

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

28<sup>th</sup> December 2025    The Holy Family    Psalter Week 1



Can't do that! Not up to it! Not worthy! Or simply, 'can't be bothered'! The excuse of many when asked to carry out a task. Is this Mary and Joseph's answer to God's extraordinary invitation?

Mary and Joseph, like all the heroes in our Holy Scriptures give their affirmations to God and believed, almost against the odds, that they were the special ones of God. And in the birth of Jesus we have celebrated this week, we see that Jesus grows up in insignificant places, with ordinary people, in ordinary circumstances – and dare to believe he is the Son of God.

Their own "ordinariness" becomes extraordinary. They believed and trusted totally. Can we?

Ordinary people and babies at the outset. They became extraordinary through being ordinary; the clue is in their total faith and commitment to God. That God can take their own "ordinariness" and transform it into something extraordinary. To let go of our ego defenses and let God in so transformation can happen.

We hear very little of Jesus' teenage years – the point is his 'ordinariness' in growing up. Nothing spectacular to report. But he grows, he develops, with total faith in his gradual realisation of who He is and His mission ahead. Mary and Joseph do not really get it. As peasant people, they are not that well educated. So why should they understand? All Mary can do is store things in her heart. And ponder them. No doubt Joseph too. The stuff of faith. No magic, no supermen – just ordinary people.

So, what is needed is faith, a real gutsy, gritty, totally committed faith.

To allow God to transform our being "ordinary" into being "extraordinary". Can we let Him?

With family life's ups and downs, the Holy Family did it as a unity. Consider their lives as refugees in Egypt we hear about today. Was that easy? I doubt it. Today we see so much disunity, so sadly, very much in families too. Disunity so often rooted in disagreements over money, property and life's ups and downs. Willful disunity breaks down faith. After all, faith is about unity - community. The Holy Family were a profound unity - hence their faith, their Holiness. We all grow, develop, learn as we go through life – we must always stay rooted in faith, for without genuine unity and faith, expect disharmony and disunity in our lives. So desperately sad.

Not up to it! Not worthy! Can't do it! Can't be fussed! Let God decide. The transformations will happen if we allow Him to carry them out in us. He did it with Mary and Joseph and countless others. Yes, He can do it with us. Will we let Him?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14**

**Psalm: 128 1-2. 3. 4-5**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Colossians 3: 12-17**

**Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23**



<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>St. John</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Bridie Bell (Ints) – Marie Smith
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Len Wiley RIP – The Curnock Family
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>St. Thomas of Canterbury</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	John Kelly RIP – Rae Healey
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Fr. Tony McKentey RIP
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Len Wiley RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>Mary, Mother of God</b>
<b><u>12.00am Mass</u></b>	Deceased Family and friends of the Flower and Lucibello Families RIP
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</b>
<b>9.30pm Mass</b>	Des Flynn RIP – Rae Healey
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Susan Brady RIP (Anniversary) – Ann Coady
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Eileen McCullough RIP – Helen Culf
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community

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>  Father Paul Fox  50 London Hill, Rayleigh  Essex SS6 7HP  <b>01268 38.24.99</b>  <b>www.olorchurch.org</b>  email: rayleigh@brcdt.org</p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>  <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b>  <b>Sundays 8am &amp; 10.00am</b>  <b>Mondays &amp; Tuesdays 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Thursdays &amp; Fridays 9.30am</b></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 2340



**ANNIVERSARIES** Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Especially.....John Enever, Shirley Strauss, David Gooch, Marie Murphy and

Laszlo Hidveghy. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please pray for Len Wiley who died recently, for his wife Frances, and all the family and friends. May Len rest in Peace. †

† Please also keep in your prayers Mary Renihan who died recently at Rosedale Court. Please also pray for her family and friends. May Mary rest in Peace. †

† Please pray for Gwyn Derrick who died last Sunday. Also for his family and friends. Gwyn's Requiem Mass will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 1pm. May Gwyn 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.**

## Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Wednesday Coffee morning will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 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.



A huge Thank You to everyone who has attended the Wednesday coffee mornings this year .

You have raised £343.07 for Father Gerry in Uganda and the AMAZING total of £883.19 for the local Food Bank.

Every good wish for 2026 from the Wednesday coffee morning team.

## Christmas Flowers in memory of:

† James Rickards; Barbara and Ken Dewar; Emma Louise Lucibello; the Buckmaster and Sugrue Families; Pauline Burgess; Tom and Pat Herlihy; Mike, Michael, John and Alison Healey; Terence, Thomas, Annie May and Timothy Mahoney; Reg Cannell and Paul Gurney. May they all rest in peace. †

And thanks for anonymous donations received as well.

## 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!

**Olive Wood Carvings from the Holy Land, to support the Christian Community in Bethlehem, on sale the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026 after each Mass.** A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land, will visit us on that weekend to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made from Olive Wood (Crucifixes / Rosaries / Nativity Scenes / Statues ) to help and support the poor Christian families. Any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated. **Please support this enterprise, helping struggling families and people in the place of Our Lord's birth. 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.

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**Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.**

**Next date: 12th February 2026.**

[www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 07887 296983

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#### **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)

#### **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.

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](mailto:jfleming@stjosephscanvey.net).

#### **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. Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay** are seeking to appoint an Administration Assistant to join our School Office team.

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

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=115226>

Closing date is Midday on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

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)

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 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 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026. Enquiries can be made by email to [admin@stmcp.sco.uk](mailto:admin@stmcp.sco.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 - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet**

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

Starting date September 2026 or earlier

**Parish Administrator- Our Lady of Good Counsel- Wickford**

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Administrator, with financial experience, to provide administrative and financial support to the Parish Office by implementing and maintaining office systems, processes and procedures and delivering a welcoming, appropriate service to those attending the parish office.

The post will be part-time working 16 hours per week – (working pattern to be agreed with the parish priest).

The salary is £12.60 per hour

The closing date for applications is 12pm on 9th January 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please complete the Diocesan application form and email to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org)





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

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 Toiletries**

**Tea, Sugar &**

**Coffee**

**Jams & Spreads**

**Tins of veggie**

**food (macaroni**

**cheese/ veggie**

**ravioli etc)**

**Tinned Tomato**

**Cereal**

**Pasta**



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