

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

15th February 2026 6th Sunday of the Year Psalter Week 2



So uplifted by his new-found faith, dad and husband kept talking about Christ and his new found faith at every opportunity. “Do you really know anything about your Christ” asked the sceptic, “if so, then what did he look like, was he tall, sociable?” - the poor man was battered with questions. The answers he offered were feeble, some clearly uncertain, some blatantly incorrect. “So, you don’t know much at all about your Christ, do you” exclaimed the sceptic.

“You’re right” said the convert firmly. “But I do know this: two years ago, I hit rock bottom; two years ago, I was a drunk; two years ago, I was in serious debt; two years ago, my wife hardly smiled; two years ago, my children were frightened of me. But today I am sober; today I am out of debt and making payments on my new home; now my wife smiles often; now my children run to greet and hug me. All this Christ has done for me. That much I do know”.

Powerful. Jesus is clearly showing far less interest in how much we ‘know’, or what our “outer” behaviours are, but gently nudging us from these outer things to checking *inner attitudes*. How is our *interior life* going? “You have heard it said....but I say....” This clearly unsettles legalists. The Ten Commandments are largely about outer things, good social order and good behaviour. Jesus is nudging people to a new level – **the inner person**. Great psychology. What is really going on in our hearts? What are our true motivations? Religion has led to some terrible repression of what goes on in the heart because of a preoccupation with outer behaviours. So tragic. There is no truth or power in that. How can our hearts change with so much emphasis on getting these outer things right? Over emphasis on these things, getting our knowledge and behaviours correct, has led to generations of unconverted Christians **not** being in love with God. And in some places, it seems to still go on. Thinking that these outer things were all that were needed. How can that possibly be truth? These are the very things Jesus is changing – 2000 years ago. And 2000 years on, is that how it is for us? Has Jesus really had any effect? Jesus can be quite a demanding teacher when taken honestly and seriously.

Yes. Jesus can be demanding. Asking us to check on what’s going on inside ourselves. Very demanding maybe. And yet too many people are only concerned with singing “nice” hymns, and reading “nice” prayers – all that have no real effect on changing them, changing interior attitudes. What Jesus is clearly demanding is that we look at our inner selves – what are our hearts really like? For many, that is just too frightening a prospect, because of what they might find, so they content themselves with “nice” prayers and hymns. Therefore, nothing changes within them for the better. Such a shame. These people are incredibly boring – same old, same old, year in, year out. No. Not good. Jesus looks rather to move us to our *inner* person. Our inner attitudes. He is moving everyone to this new level of consciousness – do we resist, or move?

1st Reading: Sirach 15: 15-20

Psalms: 119: 1-2, 4-5. 17-18. 33-34

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5: 17-37



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 14th February	SS. Cyril and Methodius
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 15th February	6th Sunday of the Year (World Day of the Sick)
8.00am Mass	Luciano Menegatti RIP – Candi Menegatti and Family
10.00am Mass	Fr. John Hayes RIP
Monday 16th February	
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard (Ints) – Mary Rickards
Tuesday 17th February	
9.30am Mass	John O' Sullivan RIP – SVP Rayleigh
Wednesday 18^h February	Ash Wednesday
7.30 am Mass	Parish Community
9.30am Mass	John Phelan RIP – Shelagh Mesher
8.00pm Mass	Private Intention
Thursday 19th February	
9.30am Mass	Johanna Packer RIP (Anniversary) – The Mason Family
Friday 20th February	
9.30am Mass	Fred Pattison RIP – Mary Butterworth
Saturday 21st February	
5.30pm Mass	Fr. John Taylor RIP (Anniversary)
Sunday 22nd February	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	John Reuben (Ints) – Sara Reuben

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 234



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.
Especially Lily Worley and Catherine Butcher. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please keep John O' Sullivan in your prayers. John died recently. Please also pray for his family and friends. John's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 5th March here at Our Lady's. May he 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.

Wednesday 18th February is Ash Wednesday, beginning Lent, a season of fasting, prayer and abstinence. Ashes will be given out next Wednesday. There are 3 Masses as listed.

Pope John Paul 2nd 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 18th 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.

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

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.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK: Please pray for all those living out the vocation to marriage and couples preparing to marry. Support is available for those who need it, and your parish priest can point you in the right direction. If you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, please let your parish know so that you can be invited to the Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Saturday 11th July.

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.**

Curious about the Camino? This Friday, 13th February, 7-8pm. Clodagh and Luke Benning, experienced Camino pilgrims, will join Fr Dominic (who walked from Fatima to Santiago last summer) for an hour of information, memories, tips and hints. Ideal if you are a Camino walker who wants to reminisce, or if you are thinking of walking the Camino in the future. St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 5 Park End Road, Romford RM1 4AT.

SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN LECTURES 2026: Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall

commencing Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm

The theme this year is: "What does it truly mean to be Catholic?"

This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood. All Welcome!

Talk 1. Wednesday 25th February. Abbot Hugh Allan, O Praem. "I Believe..." Living and Proclaiming the Catholic Faith. 7.30pm

Talk 2. Wednesday 4th March. Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints. 7.30pm

Talk 3. Wednesday 11th March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm

Talk 4. Wednesday 18th March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30pm

THE BOOK OF GENESIS – LENTEN TALK

On Thursday 12th March at 7 p.m. in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, 410 Brentwood Road, in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) Fr Adrian Graffy will be giving a talk on the Book of Genesis, a book which in different ways figures prominently during Lent. The talk will be preceded by light refreshments from 6.30 p.m. This free, in-person

event is also available via live stream at www.whatgoodnews.org

Northern & Southern Dioceses Environment Networks invite you to our online meeting on Monday 9th March at 6:30pm-8:00pm. Finlay Malcolm will be sharing his expertise on the topic of “Religion, Theology and Climate Change: Project Findings and Next Steps for Practice”. To register for this online event, go to: <https://sden-ndeg.eventbrite.co.uk/> We hope you will be able to join us.

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. 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 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th 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. Applications close on Friday 16th January 2026.



The poster features a purple background with a yellow and orange gradient at the top. The text 'QUIZ NIGHT' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline, set against a dark purple, jagged-edged shape. Four yellow question marks are scattered around the text. Below the main title, it says '£5 PER HEAD' in white. A yellow banner contains the text 'TERRACE BAR & RESTAURANT' in white. Below this, the address '1 Richmond Ave, Southend, SS1 1JE (Just off the High street)' is written in white. The date 'THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2026' and the start time 'ARRIVAL 7PM FOR A 7.30 START' are also in white. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text in white: 'Join us for a lively Quiz Night filled with excitement and challenges! There is a well stocked bar. Enjoy a night of fun with friends. Secure your spot now by registering and reserving a table.' Below this, it says 'REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!' in yellow, and 'Please email NesperM@svp.org.uk' in white. Two circular logos for 'SVIP' are positioned on either side of the central text, each containing the text 'TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION'.

QUIZ NIGHT

£5 PER HEAD

TERRACE BAR & RESTAURANT
1 Richmond Ave, Southend, SS1 1JE
(Just off the High street)

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2026
ARRIVAL 7PM FOR A 7.30 START

Join us for a lively Quiz Night filled with excitement and challenges! There is a well stocked bar. Enjoy a night of fun with friends. Secure your spot now by registering and reserving a table.

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!
Please email NesperM@svp.org.uk



➔ 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



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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

Catholic Church

50 LONDON HILL

RAYLEIGH

SS6 7H9

At 1.30pm
With B.S.L. signing

*This is an international,
interdenominational service,
for everybody*

Light Refreshments

after the Service

PARKING AT CHURCH

AND IN TOWN CAR PARKS



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwd.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 233242

Family Fast Day is Friday 27th February.

CAFOD
A better world needs all of us

+

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

Start a monthly gift today to
help our neighbours put food
on the table at cafod.org.uk

In Bangladesh, our neighbour Salam
and his family have created floating
gardens to grow vegetables on land
that has been flooded.





ST VINCENT'S CENTRE
INVITES YOU TO
**Special Italian
2 Course Dinner**
at
Ricci's Taverna

WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2026

6:30PM FOR 7PM START
£21.99 PER PERSON
(ADVISE DIETARY REQUIREMENTS WHEN
BOOKING)



To Book Contact
Phone: 07549128877
Email: nesperm@svp.org.uk
Charity No: 1053992



Southend Catenians
INVITES YOU TO



CATENIANS

**ST PATRICK'S
DAY**

AT CHALKWELL PARK
ROOMS

Chalkwell Park, London Road, A13, Sothend-on-Sea, SS0 8NB

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026

7PM FOR 7.30PM START
£20.00 PER PERSON, BUFFET PLUS THE
SOUTHEND CEILI BAND PLAYING
(ADVISE DIETARY REQUIREMENTS WHEN
BOOKING) RAISING MONEY TO SUPPORT ST
VINCENT'S SOUTHEND



Booking Contact
Phone: 07549128877
Email: nesperm@svp.org.uk
Charity No: 1053992