

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

29th March 2026 Palm Sunday of Lord's Passion (A) Psalter Week 2)



Idiot! Clumsy fool! - thoughts going on about Ben at our Catholic Students Conference. And then there was Mary, petite and super-shy. A group of us out one day were in a local bookshop, browsing. Suddenly, the postcard stand went flying, postcards fluttering everywhere. And there was clumsy Ben, apologizing profusely to the shopkeeper whilst she ushered us out of the shop. "Just go" she shouted. Incredibly embarrassing! Seething over Ben's moronic behavior. I was so angry! A little later, he quietly said to me, "I had to do it, I just had to do it". "Do what"! I said angrily. "I just had to apologise for Mary, I couldn't let her take the blame for accidentally pushing that postcard stand over, she would have died of embarrassment and shame".....Oops and ouch! In that moment I felt, quite rightly, dreadful. What a mental clangor I dropped! In that moment, who was the real fool?

I felt humiliated and ashamed. I owned up to Ben. He simply brushed it all aside. Didn't bother him at all! One moment a seeming idiot, the next, a humble saint!

Ben took Mary's potential shame and embarrassment away by himself taking the blame. And he was the supposed idiot! Jesus' cross does similar. To the non-faithful, Jesus is the fool. Similarly, Jesus takes our shame on to himself. With Jesus, might it have been easier to have him killed quickly and quietly? No. Because the authorities wanted to completely discredit and shame him so no-one would believe in him – crucifixion. Jesus voluntarily goes to this place of shame. Taking our shame, sins on to Himself.

People create a place of shame, put someone else there, then feel better about themselves. This place of shame - is it the class idiot? The social moron? Ben? A different group? Someone we don't like? As long as another person or group occupies that place, we can feel OK. But true faith in the cross takes that evil action away. To only see the cross as a lucky charm will divest it of any power to do any of this.

Truly believing in the power of the cross must remove any capacity to create *other* victims of shame or whatever. Jesus is the ultimate victim of church and state –Caiphas (church) and Pilate (the state). He has done this once and for all and risen from that place of death. Now that place is emptied of all its poison. Blitzed. We call it Salvation. Sin is when we put that poison back, creating victims, a poison that Jesus has already removed.

With Calvary nothing changed, but all truth about worldly evil powers is revealed - and beaten. Do our attitudes and lifestyle reflect faith in the power of the cross?

1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7

Psalm: 22: 8-9, 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24

2nd Reading Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel (Passion): Matthew 26: 14-27: 66



MASS INTENTIONS	
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
Monday 30th March	
9.30am Mass	Bert Rickard RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Tuesday 31st March	
9.30am Mass	Sr. Zela Procter RIP – Melanie Graham
Wednesday 1st April	Spy Wednesday
10.00am Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Peter and Kath Hands
Maundy Thursday 2nd April	Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
<u>8.00pm Mass</u>	Parish Community
Good Friday 3rd April	Good Friday
<u>12.00pm</u>	Children's Stations of the Cross (12.00pm)
<u>3.00pm Liturgy</u>	-----
Holy Saturday 4th April	Holy Saturday
<u>8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass</u>	
	didates (Ints)
Sunday 5th April	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of Our Lord
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP – Susan and Damian Lucibello

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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ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.
Especially Gladys Amato and Anne Reilly. **May they rest in Peace.**

† **Marie Griffin.** Marie's Requiem Mass will be held here in Our Lady of Ransom Church at **11:00am on Thursday, 23rd April.** Her body will be brought into church at 4:30pm the previous day. The Requiem will be followed by committal at Southend Crematorium in the South Chapel at 12:30pm. May Marie rest in peace. †

I sincerely thank you for the many kind messages and condolences received, and Mass requests, following the death of my beloved wife, Marie. We, my daughter and son, Clare and Mark, have been deeply touched by your loving sentiments. After the service, you are welcome to join us at The Rayleigh Lodge, 70 The Chase, Rayleigh, SS6 8RW. God bless you all. **Colin Griffin**

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

A copy of the full newsletter is 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 2nd Hall Bookings –

Please contact Paul Roseman on 07470 691902 for any Hall Booking requests, thank you.

Easter Flowers

Donations towards the cost of flowers to decorate the Church at Easter would be gratefully received. If you wish to donate in remembrance of a loved one, please write the name on an envelope, together with your name and donation and post through the presbytery letter box. There are envelopes available in the church porch. Thank you.

Extra times for Reconciliation (Confessions): during Holy Week:

Monday **30th March----- 6pm – 7pm**

Tuesday **31st March ----12pm-1pm**

Thursday **2nd April-----11am-12pm**

If you are away for Easter, please have a very safe and happy one, and return safely and refreshed. Happy Easter to everyone.

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.



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 1st April 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.

This Sunday 29th, the coffee morning will be hosted by Emily Abel to raise funds for Brain Tumor Research.

