

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

22nd March 2026 5th Sunday of Lent Psalter Week 1



Handcuffed to two prison officers, Ben was allowed to attend his grandma's funeral. He was devastated. He struggled to grasp both sides of the coffin as if to hug his grandma - of course he couldn't. The chains denied his hands and his heart. Collapsing into a heap, he laid his cheek against the varnished coffin, sobbing helplessly. Rage. Powerless. Helpless. Who had the confidence to help? All watched, overwhelmed. Heart-wrenching. Then his mum approached, filled with a numbing grief yet unbearable love. She put her arms around her manacled son and drew him to the nearest bench, the guards relaxing their grip slightly, his body limp, face resting on her shoulder, she, soothing his head. At the end, the two minders took Ben away to grieve alone. All were shaken, all sensing that we forever reach beyond ourselves, drawn and driven by powerful forces within us. Images like these surely resonate deep within us all.

Adapted from *Fr. Daniel O' Leary's: "Already Within"*.

I have witnessed similar myself through being Prison Chaplain. It really is gut-wrenching. Was there faith to help Ben and the young lad I witnessed? Let's hope so. Such stories echo today's Gospel. Feelings of powerlessness, rage and despair. But Jesus can change all that, **now**, if we, like Mary and Martha, have authentic faith in who He is, and what He can do. And if we have hearts open and are prepared to let Him.

4 days Jesus delays. Why 4? Ancient Jewish people believed the spirit can take either 3 days to leave a dead body, or it hovers for 3 days before it finally leaves. Hence Jesus' own resurrection after 3 days. So, after 3 days, nothing could possibly happen, no-one could possibly be raised. The soul will surely have gone! Gone gone. Jesus therefore punctuates the point by leaving it **4 days!** This is the glory of the Lord. We must go back to the original mind-sets of the Jewish people to understand what is happening. Or we can miss the whole point.

Jesus confronts death itself, fear, despair, violence, war and evil, all, head-on, and brings refreshment (the Samaritan Woman; Light (the blind man last week), and life. No more stench of death, only life. A hope when all hope is gone. Many are trapped in these dank tombs. We're called to help each other leave these tombs and be free. This is following Our Lord. The Lazarus story is our story too.

Jesus frees us for new life. Are we so stuck and set in our ways- such creatures of habit, that we don't get it? Or, like the 2 ladies in the Gospel, do we have real faith in new life, so, with great hope, we actually experience new life— **now?**

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalm: 130: 1-2.3-4.5-6b.6c-8

2nd Reading Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 21st March	
5.30pm Mass	Andy Rickard RIP (Anniversary) – Pat and Mary Rickard
Sunday 22nd March	5th Sunday of Lent
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Maria and Gerardo Schiavi RIP (Anniversary) – The Schiavi Family
Monday 23rd March	
9.30am Mass	Claire Mesher (Ints) – Mary and Pat Rickard
Tuesday 24th March	
9.30am Mass	Pat and Mary Rickard (Ints) – Joan Gardiner
Wednesday 25th March	The Annunciation of Our Lord
10.00am Mass	Vernon Tickel RIP – Mary and Pat Rickard
Thursday 26th March	
9.30am Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – SVP Rayleigh
Friday 27th March	
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard (Ints) – Kathleen Murray
Saturday 28th March	
5.30pm Mass	Mick Bonham RIP – SVP Rayleigh
Sunday 29th March	Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Malvine LiVigni RIP – The LiVigni Family

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>Public Mass times: 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 Maria Schiavi and Annette Dommett. **May they rest in Peace.**

† **Marie Griffin.** Please keep Marie close to your heart in prayer. Marie died suddenly last Friday evening. Please also keep Colin and all the family in prayer too. May Marie 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.

5.30pm Mass: Members of our RCIA programme who are being fully received into the church at Easter will be observing their final scrutiny at the 8.00am Mass this Sunday March 22nd
Also, some members will be doing the same at the 9.30am Mass on Tuesday morning (March 24th). Please keep our candidates in your prayers.

Easter Raffle. The Knights of St. Columba are selling raffle tickets after all Masses over the next weekends; the raffle will be drawn on Easter Sunday during the coffee morning after the 10am Mass.

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 March 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 will be 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.

Repository – Easter cards are now on sale. There are also various items available for First Holy Communion gifts.

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.

Women's World Day of Prayer. The Rayleigh Churches World Day of Prayer team would like to thank OLOR parish for helping to make the 6th March such a success.

Thanks go to Fr Paul for his welcome, to all the ladies who baked (many compliments received), to the team who served over sixty people with refreshments and to the Greeters who gave all the visitors such a warm welcome. Thanks also to all who joined the service from OLOR parish community.

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.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more:

www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

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

For any enquiries re Missio red boxes, please contact Katherine Abel 0790 6844284 warren_katherine@hotmail.com, thank you for your continued support

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. 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>

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

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) the second youth event on Sunday 29th March 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.

Youth.

World Youth Day 2027 (Seoul, South Korea)

We have an initial group preparing to attend. There is still time to nominate a young person (aged 19+ by August 2027). Further details are available on our website.

Youth Mass

There will be **no Youth Mass in April** due to this falling on Maundy Thursday, so we are encouraging young people to attend their own parish Masses.

The next Youth Mass will take place on Thursday 7th May, which you are very welcome to attend. Please do just send us a quick message if you are planning to bring a group, to assist with catering arrangements.

Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage – Saturday 23rd May

Representatives from the BCYS will be joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and we would like to invite other young people to join and assist with the liturgy. Please contact us if interested.

Flame 2027 – Saturday 6th March, OVO Wembley Arena

Almost 1,000 young people from the Diocese are already registered. A limited number of early bird tickets (£30) remain available. To book, please complete the form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/KTevSZwGQH>

Walsingham House Team Applications

Applications are now open for those finishing Year 13 or university who are interested in a year of volunteering at Walsingham House.

For further information, please email clairebailey@brcdt.org.

Primary School Vacancy

Click on vacancy to take you to the advert

[Deputy Headteacher – St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Tilbury](#)

Deadline for application: 12:00 noon Friday 10th April 2026

SVP Southend £1 for 40 days Campaign JustGiving Link

As we are in the season of Lent, we are writing to ask for your support for a simple but powerful act of charity in aid of SVP Southend.

This Lent, we are inviting parishioners to give £1 a day for 40 days. This small daily sacrifice will help to fund emergency shelter, food provision and pathways to independence for people in need in our local community.

With every blessing,

Nesper Maregedze

Deputy Centre Manager

Nesperm@svp.org.uk

07549128877

01702 592980

Unit 9,
Victoria Business Park
Short Street
Southend
SS2 5BY

Got pipes? We've got pews!



Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

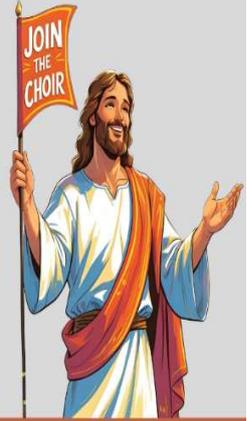
We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:30 pm for about an hour,
just enough time to feel holy and hit a high note.

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



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

Lennox Productions presents
An Amateur production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR 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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Box office: 01268 205300 Book online: www.towngatetheatre.co.uk

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