

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

17th May 2026

7th Sunday of Easter (A)

Psalter Week 3



Do you like good comedy? I do. It appears that the better the comedy the better is the use of pauses, silent moments, timing, double takes, and so on. It can all take practice and skill. When we write, we use full stops, commas, quotation marks, colons, semi-colons, hyphens, new paragraphs and more. In other words, punctuation. When we see a long string of words, punctuation gives that text meaning. Now we understand. However, incorrect (or no punctuation) can easily lead to total misunderstandings. Good written comedy also relies on appropriate verbal and non-verbal punctuation.

In the same way, we also need to punctuate our lives. Full stops, commas, pauses, timing and of course, silence. Otherwise, everything we do is like a long string of words, relentlessly grinding us down and becoming meaningless. Long strings of words and actions, where everything runs into everything else. So, our lives lose meaning, we can so easily lose the plot. Those pauses, commas, breaks, full stops and silences are those moments to reflect, touch base, get back to what's real, pray. Praying, thinking and really experiencing our feelings so we can work out what they may be teaching us. Yes, it can be hard at times, but we must find some time to do this. This cannot be over-emphasized.

And like good comedy, this punctuation can take practice and skill. Many are uncomfortable with these pauses and silence as they are not comfortable with what's going on inside themselves. Truthfully, they do not love themselves. If they do not love themselves, can they really love others? Not really. In their discomfort, they distract themselves with noise, loud TVs, loud music.

We must be happy with who we are, happy inside our own skins, because that is how God created us. Appreciating the need for silence - our love for ourselves will be real, and so our love of others will also be genuine. We will be authentically happy people. When and how we pause and exercise silence is up to each of us. But it must be done, and fairly frequently. Punctuate our lives so our lives have meaning. Maybe do so according to certain rhythms and temperaments. Some, of course, will prefer more fixed regimes, that's fine too.

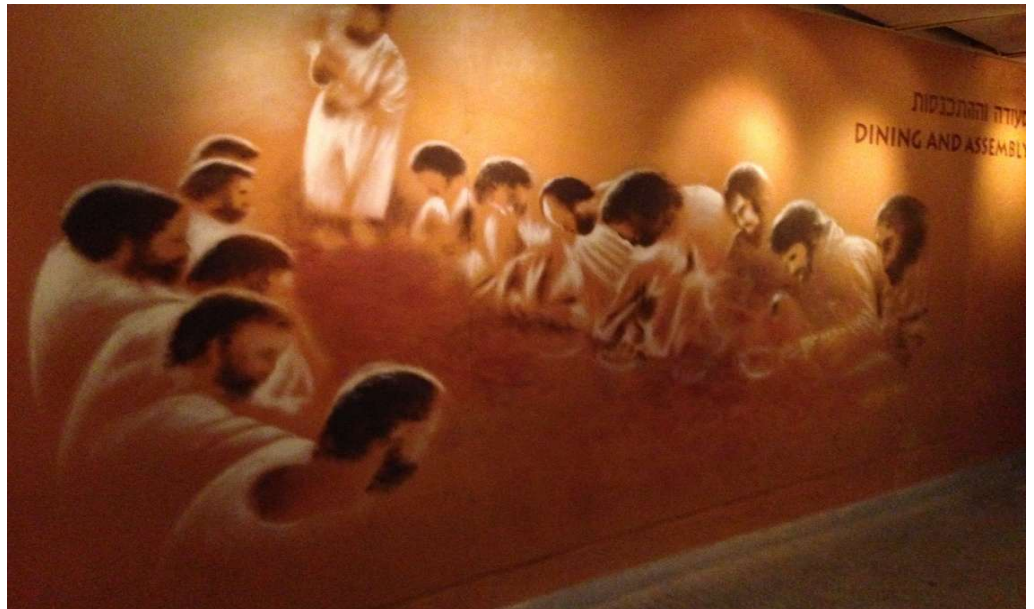
So, we see the importance of punctuation in reading, writing and how we live our lives. Today we see the Apostles doing so in their continuous praying, all so crucial. Stopping, reflecting, touching base, checking our own experiences. Wise and grounded people will always do this. We need to copy their example in our lives, so we too may find meaning, purpose, direction depth and happiness.

