

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (A)

Psalter Week 2



The Sat-Nav was working fine. At least I thought so. I typed in the destination, drove the hundred plus miles, and ended up in a field! Oops! After all this great technology, I still needed to ask directions. I guess it needed updating. Sat-Navs.

A form of divine Sat-Nav is planted within every person. We call it the Holy Spirit. It longs, yearns and hearkens back to its source – God himself - the Godhead. And until this Sat-Nav is continually updated through prayer, we will always feel lost, maybe tortured with dissatisfaction. Only God can ultimately satisfy. As Jesus says, the world of mind and logic will never understand. It is only known by those who are prepared to reach beyond this world, and try and connect to, and keep updating this internal divine Sat-Nav. They understand. They make contact with this inner guide, this inner knower, which is the very presence of God's Holy Spirit living within us all. Why would anyone not want to make contact? Yet it seems may do not. They seem to prefer to live by the world's illusions – which will never make us profoundly happy. So many unhappy people around...Little wonder we have all the social problems around us.

Good healthy religion teaches how to make such contact. It helps us discover this Inner Guide. Jesus is asking that we awaken to this truth. Different religions have different words for it. Today we hear Jesus using the word 'advocate'.

Using this word "advocate", Jesus is saying the Holy Spirit is like a defense-lawyer and comforter. Why? Because our spirits can be so beaten down, filled with self-doubt, maybe self-hatred and self-criticism that this Inner Knower will fight on our behalf, defending and comforting us against these voices of negativity and oppression that so easily demean and humiliate. Making contact reassures us we are truly children of God. Yes, we can still go through terrible things in life, but they don't have the power to defeat or destroy us.

So, we need to make contact and update this internal Sat-Nav. There are many ways: including silent prayer (silence is God's first language); contact with nature – God's created world; have one or two wise grounded friends; as well as through an honest looking at ourselves – these are some ways. Like a good, updated homing device, allow this internal divine Sat-Nav to home in on its real destination. Don't be misdirected to the wrong place, or a field - a spiritual nowhere, because we 'think' we know, or because it is not working properly or needs updating, or simply because the majority wrongly do otherwise. That latter one is our biggest error (because everyone else is doing it...) So, connect; update, then we can be always happy, even when we're sad.

The world and all its illusions simply cannot do it for us. Are we in touch?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17**

**Psalms: 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a, 16, 20**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1Peter 3: 15-18**

**Gospel: John 14:15-21**



<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community and Prayer Board Intentions
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Marie Griffin RIP – Rita Gurney
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Maria Grittell RIP – Jean Wood
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>9.30pm Mass</b>	Michael O' Hart RIP – Eithne and Una
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St. John Houghton</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Mary and Pat Rickard (Ints) – Mary and Tom Butterworth
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St. Erconwald</b>
<b><u>11am Requiem Mass</u></b>	<b>Jean Wood RIP</b>
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
<b>7.30 Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Jean Wood RIP – SVP
<b>8.00pm Mass</b>	Marie Griffin RIP – Eithne and Una
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b><u>8.30am Mass</u></b>	Jim O' Farrell RIP – Kay O' Connor
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Mary and Pat Rickard (Ints) – Eithne and Una
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Yvonne Newman RIP - SVP
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community and 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Children (Ints)

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>
--	--

**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 Kathleen Richards, Elena Hutchings, Kathryn O'Donnell, Heather Persue, Margaret O'Dwyer, Mary Cross and Margaret Hand. **May they rest in Peace.**

† **Jean Wood.** Please keep Jean in your prayers along with Peter, family and friends. **Jean's Requiem Mass will be this week on Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am.** Committal will be at 12.30pm at Southend Crematorium, followed by refreshments at Rayleigh Lodge. All are welcome. May Jean rest in peace. †

† **Yvonne Newman.** Please keep Yvonne in your prayers along with Helen, Chris and family. **Yvonne's Requiem Mass will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 12.15pm.** May Yvonne rest in peace. †

† **Celia Penney.** Please also keep Celia in your prayers. Celia died 2 weeks ago. Please also keep all the family in prayer too. **Celia's funeral will be at 12.30pm on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.** May Celia rest in peace. †

**Please note: Thursday this week is Ascension Thursday. Masses are at times listed. Morning Mass on Friday will again be at 8.30am**

**1st Holy Communions** will be next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at our 10am Mass. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers. Thank you.

**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.

**Congratulations to Aimee Corr and James Lee who were married in our parish 2 weeks ago. May their future be blessed with much joy, health and peace.**

**Lost Property.** It appears that lost property is on the increase again in the church porch, water bottles, hats, jackets etc. Please reclaim them promptly or they will shortly be disposed of. Thank you.

