

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year Psalter Week 4



“Don’t trust those politicians because they break their promises”, many may say. The expression ‘U-turn’ seems to be widely used today. The argument is that they produce manifestos, promises, and do not stick to them. But then, maybe, some policies or manifestos need changing given the changing climate we live in. Nevertheless, the feeling is that it is often a game just for politicians to get into power. Manifestos broken. Too much self-interest. Maybe. But then, maybe not.

Today Jesus produces His manifesto. He has called his disciples, and now summarises what he will preach, setting out his vision. Often called the “Sermon on the Mount” they are the ‘Beatitudes’, the ‘beautiful attitudes’, that if followed are the key to authentic happiness. St Luke’s truer translation is much tougher.

The difference between Jesus and any politician is that Jesus lives out his manifesto, lives out his vision in every sense, in his very body. Ghandi thought that these Beatitudes were Jesus’ “pièce de resistance”. He got it. Many Christians do not, they yawn and skip over it. Pious platitudes? No! Pleasant considerations? No. Be sad now, so you will be happy in the next world? No - absolutely not! Jesus’ equivalent to the ten commandments - definitely not! No! no! no! no!

Something hugely deeper. Maybe it is too threatening for many, so it is avoided. In this vision, Jesus is subverting the whole social world order, turning everything as previously understood upside down. Too threatening to anyone who wants to climb the ladder of success, wealth, and power – or if they are already at the top. Often better to pretend these Beatitudes are just a piece of nice rhetoric, or nice poetry – or that “Jesus didn’t really say that”, or “we have misunderstood”. I’m afraid He did say it and intended it to be threatening – this is consistent with His teaching generally.

In short, Jesus is saying that those who are **not** unhealthily attached to worldly things, such as prestige, power, possessions, status, craving self-satisfaction and approval – these people are the fortunate ones, for they are free enough to experience God in their lives. It’s incredibly difficult (not impossible) to detach yourself from these things if you are climbing, near, or at the top of your game. For those who are detached, these worldly things are not coming between themselves and God, so true happiness is experienced – directly from God. Many do live this truth out in their lives and testify to their deep happiness. Jesus lives this truth out in his very life, to the very end. No compromise. How much can we live out this truth?

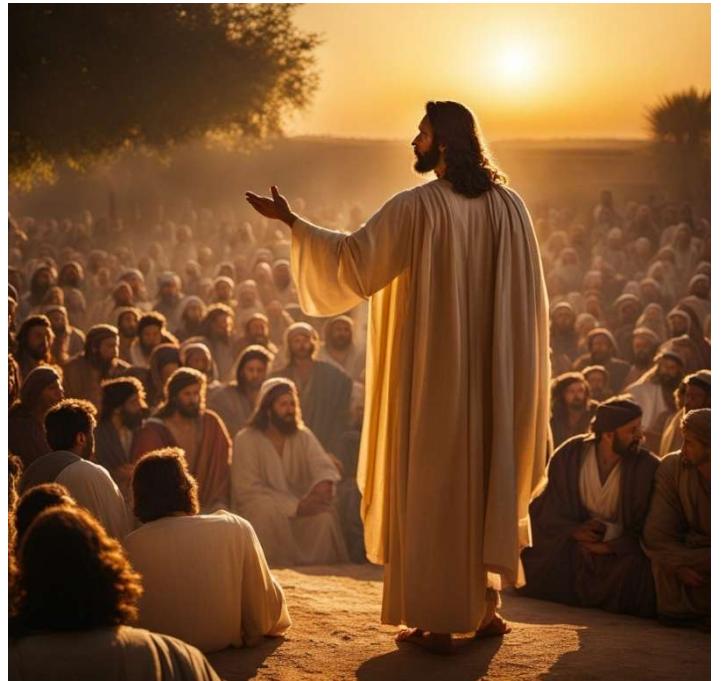
How blessed and fortunate (happy) are you, when you are not obsessed by the things of the world, and so are free enough to fully let God into your life and follow His will for you.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

**Psalm:** 146:6c-7, 8-9a. 9b-10

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

**Gospel:** Matthew 5: 1-12a



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>St. John Bosco</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP – Damian and Susan Lucibello
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (Racial Justice Day)</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Gabrielle Kola- Korulu (Ints) – Cecilia Macaulay
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>The Presentation of Our Lord</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	The Williams Family and Betty Curran RIP
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>St. Anne Line</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Des Flynn RIP – Barrrie and Mary Mason
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Gwyn Derrick RIP – Mary Rickards
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>St. Agatha</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Doris Warrington RIP
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>St. Paul Miki and comps.</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Leonard Wiley RIP – Mary and Barrie Mason
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Prayer Board Intentions
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Angela Pica RIP – Damian and Susan Lucibello

