

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

8<sup>th</sup> March 2026      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent      Psalter Week 3



Young Tommy had just got back from the beach. “Were there many other children there?” asked his mum. “Yes, replied Tommy”. “Boys or girls?” “How should I know, they had no clothes on.”

How we see **not** what is truly there, but what our cultures, societies and upbringings train us to see. Think of the Emperor’s New Clothes! Instead of responding to reality, we respond to stereotypes. Our rigid principles, pettiness, artificial divisions, labels, religions and categories all guide us into often making some terrible unjustifiable mistakes, which in turn lead to centuries of needless suffering.

Today, we see Jesus’ total noninterest in cultural, religious and sexual labels and categories. He talks to a woman (scandalous to others), who is a Samaritan (a religious outcast - dangerous), and makes her an Apostle! Jesus is pointing out that any exclusive truth claims of any religions, here Jews and Samaritans, are of no final interest to God “...the hour is coming...”, which he repeats twice. We must wonder how we can justify, 2000 years on, defending such artificial divisions, given what Jesus has said - and said twice.

But this is only true when the Spirit is truly experienced, otherwise we will rely on such artificial barriers, labels, categories and divisions - without the Spirit, why wouldn’t we, it’s all we have?

With Jesus, all this comes from a deep appreciation with his Jewish identity, standing on His own tradition. He proclaims his own identity, so must we as Catholics, then Jesus moves into total inclusivity “...all will worship in truth...”, so must we. No individual religion or group has a franchise on God. We **all** worship in truth.

No questions about having been to church/temple. Nothing about having kept the commandments, or about divorce or annulments. He takes her *where she is and* directs her to a new positive future. And she allows this to happen and then proclaims it to others. So, Our Lord does with us – **if we let Him**. He takes us where we are, right here, right now – no “shoulds”, no “oughts”, no “if onlys”, no “what ifs”. Not how we look, roles or titles, not even about our ‘sins’ – but who we **really** are, beyond any human-made categories...

Can we let and trust Our Lord to direct us to a new positive future? Can we be that inclusive in moving beyond labels, divisions and categories to see that we are all one? Are we not one race - the human race? Or, does our brainwashing insist on categories, labels and divisions, that get in the way of Our Lord’s help?. Do we act out Our Lord’s truth in our lives?



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7

Psalms: 95: 1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4: 5-42

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Leszek Plewa RIP – Krystyna Rouse
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Naomi Duncan (Ints) – Zara Reuben
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Shelagh Mesher (Ints)
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Fr. Maurice Roche RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	John Miller (Ints) - SVP
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Martin Chandler RIP – The Spooner family
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	John McNamara RIP (Anniversary) – Sally McNamara
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Chris Graham RIP (Anniversary) – Melanie Graham
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Isaac Varghese THG – Lixy Cyril
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	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><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 234



**ANNIVERSARIES** Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.  
Especially John McNamara and Malvine LiVigni. **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.**

**10am Mass: Members of our RCIA programme who are being fully received into the church at Easter will be observing their 1<sup>st</sup> (of 3) Scrutinies at the 10am Mass this Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Also, some members will be doing the same at the 9.30am Mass on Tuesday morning (March 10<sup>th</sup>).

The above will be happening over the next 2 weekends, but at alternative Sunday Masses. The same with the following 2 Tuesdays.

Please keep our candidates in your prayers. Thank you.

**Stations of the Cross during Lent: Sundays 12.30pm.**



**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. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 10a Mass, for a Charity of your choice, please inform the staff in the presbytery office. Thank you.



**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](mailto: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.

**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)

### **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.**

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**Lenten talks at Brentwood Cathedral.**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30pm**

### **THE BOOK OF GENESIS – LENTEN TALK**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**Northern & Southern Dioceses Environment Networks** invite you to our online meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](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.

“**St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School & Nursery, Canvey Island**, will be celebrating 70 years of their wonderful school – please join them on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** for a community open evening **from 3:30pm - 7:00pm**. All welcome! Pop-up museum, café, and tours around the school. 1 entry suggested donation.”

### **Primary Vacancies**

*Click on vacancy to take you to the advert*

[Deputy Headteacher – St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Stanford-le-Hope](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

[Class Teacher – St Antony’s Catholic Primary School, Woodford Green](#)

Deadline for applications: 12:00 noon Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

[Deputy Headteacher – Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12:00 noon Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 20

[Headteacher – St Francis Catholic Primary School, Braintree](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk)

### **SVP Southend £1 for 40 days Campaign JustGiving Link**

As we enter 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](mailto:Nesperm@svp.org.uk)**

**07549128877**

**01702 592980**

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



**St Vincent  
de Paul Society**

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**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**

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



TOWNGATE  
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Lennox  
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Box office: 01268 205300 Book online: [www.towngatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.towngatetheatre.co.uk)

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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