-  
**Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> Hall Bookings –**

For any Hall Booking requests, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email, Tuesday to Thursday, between 9.30 and 1pm. 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 **20<sup>th</sup> of May after the 10.00am Mass.**

Kindly note that there will be **no coffee morning on Wednesday 13th May.**

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 -**

This Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May after our 10am Mass.

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.



**Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**Christian Aid is a UK and Ireland based charity that funds charity projects in some of the world's poorest countries, regardless of Religion or race. It helps people to improve their**

**lives and to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. Every gift can change lives. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church and can be returned to the Church or Presbytery or you can donate online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)**

**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.*

**THE Knights of St Columba** wish to thank parishioners for their generous support of the Easter Raffle. A total of £860.00 was raised. After expenses for stationery, printing and prizes £400 will be given to the parish and £400 will go to Sr Joachim's Mission of Hope. Following our monthly meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> May we will announce future social events.

**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

### **Red Box 2025 THANK YOU!**

In 2025 Our Lady of Ransom parish raised **£1,573.10** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank You! Our missionary community here in Rayleigh is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Communities around the world rely on your support so they can continue to flourish. Visit [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) to find out more.

Due to bank closures, it is unfortunately increasingly difficult to bank cash and cheque donations. Additionally, we have fewer volunteers to collect our boxes. Red Boxes will continue to be collected and the easiest way to do this is by leaving your box in the sacristy or presbytery, and emptied boxes will then be left at the back of church for you to collect. If you are unable to do this, please contact me and I will be more than happy to collect from your home.

*I would warmly encourage you to 'Think outside the box' if you would like to support Missio. Spring Mission Today booklets are at the back of church, and you will find information on the back cover of ways to give directly. Donations can be made by Direct Debit, or Bank Transfer **Account Name:** Missio **Sort Code:** 16-00-16 **Account Number:** 10824230 **Reference:** RB + your postcode. You can also give directly on their website, or via phone and text.*

Please contact Katherine Abel: [warren\\_katherine@hotmail.com](mailto:warren_katherine@hotmail.com) or 07906844284 if you have any questions.

### **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)

**Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School** is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly-motivated class teacher to join our friendly and dedicated team.

We were judged to be an an OUTSTANDING Catholic school (S48 Inspection, May 2022) and a GOOD school by Ofsted in January 2023

Our school provides a happy, calm atmosphere with delightful children, a wonderful learning environment and supportive colleagues, governors and parents.

The successful candidate will need to be a strong practitioner committed to achieving high standards of pupils' learning and capable of teaching imaginatively.

They will be willing to be involved in all aspects of school life.

The post would suit an experienced teacher who is either a practising Catholic or willing to support the strong Catholic ethos of our school.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The appointment is subject to satisfactory references, medical and enhanced DBS checks.

Visits to the school are welcomed and encouraged.

For more details please contact Mr. Parascandolo (Head Teacher) via the school office (01268 785741)

For an application form please visit the school website [www.olorcps.net](http://www.olorcps.net)

Closing date: Thursday 14th May 2026 (4pm)

**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>

### **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.

### **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).

### **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.](#)

### **MARANATHA at Grays Friday 15 May 2026**

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! All are warmly invited to an evening of prayer, praise and worship, including Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Catholic Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Grays RM17 6SR on Friday 15 May 2026, led by Fr. Paschal Uche. The time is from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, with refreshments afterwards. Come and join us! Everyone is welcome.



➔ 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.



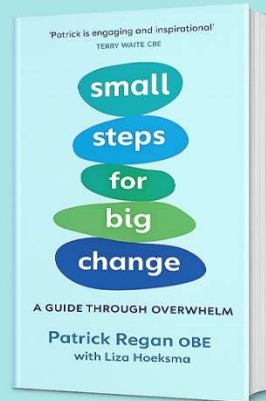
CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:

ISOBEL KENNEDY  
07795 821705



# Overwhelm Tour 12th May Rayleigh

## Megacentre Rayleigh SS6 7UT | 7:30pm



Join Patrick Regan OBE and Singer/Songwriter Caitlyn Kelly for an evening of humour, interviews, Live music, and inspiration. The Overwhelm Tour is packed full of practical tips for wellbeing, alongside stories of struggle and strength. Hear from local agencies making a difference in your area.

This evening is for all of us who want tools to invest in our emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual health so we can look forward to a healthier and more hopeful future.

**Book  
Now**



Live music from  
Caitlyn Kelly



## 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)