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

<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: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@brcdt.org">rayleigh@brcdt.org</a>	<b>Public Mass times:</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>
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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 23409



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

Especially ... John Stylianou, Mary McAulay, Carmela Miceli, Gwendoline Exley, Catherine Button, Mary French and Brigid Clark. **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.**

**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.**

**Thank You to Jenny Sutton (and family) for the wonderful First Holy Communion Banner. The time, energy and skill put into creating it. Thanks Jenny.**

## Wednesday Coffee Morning

**The next Wednesday Coffee morning will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 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.**



## 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!**

**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

## Legion of Mary

*The Legion of Mary meets every Tuesday at 7pm in the Bethany Room. We visit sick and housebound parishioners, the lapsed and those unable to attend church regularly. Our mission is to support the spiritual needs of individuals through personal contact and encourage them to participate in the sacraments and the community life of the Church. We are looking for new members who have a devotion to Our Lady and are willing to volunteer two hours each week for this purpose. Alternatively, as an Auxiliary member you could support us spiritually through prayer and daily devotion to Our Lady. To find out more, please contact Shirley Tel: 07900 396256. If you know anyone who would appreciate a visit from the Legion of Mary, please get in contact.*

**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.

**St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer.** If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk). The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August or 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

Following the success of **Flame 2025**, we are delighted to be preparing for **Flame 2027** — a fantastic event for young people in Years 10–13 (ages 15–18).

Flame brings together inspiring speakers, award-winning musicians and Catholic organisations, and concludes with Adoration led by the Bishops of England and Wales, offering young people a powerful experience of the Church.

You can find all information regarding this event on the attached letter.

If you wish to bring a group from your Parish or partnership, please request your earlybird tickets here:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/KTevSZwGQH>

**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.

#### **Bereavement Group** Westcliff RC Church, Our Lady and Saint Helen

**2nd Saturday of the month, 10.00 AM to 12.00PM,  
at the parish's small hall.**

### Parish Finance Administrator- Southend

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Finance Administrator.

All applicants should have good administrative and finance skills, although training will be given.

The post will be part-time working 6 hours per week – (working pattern tbc).

The salary is £12.60 per hour

The closing date for applications is 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and suitable applicants will be invited to attend an interview.

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

**OUR LADY OF RANSOM** church is pleased to be hosting other Rayleigh churches at THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER on Friday 6th March. The service this year has been compiled by representatives of women in NIGERIA. It's a joyful service celebrated on the same day, all over the world. It's open to all and it would be wonderful to have people from our Catholic congregation there. Light refreshments after the service in the Bethany Room. See poster below.





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



**Family Fast Day is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.**

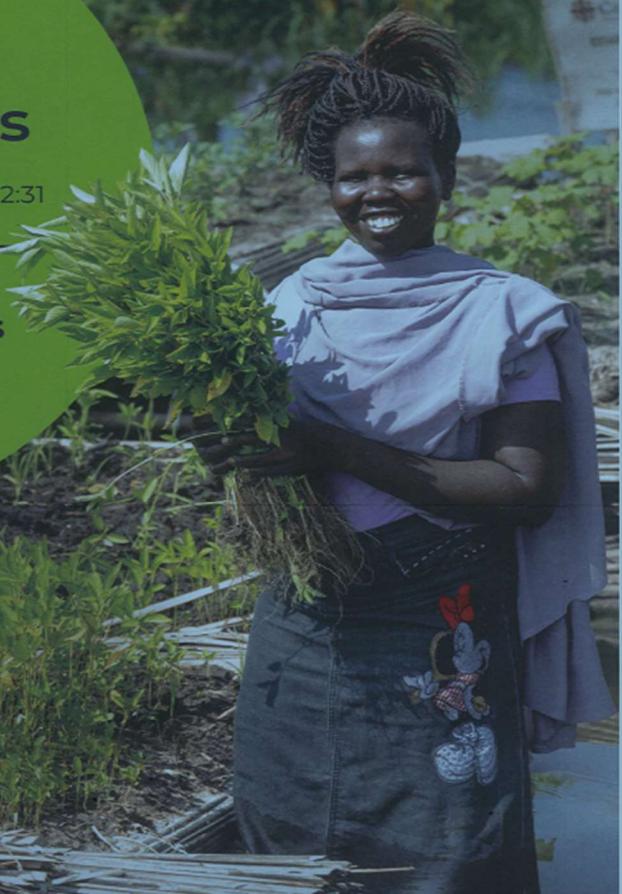
**CAFOD**

A better world needs all of us



**“Love your  
neighbour as  
yourself.”** Mark 12:31

Give this Lent to  
help our neighbours  
grow enough  
food to eat.



**Rejoice** is your  
neighbour in South  
Sudan who can  
now grow food in  
gardens that float  
on flood water.



Give today at  
[cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

**Family Fast Day**