

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 Christ the Universal King C Psalter Week 2



She slapped us around. Her slaps on the head gave us throbbing headaches.

She put the very fear of God into us. So, it was with one of my old teachers. Many schools operated that way in those days – and much worse as many will testify. The only teacher I felt I could never really forgive – for the way she so frightened us children. I thought I'd put it all past me as an adult. Then, by chance, I was called to the hospital to give her the Sacraments. Was it really her? Surely not! But it was. I saw her in the second-last bed on the right-hand side of the ward. Of all my old teachers – why her? I stood by the ward door, almost paralyzed, painful memories flooding back. A cold fear genuinely gripped me. The nasty headaches from her head slaps. Did she deserve forgiveness? She was seriously ill. I knew I must let go, I must try and forgive. After all, I am a priest. I think I managed – but it wasn't easy. I gave her the sacraments peacefully. All was well, literally – thank God. I like to think we both experienced some form of healing – even in her semi-conscious state.

Forgiveness is never easy nor instant. Only a fool thinks otherwise. An authentic appreciation of the cross demands that we at least try. To realize, that so often, our enemies or opponents are not so much evil in themselves, but symbols of a bigger evil, and that they are victims of this larger evil. Please think about that. It needs thinking and praying about Who is your that person you hate? That person may well be a victim of some larger evil. And, for us, they become the very symbol of that evil. To hold on to this truth allows great compassion and forgiveness to happen.

My old teacher may have been a victim of the general nastier methods in teaching of her day. That's the bigger evil. For me she was a symbol of that evil. As many teachers were in those days.

Jesus, at his lowest ebb of life in brutal agony, from the cross, forgives the repentant thief, and those around him as they 'knew not what they were doing'. Is this mercy just fantasy? Or a nice bit of moral behavior from the Lord? Nice poetry? Or, something real, a perennial truth we are all called to learn from and follow.

An authentic appreciation of the cross is saying that we must fight evil, prayerfully, peacefully, non-antagonistically, even lovingly. Again, this can allow for real forgiveness to happen. Knee-jerk reactions of revenge and hate only serve to complicate things; they produce negative energies which are in turn deepened; and we increase the endless cycle of violence. Hating our enemy makes us just like them. (Hitler said that). We assimilate their energies. Now they call the shots. Is it all worth it?

When Pope Pius gave us this feast of Christ the King 100 years ago, it was a reminder that Mussolini was not king, in other words, the tyranny of power, status, and money should never be the controlling factors in life. These are NOT king. Christ is. And only Christ. Only His compassion, love, forgiveness and humility really work and make our world a better place. Are we prepared to let these Gospel necessities happen through us?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Samuel 5: 1-3**

**Psalm: 122: 1-2, 4-5.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Colossians 1: 12-20**

**Gospel: Luke 23: 35-43**



| MASS INTENTIONS                           |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>  |   |
| <b>5.30pm Mass</b>                        | Holy Souls RIP  |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>    | <b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King (Youth Sunday)</b>               |
| <b>8.00am Mass</b>                        | Parish Community  |
| <b>10.00am Mass</b>                       | James Rickards RIP – Simon and Mark Mason                                 |
| <b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>    | <b>St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions</b>                                 |
| <b>9.30am Mass</b>                        | Byron Brown, Len Hancock and Richard Cooper RIP – Helen Cooper            |
| <b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>   |   |
| <b><u>8.00am Mass</u></b>                 | Holy Souls RIP  |
| <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b> |   |
| <b>10.00am Mass</b>                       | Jean Pye RIP – Mathew Thomas  |
| <b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>  |   |
| <b>9.30am Mass</b>                        | Peter Cashell RIP – Mike and Tricia Curnock                               |
| <b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>    |   |
| <b>9.30am Mass</b>                        | Keith Miller RIP (Anniversary) - Catherine Miller                         |
| <b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>  |   |
| <b>5.30pm Mass</b>                        | Parish Community  |
| <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>    | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>                                    |
| <b>8.00am Mass</b>                        | Christy Dempsey RIP – Marie Smith   |
| <b>10.00am Mass</b>                       | Family/Friends of the Flower and Lucibello Families RIP- Susan and Damian |

