

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

22nd February 2026 1st Sunday of Lent Psalter Week 1



Clever, smart, aspiring young man, he prided himself on his superior knowledge on many things. There was a knock at the door. So, he opened the door, picked up the land-line phone and motioned the visitor to a chair and spoke importantly on the phone. Putting the receiver down, he apologised to the visitor for keeping him waiting. The smart man explained that it was an important telephone call from a high-ranking politician who was looking for his opinion on an important matter. The man then asked the visitor what he could do for him. “Nothing” came the reply. “I am the telephone engineer and have come to connect up your land-line phone”.

Know-it-alls! This was the great sin of Adam and Eve. Eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Over time, we have all eaten bushels from this tree. This leads us to think we ‘know’ who is right, wrong, good and bad. Do we? **Really?** Of course not. Thinking we do know, we create a very judgmental and critical mind. Judgmental minds always corrupt religion and eventually destroy relationships and community. Deciding who is right and wrong, in or out, good or bad, is simply a control mechanism, a power game, an ego trip, not a search for truth, love, or God. Lust for certainties and answers make true faith impossible. The great philosopher Socrates once said, “ all I know is that I don’t know.” Wow! God wants humility, as we see in Jesus’ overcoming the temptations – overcoming any need to be relevant, impressive, effective, the need to be right, the need and lust for power and control.

Jesus doesn’t overcome these temptations through determination or will power, that’s self-centered, and possibly arrogant. He does it through humble faith in the Father. Adam and Eve did not exorcise the demon, they lacked faith. Like our “smart” friend above, they needed to “know”, to have certainty. Jesus’ humble faith was in the Father.

And, so much starts with *suspicion*. Eve becomes suspicious. And just like in all relationships, suspicion eventually breaks relationships down, slowly eroding trust and faith. Suspicion will nearly always find evidence for what it suspects. Now, Satan is really at work. Satan also tries to plant suspicion in Jesus’ mind about his true Sonship – ‘if you are the Son of God...’ As he does with us all. Jesus overcomes it. Does our faith allow us to? Do we at least try?

And how well do we overcome any judgmental and critical minds - an arrogant way of thinking, thinking that we know, cravings for certainty? God wants faith, not certainty. Do we have that kind of faith?

1st Reading: Genesis 2: 7-9; 3:1-7

Psalms: 51: 3-4. 5-6b. 1-13. 14. 17

2nd Reading Romans 5: 12, 17-19

Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 21st February	
5.30pm Mass	Fr. John Taylor RIP (Anniversary)
Sunday 22nd February	1st Sunday of Lent
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Joan Reuben (Ints) – Zara Reuben
Monday 23rd February	
9.30am Mass	Harry Gokkes RIP
Tuesday 24th February	
9.30am Mass	Alfie McIntosh RIP – Mary and Pat Rickard
Wednesday 25^h February	
10.00am Mass	Those contacted by the Legion of Mary (Ints)
Thursday 26th February	
9.30am Mass	Sr. Aloysius O' Dea RIP
Friday 27th February	
9.30am Mass	Gabrielle Kola- Korulu (Ints)
Saturday 28th February	
5.30pm Mass	Peter Lockwood RIP – Julia Dillane and Nora McPherson
Sunday 1st March	
8.00am Mass	Susan Ray RIP
10.00am Mass	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>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 John Halloran, Sheray Bontiff, Patricia Sewell, Alfred Porwol and Susan Ray. **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.

Stations of the Cross during Lent: Sundays 12.30pm.



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. We

have a small supply of aids currently. 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 25th 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.

Coffee Morning this Sunday 22nd is being hosted by the Knights of St Columba.



Our Lady of Ransom Parish Pilgrimage to Knock & Co. Mayo Ireland Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July 2026

You are very welcome to join Fr. Paul and fellow pilgrims on our five-day Parish Pilgrimage to Knock & County Mayo. July is fast approaching, so please consider joining us. As well as spending three days in Knock, we will also be visiting Ballintubber Abbey, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, and the Fr. Peyton Centre (with lunch provided). We will be staying at the Castlecourt Hotel in Westport, although a 45-minute drive from Knock, provides a four-course dinner each night, a bar and evening entertainment. Flights are from Stanstead Airport with an early morning outbound flight and early evening return. Price £899 per person based on two people sharing. Package includes flight with 10kg check-in luggage; four nights dinner, bed & breakfast; all entertainment, excursions and guided tours. For further information and to register your interest, please contact: Shirley Hegewald email: shirley.hegewald16@gmail.com mobile: 07900 396256.

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!

Knights of St Columba – Youth Invitation to Our Lady of Ransom Youth Group Meeting

The Knights of St Columba warmly invite the young people of our parish (ages 16–18 only) to a youth event on Saturday 28th February, from 16:00 to 17:00, in

the Bethany room at OLOR.

This gathering will give our young people the chance to get to know one another and to help shape the activities and events of this new youth group for the year ahead.

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.

RIES 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

All are welcome to the 2026 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Sunday 7th March, 1–5pm, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, Wanstead (E11 2PR). Come and discover how our Catholic community is responding to homelessness, the cost of living crisis, refugees and climate change. Share and connect with parishioners and charities from across Essex and East London. Free to attend and register: www.caritasbrentwood.org/network.

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.

Commissioned. Calling men of all ages and states of life: book your place at 'Commissioned', the National Men's Pro-life Conference, on April 18th at Birmingham Christian College. Through compelling talks on fatherhood, marriage, post-abortion healing, spiritual warfare and sexual responsibility learn to live out your vocation with humility, courage and integrity. For more info including speakers or to book your place go to <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/> or contact info@marchforlife.co.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**



Nigeria 2026

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JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLO DREAMCOAT

Lyrics by
Tim Rice

Music by
Andrew Lloyd Webber

in aid of  **Lennox
Children's
Cancer Fund**

Towngate Theatre, Basildon

St. Martins Square • SS14 1DL

Wednesday 10th June to Saturday 13th June 2026 at 7.30pm
(Friday performances at 5.00pm and 8.00pm, Saturday Matinee 3.00pm)

Tickets £17-£26.50 Concessions and family tickets available



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This production is being staged in aid of **Lennox Children's Cancer Fund**, a local national charity that supports children with cancer and their families. So coming along isn't just a lovely night out, it's also helping an amazing cause.

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“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.



Family Fast Day is Friday 27th February.