks, arranged by the Catholic Biblical Association, will take place at Christ the High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 6DH, from 11 am on Saturday 22nd November 2025. Entrance is free. The talks will be livestreamed on www.whatgoodnews.org and a recording of the talks will be made available subsequently on the same website.

Samaritans Purse Shoebox appeal - CWL Westcliff were overwhelmed by the support for our appeal across the parish and deanery. Many thanks to all who supported our fundraising - we raised a total of £1964 which we made up to £2000. This means we were able to buy 80 Shoeboxes online for children in need across the world. Thank you so much for bringing a smile to the face of a child this Christmas.

Our Lady Immaculate School, Chelmsford. Required from 1st April 2026. L15-L21 (starting salary based on experience). NOR: 218.

Governors are seeking to appoint a dedicated and inspirational Head Teacher who is a committed, practicing Catholic. We are looking for someone who shares our vision and passion and has the leadership and ambition to build on the successes of our school. Our new Head Teacher will be well-supported by all stakeholders and will have the benefit of a close network of colleagues in the CMAT who really enjoy working together.

Deadline for applications: **12:00 noon on Thursday 20th November 2025.** We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. Please speak with the **Admin & Finance Officer, Lindsey Murgatroyd** for more information. For an Application Pack please email:

lindsey.murgatroyd@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher vacancy at Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Benfleet, Essex, required for April 2026 – Due to the current headteacher taking the decision to retire from the post, an exciting opportunity has arisen for an inspirational, ambitious and innovative Headteacher to join the team at Holy Family Catholic Primary School. Further information and application documents can be found on the following websites – [HFCPS Website - Job Vacancies](#) and [Vacancies – Assisi Catholic Trust](#).

Midday Play Assistant Vacancy

The Local Governing Committee of Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School is looking to appoint a Midday Play Assistant to oversee the children eating lunch and to encourage play activities with them so that their lunchtime is an enjoyable, sociable, learning experience.

You will be required to work for 8.75 hours per week (11.30am-1.15pm each lunchtime) to be paid on Point 2 (approx £12.26 per hour) during term time.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This appointment is subject to satisfactory references, medical and enhanced DBS checks.

VACANCY – St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and motivated Higher Level Teaching Assistant to join our team.

For more information about the position and to apply, please visit:-

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=114585>

Closing date is Midday on 24th November 2025

Visits to the school are welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the school office by phone 01277 653770 or email on admin@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk

Volunteer Request from OLOR Primary School

As we develop our sensory garden there are a few jobs that we need specialist skills for. Would anyone be willing to give up a few hours to help lay some paving slabs underneath our pergola. We have the slabs already and can purchase any sand or cement etc that is required. If you can assist us, please contact the school office on 01268 785741. Thank you.

Walsingham House Team 26/27: applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Yr13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email michaelkearns@brcdt.org. Applications close on Friday 16th January 2026.



ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL
Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 7JS

DECEMBER
12TH
5-8PM

WITH
A SPECIAL
VISIT FROM
*Father
Christmas!*

**Christmas
FAIR**

COME AND JOIN US FOR
MUSIC ♦ SHOPPING ♦ FOOD



**ST BERNARD'S
SIXTH FORM**

OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2025

FROM 6.30PM TO 8.30PM
Headteacher's Talk @ 6:45PM

View our facilities and speak with teachers and staff
about our courses and the opportunities we offer.

We offer a large range of subjects achieving excellent
results including GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, MATHS, MEDIA
STUDIES, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, BIOLOGY,
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE, CHEMISTRY, AND PHYSICS



To register your interest in our Open Evening
please scan the QR Code

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**

St Bernard's High School, Milton Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 7JS

T 01702 343583 | E office@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

*Pupils work hard in lessons and their behaviour in
class is focused and engaged. OFSTED 2023*



St Vincent's

a place of help, hope and opportunity

Food Donations needed

UHT Milk

Pasta sauces

Tinned Meat

Mayo

Butter

Nappies

Wet wipes

Crisps/ biscuits

Tuna Crackers

Pot Noodles

Instant Noodles

Tea, Sugar &

Coffee

Jams & Spreads

Tins of veggie

food (macaroni

cheese/ veggie

ravioli etc)

Tinned Tomato

Cereal

Pasta

Toiletries

St Vincent's Centre, Victoria Business Park, Short
Street, SS2 5BY, Phone: 01702592980

Email: nesperm@svp.org.uk

Charity No: 1053992



Got pipes? We've got pews!

Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:30 pm for about an hour,
just enough time to feel holy and hit a high note.

We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.



CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:

ISOBEL KENNEDY

07795 821705



ST VINCENT'S CENTRE, SOUTHEND
**Christmas Hamper
Appeal 2025**

**Join Us To Lift Families Up
This Christmas**

This Christmas we will be supporting many families with hampers. These are the items we need to create a hamper for a family in need.

- **Pasta**
- **Chocolate spread or jar of jam**
- **Packet of cream crackers**
- **Packet of sweets/biscuits**
- **UHT milk**
- **Jar of instant coffee**
- **Bottle of ketchup**
- **Cereal**
- **Mince pies**
- **Christmas crackers**
- **Tins of custard**
- **Jar/packet instant hot chocolate**
- **Jar of pasta sauce**
- **Gravy granules**
- **£10 voucher – Tesco, Sainsburys or Lidl**

Last donations 15th December 2025

**Unit 9, Victoria Business Park, Short Street, SS2 5BY
Charity No: 1053992**

ST VINCENT'S CENTRE
INVITES YOU TO
Afternoon Tea

AT
THE ROSLIN BEACH HOTEL
MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2025

1:30PM

£37.50 PER PERSON

(ADVISE DIETARY REQUIREMENTS WHEN BOOKING)



To Book Contact Phone: 07549128877

Email: nesperm@svp.org.uk

Charity No: 1053992

