

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

30th November 2025

Advent 1 A

Psalter Week 1



“Time, ladies and gentlemen please” – a cry from the bar. A few minutes before, there might be a bell indicating last orders. Familiar? Last orders ring out, people scramble to the bar, argy-bargy, push and shove to get to the bar first, each holding up high their £10 or £20 notes very visibly to catch the bar person’s eye and get served quicker.

The rush to get as many in before the bar closes. Still goes on in places. Does that reflect in our lives too? We rush around, chasing our tails, because we feel we must get everything in. We end up doing things mindlessly, brain-dead, “un”conscious, sleep-walking – rushing around can leave us locked into these rigid, mindless, repetitive patterns of thinking and behaviour.

From his numerous psychiatric analyses of people, C.G. Jung says that 95% of people spend 95% of their time sleepwalking. Routines, set-in-their-ways, creatures of habit. People doing things so mechanically, with no life, vitality or aliveness. No Holy Spirit of aliveness and vitality guiding them into newness. Same old, same old. People, like robots, mindlessly repeating the same old thing day after day. We are so easily led into this horrifying world of continuous sleepwalking, – and so often, we don’t even realise it. That is very scary!

Jesus also appreciated this. Hence his cry to “stay awake”. Be *alert, alive, conscious, be aware* of everything around us. We miss so much because we are largely unconscious. Being unconscious, we miss the Christ. The cry of the Buddha was similar – Buddha means to be awake –awake to reality around us. Why miss so much good, beauty and truth?

All these rushing and mindless routines never feed the soul. Advent is a time to stop, reflect, think clearly, pray, touch base, prepare, and ask ourselves ‘where my life is really going’? What is it all about? Is my soul being fed? Is the deeper part of me being fed?

“Time, ladies and gentlemen please”, is God’s call, not to close the bar, but to open and awaken our hearts to Him and finally start to really “see” life, experience it, and enjoy it to the full. And of course, in that, we really encounter the Christ.

Like the hypnotist, who on the count of three, snaps his fingers and brings the person out of hypnosis back to the world of the real, the here and now, so, in many ways, Advent is that sharp finger snap to all of us to snap out of our sleepwalking, our unconscious state, and awaken to God’s truth, beauty and goodness all around. God’s reality in the here and now. Do we see and listen? Or do we mindlessly carry on?

Of course, there are many who won’t listen as many of those think they know better! They will sleep-walk through Advent and Christmas, suffer hangovers and headaches wondering what it’s all about. For them, it’s just another superficial and hollow Christmas, devoid of any depth, substance and meaning – more mindless routine. They will sleep-walk through Advent, Christmas, and life generally – must **we**? Or are we prepared, as Jesus urges, to “stay awake”.

1st Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalms: 122: 1-2. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9

2nd Reading: Romans 13: 11-14a

Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 29th November	1st Sunday of Advent
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 30th November	
8.00am Mass	Christy Dempsey RIP – Marie Smith
10.00am Mass	Family/Friends of the Flower and Lucibello Families RIP- Susan and Damian
Monday 1st December	
9.30am Mass	Bridget and Luke Kavanagh RIP – Shelagh Mesher
Tuesday 2nd December	
9.30am Mass	Susan Bradford (Ints) – Jean Williams
Wednesday 3rd December	St. Francis Xavier
10.00am Mass	Deceased members of the Legion of Mary RIP
Thursday 4th December	
9.30am Mass	Doris Warrington RIP
Friday 5th December	
9.30am Mass	Alison Healy Costello RIP – Rae Healy
Saturday 6th December	
5.30pm Mass	The Price and Gatlin Families and Irene Bishop (Ints)
Sunday 7th December	2nd Sunday of Advent
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Deceased members of the Knights of St. Columba RIP

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>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 38.24.99 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@brcdt.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am</p>
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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..... Derek Timothy, Patricia Taffurelli, Grace Lawless and Robert Hall.

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 3 weeks ago from Bishop Alan. You were all so amazing 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.

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.

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, 3rd December after the 10.00am Mass.

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.

Coffee morning on Sunday 30th November is being hosted by the Children's Liturgy.



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.

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!)

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:

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!

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.

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 The talk will be available subsequently on the same website.

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](#).

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.

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 3rd 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

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.

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

The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch, are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher from April 2026. Closing date: Friday 9th January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23rd January 2026. Enquiries can be made by email to admin@stmcps.co.uk, or phone 01708 448430.

Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Tuesday 6th January 2026

Starting date April 2026

Headteacher - St Mary's Primary School, Hornchurch

Deadline for applications: 17:00, Friday 9th January 2026

Starting date April 2026

Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet

Deadline for applications: 09:00, Wednesday 28th January 2026

Starting date September 2026 or earlier

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 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

*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

