

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

19th April 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter (A)

Psalter Week 3



Why did the boy keep a bike by his bed? He was “two tired” of walking in his sleep! *Big groan!* Get it? Of course!

What a pain it is to have to explain a joke! The moment is totally lost. When we get a joke, there is an interpretive key working in us. Maybe through intellect, experience or whatever. As we get the joke, there is a spontaneous click, the interpretive key is working, and we laugh. Because our intellect or experience allows the needed connection and understanding.

There seems to be an interpretive key missing at the beginning of today’s Gospel. The disciples didn’t ‘get it’. No connection. Yes, they appreciated all the facts, that Jesus was the prophet, powerful, healer etc, but something was clearly missing. It didn’t click. It didn’t make sense. Hence their despair.

Yes, Jesus was all these, but these are basic facts. Facts can be interesting. But they can also be academic, sterile and clinical. And often dis-jointed. And some might reply, ‘so what’?

The interpretive key missing for them was the key of ‘relationship’, their faith in him. This relationship was rekindled as they saw Him doing His familiar thing that they had experienced so often – breaking bread. Experience (their interpretive key) allowed them to realise it was Him, the one they loved - now, they ‘got it’. Click - the connection happened. Recognition. Now suddenly, everything had meaning, depth and soul.

And for us. Once our faith has meaning, depth and soul, we too are set alight. Our souls burn within. Or it is simply not real. Just a collection of heady facts about Jesus. Yes, he is love, yes he is forgiveness etc...so what! Just facts. Sterile theology! Until we develop an authentic relationship with Him, a real connection, our supposed faith may be interesting, but it lacks meaning, no soul. We must have meaning. It must makes sense to us, or so much is lost.

Relationship develops when we begin to let go of things that are superfluous in our lives - and think more of others, all allowing a greater reliance on the Lord. The stuff of Lent - fasting, prayer and giving to the poor - is meant for this. Do we need more Lents?! That surely is the interpretive key that allows us to ‘get it’. So, *our* souls truly burn within. Do we want faith? Or a dis-jointed collection of sterile beliefs?

1st Reading: Acts 2: 14, 22-33

Psalm: 16: 1-2a, 5, 7-8. 9-10

2nd Reading 1 Pater 1: 17-21

Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 18th April	
5.30pm Mass	Michael Gumley RIP (Anniversary) – Marie Smith
Sunday 19th April	3rd Sunday of Easter
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Deceased members of the Knights of St. Columba RIP - KSC
Monday 20th April	
9.30pm Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Joan Gardiner
Tuesday 21st April	
9.30am Mass	Patrick Francis Saunders – Rose Saunders
Wednesday 22nd April	
10.00am Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – John and Gabrielle Miller
Thursday 23rd April	St. George
<u>11.00am Mass</u>	Requiem Mass- Marie Griffin RIP
Friday 24th April	St. Mellitus
9.30 Mass	Mary and Pat Rickard (Ints) – Rita Gurney
Saturday 25th April	St. Mark
5.30pm Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Isobel and Tom Kennedy
Sunday 26th April	4th Sunday of Easter (Prayer for Vocations)
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Jean Pye RIP – Mathew Thomas

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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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 Angeline Harris, Margaret O'Connor, Norman Hamilton, Kate Clinch and Robert Scott. **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. †

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 22nd 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 2 weeks ago. 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 Tuesday-week ago. 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 at Easter.

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.

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: 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 22nd 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 -

Coffee Morning Sunday 19th, after the 10am Mass, organized by the Knights of St. Columba.



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.

OLOR Youth Group Event

The Parish warmly invite the young people of our parish (ages 16–18) to the third youth event on Sunday 26th April at Caddies crazy golf centre in Southend from 16:00 to 17:00. The cost is 11.50 per person paid on the day. We will meet at outside Caddies at 16:00 on Sunday 26th April.

If you are interested in attending, please Pick up and fill out a parent consent form and post this into the parish letter box before Saturday 25th April. The forms are at the back of church 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 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 +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

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.

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 (3rd 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 2nd May. Refreshments available from 10.30. Everyone is welcome to this free event, which is also available by live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org No booking necessary. suggested prayerful actions that individuals and parishes can take.

School Vacancies:-

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking to appoint a Classroom Teacher for September 2026. The role would suit an experienced teacher or an ECT (mentor provided).

For more information about the position and to apply, please visit:-

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=118041>

Closing date is Midday on Friday 24th April 2026.

Visits to the school are welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the school office by phone 01277 653770 or email on admin@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk

CARETAKER - St. Bernard's High School

Hours: 37 hours per week, full-time, additional hours maybe required at weekends when required
Salary scale 7-12 (£26,403 - £28,598)

Calling all Caretakers – we are looking to recruit a Caretaker to join our friendly premises team!

