

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (A)

Psalter Week 2



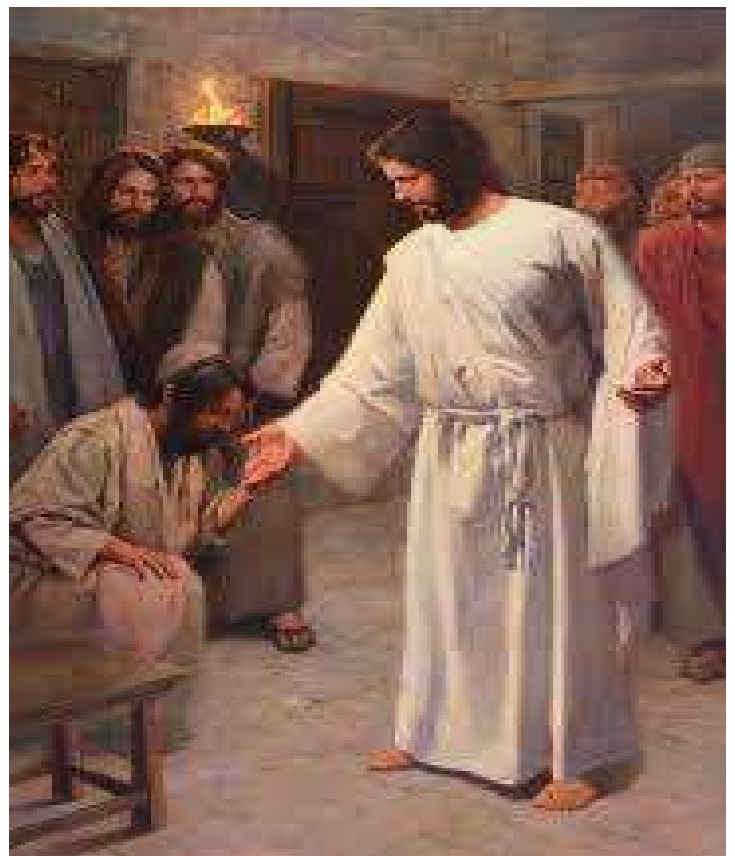
G-d bless. G dash, D. This is how some of my Jewish family, even today, end a message to me, or whoever. G-D. Yes, G dash D. From ancient times, the Jewish people could not say, nor write the name of God. It is simply too holy. It led to incredible humility before the Holy One. The original holy name for God was *Yahweh*. (Apologies to any Jewish people reading this). The name *Jehovah* comes from this word. But it turns out, in fact, that, it wasn't so much that his name should not be said, (let alone used in vain), but it was physically impossible to say it. Because the Holy Name could only be breathed. If you take the name *Yahweh*, you can utter the name (Yahweh) without significantly moving your mouth, your tongue or your lips. Try it. The Holy Name is breathed. Fantastic.

The Holy Name, *Yahweh*, is a word that comes directly from the ancient Rabbis to remind us that the presence of God is as automatic, accessible and as available as the very breath we take. As are his love and forgiveness. I wish people would appreciate this mind-blowing truth. For God is inherently love and mercy. Every breath we take God is loving and forgiving us. All which comes from the ancient Rabbis. Every time we breathe, we utter the divine name. This also means that, at conception, one of the first things we do is to utter the divine name. Further, just before we die and draw our last breath, we utter the divine name.

And we see Jesus continuing this great understanding, breathing forgiveness over his disciples. Breathing it. The risen Jesus doing this means that our God is a totally safe God. No need to worry about divine retributions, atonements, penances, punishments and so on. (The disciples had every right to worry after abandoning Jesus to death!). God is simply the God who keeps forgiving and does so every time we breathe. We need to experience this wonderful truth for ourselves. This truth needs to sink into the very marrow of our bones, into every sinew within us. There is no anger or wrath in our God. The Risen Jesus shows this.

**If only, if only** people got this. Things would be so different, for the better. And all this is not just for good behaviour, but for the sake of a peaceful, hopeful and better future. Now we can hopefully learn to love and forgive others. And if this genuinely happens, just maybe, we can find peace and even, live in peace.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Mercy, mercy, mercy. As Fr. Thomas Merton said, God is Mercy, within mercy, within mercy. He got it. Do we? Our God's love and forgiveness are as available, accessible and automatic as every breath we take. That surely is Gospel – Good News, and, if taken seriously, it is certainly life-changing and will certainly change the way we pray.



**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 2: 42-47**

**Psalms: 118: 2-4. 13-15b. 22-24**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Peter 1: 3-9**

**Sequence**

**Gospel: John 20: 19-31**

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Saturday</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Jack and Margaret Nelson RIP (Anniversary) – Joan Gardiner
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Marie Griffin RIP – Maria, Margaret, Mary and Victoria
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
<b>9.30pm Mass</b>	Graeme Hoare RIP (Anniversary) – Kathy Hoare
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	The Hemming Family RIP
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	The Williams Family and Betty Curran RIP
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
<b><u>8.30am Mass</u></b>	Terry Askem RIP (Anniversary) – Brenda Askem
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
<b>9.30 Mass</b>	Members of the Sewell Family RIP – Melanie Graham
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Michael Gumley RIP (Anniversary) – Marie Smith
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Deceased members of the Knights of St. Columba RIP - KSC

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>  <a href="http://www.olorchurch.org">www.olorchurch.org</a>            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 234092



**ANNIVERSARIES** Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Especially Marcelle Mark, Patricia Marshall, Terence Askem, Peggy McWilliams, Michael Gumley, Rita Rhodes, Denis Holland and Bill Slattery. **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, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. †

***The Vigil of the Funeral of Marie Griffin.*** *The Knights of St Columba and The Legion of Mary will be reciting the Rosary in the Church at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.** All are welcome to join us.*

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**

† **Jean Wood.** Please also keep Jean in your prayers. Jean died last Saturday. Please also keep Peter, family and friends in prayer too. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed. May Jean rest in peace. †

† **Yvonne Newman.** Please also keep Yvonne in your prayers. Yvonne died last Tuesday evening. Please also keep Helen, Chris, family and friends in prayer too. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed. May Yvonne rest in peace. †

**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Elizabeth, Stuart, Paul Cornwall, Kimberley, Scarlett, Paul Haynes, Libby, David, Louise, Daniel, Val, Rachel, Matthew and Rebecca who were brought fully into Catholic Communion last week.**

**Well done to you all – our prayers and congratulations.**

**Thanks to everyone who helped make our Easter Triduum and Liturgies so beautiful. So lovely to hear such positive comments from our visitors. Again, thank you one and all.**

**Please note: Mass on Thursday morning will be at 8.30am**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Hall Bookings –**

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

**Easter Flowers:** in loving memories of Tom and Pat Herlihy; Pauline Burgess, Michael Pearson, Emma-Louise Lucibello, Walenty Krolkowski, John Warren, James Rickards, deceased members of Sandra and Eddie Kennedy's family.

Thank you to all who donated in memory of a loved one and thank you also to those parishioners who donated anonymously.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **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

**Repository** – There are 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.*

**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.

that they have felt it an enormous privilege to be invited and to be part of a celebration in the Cathedral, perhaps for the first time in their lives!

**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](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) [+44 797 338 0443](tel:+447973380443)

#### **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**

For any enquiries re Missio red boxes, please contact Katherine Abel 0790 6844284 [warren\\_katherine@hotmail.com](mailto: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](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>

**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](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk)

## **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](mailto: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

### **Funding Grants for Crises and Funerals.**

**Crisis grants help parish communities to support local individuals or families facing extreme hardship or crisis.**

Crisis grant applications need to be made or supported by the local Catholic parish and the Caritas team. [Parishes can download further information and the application form here.](#)

**Caritas Westminster can offer grants to help specifically with funeral costs in cases of hardship.** Funeral grants can contribute up to £1,500 towards funeral costs. This grant is provided by a third party who wishes to remain anonymous and given through a local Catholic parish in the Diocese of Westminster. [Parishes can download further information and the application form here.](#)

5th May 2026, marks the **National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse**, with this year's theme focusing on domestic abuse.

[Safe in Faith](#) has created a resource which includes prayers written by survivors of domestic abuse, along with THE LEGACY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**St. Francis of Assisi.** As we mark 800 years since the death of St Francis (3<sup>rd</sup> October 1226), Fr Alban McCoy OFM Con will speak about how Francis changed the Church of his day and can help us to renew the Church in our own times. The event will take place in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) from 11 am until 1 pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Refreshments available from 10.30. Everyone is welcome to this free event, which is also available by live stream on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) No booking necessary. suggested prayerful actions that individuals and parishes can take.



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

## TRAIN AS A RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLOR



*Would you like train in relationship counselling and provide couples with professional, effective support, that makes a real difference?*

### **BENEFITS:**

Enjoy full training with certified trainers, ongoing supervision and CPD, and become part of a community of like-minded relationship professionals within a historic and diverse organisation.

Our next **Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC)** training course will begin in March 2027 with a **deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June** for applications.

Marriage Care believe that supporting couple relationships is a matter of social justice. Our relationship counsellors enable those in need to access professional counselling – regardless of their ability to pay – by providing two counselling sessions per week on a voluntary basis.

We are looking for those who are **empathetic, understanding** and have an **enthusiasm for supporting adult relationships**. Whilst you do not need experience as a counsellor for this role, **self-awareness** and having the **time and space to commit** to all that the training and role entails is essential.

*Please note that there are costs associated with training on our CRC, including a non-refundable registration fee of around £175. These costs, which are outlined on our webpage, are subject to minor changes and are far lower than with alternative training providers. In line with our ethos as a charity, no one is excluded on the basis of their ability to pay. What we ask in return is your commitment to us and our clients.*

For more information please visit our website: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)  
or email: [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk)