

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

8<sup>th</sup> February 2026 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year Psalter Week 1



Catholic schools. What makes them special and 'Catholic'? Why do many people seem to want their children educated in a Catholic school, whether they are Catholic or not?

The real reason many choose Catholic schools, maybe without realising it, is because the school is rooted in the Gospel. The Gospel makes all the difference. The Faith element. But if we start uprooting from the Gospel, to be more like others, something goes sadly wrong. Both as a school/institution or individual.

It may be fair to say that many 'Catholics', maybe some Catholic schools, and institutions have overdone blending in with culture, over-accommodating with secular society, so much so, that what we see is something or someone that really looks, sounds and/or acts like any other. A distilled Catholicism – now they have lost something - the Gospel. That faith element which gives so much enrichment and character is gone. Quite tragic really.

Or as Jesus says, their 'saltiness' is lost. Saltiness is what gives it flavour, character, soul, as something or someone distinct from the regular others. The Gospel. Maybe losing its specialness, at the expense of trying to be like everyone else. Maybe lost through fear of being different or standing out. Is that true of our lives as Catholic Christians? Do we over-accommodate, so our Catholic character is largely gone?

Of course, there must be a wise balance between holding on to society's expectations, whether as individuals or schools, yet also being distinct, not losing salt, holding firm to the Gospel - maybe just being plainly different. Such balance really does need an act of great wisdom and discernment.

Our saltiness helps enrich the world around us with our Christian character, so, to blend in too much, we can lose our Christian mission – what good are we? How can we be inspirational to others that way?

No fridges were around in Jesus' day, so salt was used as a preservative, preserving distinctiveness, truth, good and beauty. Salt was also the great destroyer of unwanted plant life; spiritually, we may think of it as getting in the way of evil, exclusion and violence. So, we need the spiritual salt in our lives, we need to stay grafted on to the Christ to retain that special saltiness. Christ – His Gospel.

So, our lives and our institutions must always hold on to their saltiness if they are to have a positive Christian effect, as distinct from the rest. Are our Catholic Faith and way of life inspirational to other people? That is being the salt. Yes, maybe some compromise with regular society could well be necessary, but great wisdom and honest prayer will surely get a healthy balance without losing either. Do our Catholic Christian lives bear that truth?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 58: 6-10**

**Psalm: 112: 4-5. 6-7.8a. 9**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5**

**Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16**



<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<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 (Prayer for Victims of trafficking and those fighting it)</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Angela Pica RIP – Damian and Susan Lucibello
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Mgr. David Manson RIP
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>St. Scholastica</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Special Intention – John and Jane Cook
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>h</sup> February</b>	
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>	
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Gwyn Derrick RIP – Peter and Jean Wood
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Len Wiley RIP – The Spooner Family
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Mary Rickard (Ints) – Rayleigh SVP
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>SS. Cyril and Methodius</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (World Day of the Sick)</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Luciano Menegatti RIP – Candi Menegatti and Family
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Fr. John Hayes RIP

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: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@brcdt.org">rayleigh@brcdt.org</a></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 Marie Belcher and John Argentieri. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please keep John O' Sullivan in your prayers. John died last week. Please also pray for his family and friends. John's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**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 11<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.

## **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)

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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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### **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.

**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.**

**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.

**The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch,** are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher. Closing date: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Enquiries can be made by email to [admin@stmcps.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmcps.co.uk), or phone 01708 448430  
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)

**ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL**

**Reprographics Technician – part time 25 hours per week 8.00am-1.30pm Mon-Fri (hours could be negotiable)**

**Term time only plus 1 week**

**Start date 13 April 2026**

**Salary Scale 4-6 (£25,185-£25,989); Pro rata actual salary £14,948-£15,425**

You will need to be organised and adaptable to ensure the smooth running of our Reprographics Department and provide support to

staff/students, printing for departments i.e. booklets, programmes etc. You will also be responsible for running the school shop,

ensuring photocopiers are in working order around the school site and bulk buying of resources.

**We welcome applications from all denominations or none.**

**Please complete a non-teaching application form which can be found at the bottom of our Vacancies page and email it to [recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk).**

**Note: CVs will not be accepted.**

**Closing Date: 23 February 2026 @ 9.00am**

**Interviews w/c 23 February 2026**



The poster features a purple background with a yellow and orange gradient at the top. The central text 'QUIZ NIGHT' is in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline, set against a dark blue, jagged-edged shape. Surrounding this are several yellow question marks. Below the main title, it says '£5 PER HEAD' in white. The venue name 'TERRACE BAR & RESTAURANT' is in white on a yellow bar. The address '1 Richmond Ave, Southend, SS1 1JE (Just off the High street)' is in white. The date 'THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026' and start time 'ARRIVAL 7PM FOR A 7.30 START' are in white. At the bottom, there is a call to action 'REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!' in yellow and the email 'Please email [NesperM@svp.org.uk](mailto:NesperM@svp.org.uk)' in white. Two circular logos with the text 'TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION' and 'SVP' are positioned on either side of the central text.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**£5 PER HEAD**

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

**THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:NesperM@svp.org.uk)

**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  
[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 233242



➔ 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

Start a monthly gift today to help our neighbours put food on the table at [cafod.org.uk](http://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 25<sup>TH</sup> 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 20<sup>TH</sup> 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