The role will be challenging at times so you will need to be a team player, pro-active, organised, reliable, adaptable and have a 'can do' attitude to deal with issues that arise. You will support the school to effectively maintain a safe, clean, secure, well-functioning and pleasant learning environment for students, staff and visitors.

Key Responsibilities:

- Carry out hands-on maintenance, repairs, and site inspections as required
- Ensure compliance with health and safety regulations, including risk assessments and reporting
- Monitor site security, including opening/closing procedures and emergency response
- Liaise with contractors, suppliers, and management to ensure efficient service delivery
- Ensuring the site is safe for use during adverse weather conditions
- Deliver goods to relevant departments
- Set up rooms for events

Requirements:

- Proven experience in a caretaking, facilities, or maintenance role ideally working within a school or similar environment
- Strong practical skills across general maintenance (e.g. basic plumbing, electrical, carpentry)
- Good understanding of health and safety procedures and compliance
- Excellent organisational and communication skills
- Ability to work independently and take initiative
- Flexible approach to working hours when needed

If you would like to apply, please complete the Support Staff Application Form found at the bottom of our Vacancies page on our website (<https://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk/about-us/vacancies>) and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk.

[Deputy Headteacher - Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Benfleet](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Thursday 30th April 2026

[Headteacher - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stanford Le Hope](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Thursday 30th April 2026

[Headteacher – St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch](#)

Deadline for applications: 17:00 pm 1st May 2026

[Headteacher - St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Colchester](#)

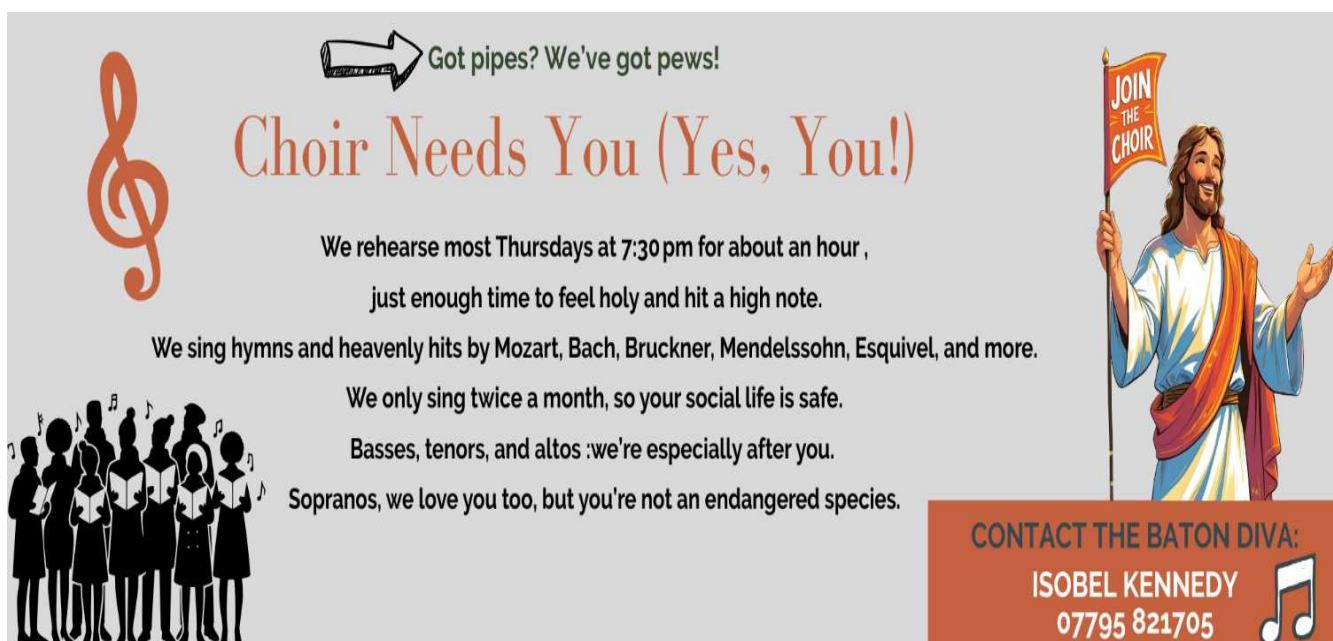
Deadline for applications: 09:00 am Tuesday 5th May 2026

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK BY DR AUSTEN IVEREIGH (ON ZOOM):

HOPE FOR THE CHURCH IN A CHANGE OF ERA: THE LEGACY OF POPE FRANCIS - Wednesday 6th May at 7pm

We are delighted to be joined by Austen Ivereigh (British Catholic writer & journalist – known for his two biographies of Pope Francis).

The talk is free of charge and ALL are welcome! For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk



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 30th 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
or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk