

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year Psalter Week 3



“Claim 3 hours overtime”, my friend strongly urged me, “it’s an extra £12 in your pocket” (a few years ago now!). Whilst I wasn’t exactly strapped for cash, neither was I well off, the thought of an extra £12 was quite appealing. But then, was it worth the aggravation in filling the rather fiddly overtime forms? And more importantly, which weighed more on my mind, why was I doing what I was doing? Was the arguably petty mindedness of claiming an extra £12 justified? Legally, I was entitled. That was his argument. Morally and spiritually, maybe not. Because I was working with adults with severe disabilities. And my Christian conscience kicked in.

This may highlight the difference between “vocation” and “career”. A vocation, coming from “vocare”, to call or to voice, is always about letting go of self-interests in favour of others. To build others up, sometimes at a cost to ourselves. It is the call of Our Lord. A career is more often motivated by self-interest and self-advancement. Those without authentic Christian consciences will always fall back on legalisms and entitlements – self-interest is always at stake. Why wouldn’t they? Legalisms and entitlements are all they have.

To have a vocation is to want to do our work almost free of charge, and any salary is almost a bonus. Generally, only people with a true vocation appreciate this. The rewards always come in seeing how other people are built up. A passionate fire burns within motivating and pushing us onwards. When Jesus calls his first disciples and makes them “fishers of men”, he is lighting the fire, calling them away from self-interest to build others up in so many different ways - to build the Kingdom.

With all the voices around competing for our commitment and attention, how do we know which is Our Lord’s? Largely it is the voice that resonates at deeper levels and makes sense of our whole lives, of who we are. It is that voice wanting us to do something with our lives, something that we are passionate about and would happily do for free. Maybe not claiming overtime resonates here. If we are paid, we almost feel it’s like money for nothing. Being paid for what you love doing.

Once we get that, like the disciples, we want to act straight away – or as quickly as we can. The fire within has begun to burn. The passion is lit. Our Lord’s call is often challenging, but when followed, we find it deeply satisfying, rewarding and fulfilling. The fire never goes out.

However old or young, we all have a vocation. Do we know what ours is? How are we following it?

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 9: 1b-4

Psalm: 27: 1. 4. 13-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: I Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17

Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-23



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>St. Frances de Sales</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year (Sunday of the Word of God)</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Des Houchin RIP (Anniversary)
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Mary Rickards (Ints) – The Williams Family
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Sts. Timothy and Titus</b>
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>St. Thomas Aquinas</b>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<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

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 234092



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

Especially Irene Balogh, Anthony Buckle, Glenda Bunn, Maura Fallon and Michael O'Malley. **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 28<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.**

**Coffee Morning on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by the Knights of St Columba.**



## 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 yo

## 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.

*Sunday 25th January marks World Leprosy Day, which aims to raise awareness of a disease that many people think no longer exists. Each year, 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy and there are millions more who are living with the damaging consequences of delayed leprosy treatment because of the stigma that still surrounds the disease. St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG), which is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity, has been caring for people with leprosy for 130 years. Our aim is to find and treat people with leprosy before they develop disabilities. Please consider supporting this vital work and keep people affected by leprosy in your prayers. [www.stfrancisleprosy.org](http://www.stfrancisleprosy.org).*

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>

**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.**

**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.

#### **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)

#### **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)

#### **Parish Administrator for the linked parishes of Our Lady Immaculate, Holy Name and St Augustine – Chelmsford**

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 role be based at Rochester House, New London Road, Chelmsford , CM2 0DT.

The post will be full time working 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday.

The salary is £14.50 per hour

The full job description is available on our website [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us)

The closing date for applications is 26<sup>th</sup> January 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 and/or completed application form to [office@chelmsfordcatholic.co.uk](mailto:office@chelmsfordcatholic.co.uk) or by post to The presbytery, Beardsley Drive, Springfield, CM1 6GQ.

#### **Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet**

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

#### **Headteacher - St Francis Primary School, Braintree**

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Sunday 1st February 2026



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.**

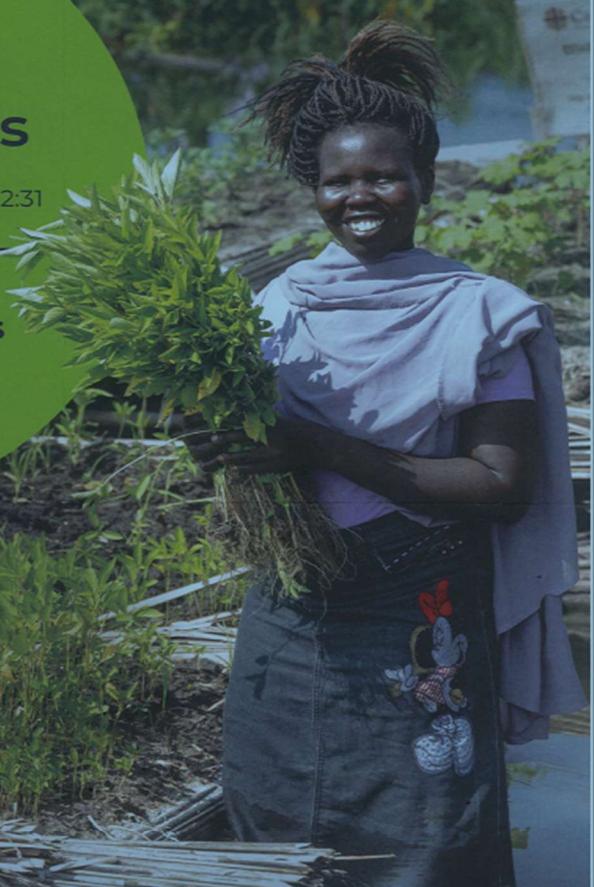
**CAFOD**

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**

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