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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>PARISH PRIEST</b><br/> Father Paul Fox<br/> 50 London Hill, Rayleigh<br/> Essex SS6 7HP<br/> <b>01268 38.24.99</b><br/> <b>www.olorchurch.org</b><br/> email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@brcdt.org">rayleigh@brcdt.org</a></p> | <p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b><br/> <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b><br/> <b>Sundays 8am &amp; 10.00am</b><br/> <b>Mondays &amp; Tuesdays 9.30am</b><br/> <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b><br/> <b>Thursdays &amp; Fridays 9.30am</b></p> |
|--|--|

**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..... Elisabeth Powley, Veronica Webster, Robert Walker, Penelope Stiles, William Hall, Jean Pye and Keith Miller. **May they 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.**

**Congratulations to Josephine, Teniayo, Pietro, Isabella, Emily, Oliver, Charley, Mary, Ethan, Molly, Harry, Luke, Louie, Emilia, Lucia, Frankie, Charlie, Ronnie, Isaac, Emmanuella, Joseph, Thomas and Oliver C. who received the sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday from Bishop Alan. You were all so wonderful and did everyone proud. Thank you.**

**Please note: following a large number of requests, the Christmas Eve Family Mass will now be at 5pm; and the Vigil Mass at 8pm. There will be NO Midnight Mass.**

**Please also note: Mass on Tuesday will be at 8am,**

**First Holy Communion.** There will be a meeting with Fr Paul on Tuesday 2nd December at 7pm in Our Lady of Ransom Church for Parents/Carers of children in Year 3 and above, who are interested in their child joining the First Holy Communion programme. Further details about the programme, including registration forms, what to expect and a list of key dates, will be provided at the meeting.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:shirley.hegewald16@gmail.com) mobile: 07900 396256.

**Remembrance Book** – is in the Church Porch 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.*

A hearing aid was found in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office if it belongs to you.

### Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 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 -

Coffee Morning THIS Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November will be run by The Knights of St Columba.



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.



### 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!

*23<sup>rd</sup> 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. You can donate in the parish this weekend, or online at [www.bcys.net/donate](http://www.bcys.net/donate) , and please keep all young people in your prayers.*

**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](mailto:olorgiftaid@hotmail.com)

**St. Vincent's Centre Southend...** is holding an Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. Tickets are £37.50 and booking is essential. Please email [NesperM@svp.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:warren_katherine@hotmail.com)

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

#### ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHETS

Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be giving a short talk at 7 pm on Wednesday 3rd December at the Catholic parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The topic is the Prophets. You may attend in person free of charge, or watch livestream at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The talk will be available subsequently on the same website.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025. Entrance is free. The talks will be livestreamed on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://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.

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! You are warmly welcomed to an evening of praise and worship, including mass and adoration. Save the dates:

Friday 16th of January and Friday 13th of February 2026. Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm, including refreshments after.

Venue: The Blessed Sacrament Church, 116 Melbourne Avenue, CM12DU, Chelmsford. Bring your friends!

Organised by the CDSC ( Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion ).

**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](#).

**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](mailto:admin@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk)

#### **Vacancy:-**

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Midday Assistant to join our team. MDA's create a very positive, happy and secure environment in our playgrounds, dining hall and the school building at lunchtime. Your primary role will be to maintain the safety, welfare and good conduct of pupils during the lunchtime break.

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

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=114935>

Closing date is Midday on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 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](mailto:admin@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk)

The Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Canvey Island, is looking for new Foundation Governors in this exciting time of improvement and change in the life of their school. If you are interested, please contact the Chair of Governors, JoAnna, on: [jfleming@stjosephscanvey.net](mailto:jfleming@stjosephscanvey.net).

## **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](mailto:michaelkearns@brcdt.org). Applications close on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

#### **Education Support Administrator- Cathedral House**

A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese.

The post will be part-time, working 22 hours per week – 4 days per week working from 9 am until 3 pm with half an hour for lunch. **Term time only**

Location- Cathedral House- please note this is an office-based role.

Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 5th December 2025 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org)

#### **THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

Aldborough Road South, Seven Kings, Ilford, IG3 8EU

Calling all Canon Palmer Catholic School Alumni to come to our 65th Anniversary on Friday 9th January 2026 at 2pm. Visit our website at [www.tpc.academy](http://www.tpc.academy) for further details and to register an interest for future events.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nesperm@svp.org.uk)

Charity No: 1053992