1st Reading: Acts 1: 12-14

Psalm: 27: 1, 4, 7-8a

2nd Reading 1 Peter 4: 13-16

Gospel: John 17: 1-11a



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 16th May	
5.30pm Mass	Mary and Pat Rickard (Ints) – Eithne and Una
Sunday 17th May	7th Sunday of Easter
8.00am Mass	Yvonne Newman RIP – SVP Rayleigh
10.00am Mass	Parish Community and 1 st Holy Communion Children (Ints)
Monday 18th May	
9.30pm Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Mary and Tom Butterworth
Tuesday 19th May	
9.30am Mass	Jean Wood RIP – Dorothy Dimmock
Wednesday 20th May	
10.00am Mass	Mary and Pat Rickard (Ints) – Caroline and Steve Bunker
Thursday 21st May	
9.30am Mass	The Curnock Family (Ints) – Frances Wiley
Friday 22nd May	
9.30am Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Mary and Barrie Mason
Saturday 23rd May	
5.30pm Mass	Patricio Kong Sr. RIP (Anniversary) – John and Lee Gillson
Sunday 24th May	Pentecost Sunday
8.00am Mass	The Rickard Family (Ints) – Frances Wiley
10.00am Mass	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>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 234



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time. Especially Sheila Robertson, William Packwood and Jim Fallaize. **May they rest in Peace.**

† **Celia Penney.** Please keep Celia in your prayers. Please also keep all the family in prayer too. **Celia's funeral service (not a Mass) will be at 12.30pm on June 3rd** (apologies for previous date error). May Celia 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 4th at 12.15pm.** May Yvonne rest in peace. †

Note of thanks – Peter Wood would like to thank everyone for the kind messages, cards and mass requests received for his wife, Jean. Also thank you to all those who attended Jean's Requiem Mass, gave flowers and donated to Havens Hospice in Jean's memory.

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 –

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 **20th May 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.



Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th 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

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

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.

Repository – There are various items available for First Holy Communion gifts.

ORGANISTS, PIANISTS, We are really blessed to have a proper pipe organ in Our Lady of Ransom Church. But there are few parishioners who can play it. Let me know if you are one of the few. Also, if you are having piano lessons and can read music, even to a quite elementary level (AB Grade 4 perhaps) I would be pleased if you would contact me. I can give you some lessons (free of charge) and help you to learn to play the organ. Isobel Kennedy 07795 821705

CHILDREN'S CHOIR There seems to be a number of young people in our parish who love to sing. I am therefore starting up a choir for any children who are interested in singing and are prepared to learn to read music. We shall start by having a choir practice on **Thursday 18th June** at 6.30pm in the choir loft. The idea will be to join in the singing with the main choir at the 10am Mass. Primary school children would probably like to be accompanied by a parent, secondary school pupils can either join the main choir which rehearses in the choir loft at 7.30 to 8.30pm most Thursdays or attend the earlier rehearsal at 6.30pm. Whichever suits. Let me know if you are interested. I look forward to hearing from you. Isobel Kennedy 07795 821705

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 11th 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.

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**

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 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 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

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

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. 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>

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.

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.](#)

Catholic Legacy Week, 24-30 May, is a time when Parishes and Catholic charities such as CAFOD celebrate the work made possible in the life of the Church through gifts in Wills. Find out more about the week using QR code or at [//cafod.org.uk/CatholicLegacyWeek](http://cafod.org.uk/CatholicLegacyWeek)



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

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church – Altar Servers

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve your church and grow in faith?

We warmly invite **people of all ages – children and adults** – to join **St Stephen's Guild of Altar Servers**.

Everyone has a part to play in the Mass, but altar servers have a special role – to serve, assist, and support the priest and deacon, especially around the altar. It's a meaningful and active way to take part in worship while helping the whole congregation to pray.

- ✦ Open to new members
- ✦ Full training provided
- ✦ A rewarding and respected role in the parish

If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you!

☎ Contact **Fr Paul** Parish Priest at church

☎ Or **Debbie Smith** MC on 07359 919785



Come and be part of something special – join St Stephen's Guild today!

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