

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

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

Psalter Week 1



The Dating Agency. He was a happy man. He liked the agency's decor; he found the staff friendly and he had filled out the forms correctly. And possibly a compatible person. He was delighted. All was good. But wait a moment...he hadn't yet met the date. He hadn't yet actually experienced 'meeting' this person. Possibly striking a friendship, maybe even falling in love.

Our religion and church can be similar. Confusing the dating agency with the date. We can love churches, our religion, its history, its protocols, its hymns, we can conform to the rules, we can jump through all the hoops...we can go on... and think we're good Catholics. But we haven't yet met the date. **We have yet to meet the date.** Yes, maybe we need our church and religion to be this kind of belonging system. That's fine – but to a point. More is needed. St. Peter reminds us we are a people “set apart” and “called out”. Called out from what? From the darkness of business as usual. A people who mutually reassure each other that experiences of the Lord (the date) are not madness, but real...why? Because everyone has had them. We meet and are overwhelmed by the date. Now enlightened, we move 'into His wonderful light'.

The original word for 'church' is “ek-klesia” (ecclesiastical), meaning ‘to be called out from’ – called out from business as usual. To be a transformed person and people. Over the years, churches and religion largely lost this transformative invitation. Church became a secure belonging system where we can fit in - have certain roles. Just obey the rules and feel okay. Again, to a point that is fine, but nowhere near enough. We must not lose that restless, daring, searching, yearning for God. That yearning desire to meet the date. Or we so easily miss out on the date – simply fitting cozily into the dating agency. Then we inspire no-one. To restlessly and daringly meet the date. Wow! Then, we realise for ourselves that this date really is the way par excellence; the ultimate truth, and fullness of life. We're hooked. We're energised. Now our lives make so much sense with meaning, purpose and depth. So, we need to meet the date. Then transformation happens. We become “called out, set apart”, different. We are happy to be so. We no longer remain 'too cosy' in the dating agency (church).

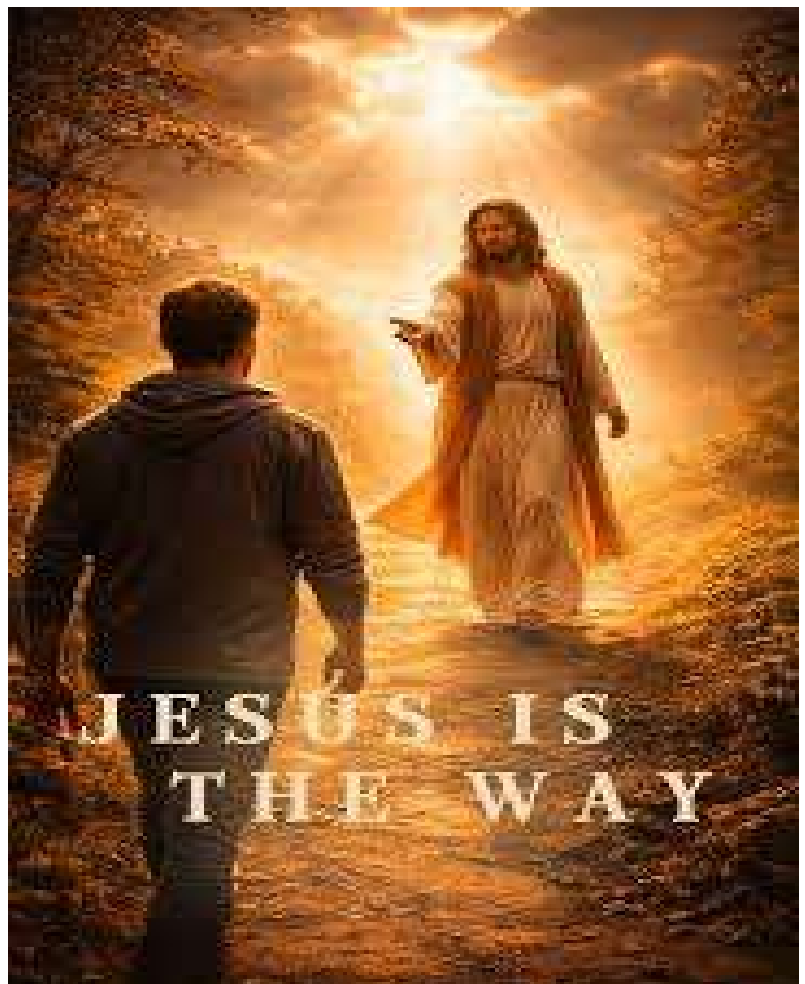
That makes for us a people who are that “royal priesthood,” a people who are “His own possession, a chosen race” that St. Peter talks about. A transformed people who can encourage others to actually meet the date. And they themselves become a transformed people, and so it goes on.....

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Act 6: 1-7**

**Psalm: 33: 1-2. 4-5. 18-19**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Peter 2: 4-9**

**Gospel: John 14: 1-12**



<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>St. Athanasius</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Marie Griffin RIP – Jane Cook
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Vera Cooling RIP (Anniversary) – Tony Cooling
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community and Our 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Children and their Families
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>The English Martyrs</b>
<b>9.30pm Mass</b>	Marie Griffin RIP – Steve and Caroline Bunker
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Ann Lydon RIP – Kathy Hoare
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St. John Payne</b>
<b><u>8.30am Mass</u></b>	Jack Gardiner RIP (Anniversary) – Joan Gardiner
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Marie Griffin RIP – Lorna Warren
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b><u>8.30am Mass</u></b>	Mary Rees RIP – Melanie Graham
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community
<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

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 2340**



**ANNIVERSARIES** Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.  
May they rest in Peace.

† **Jean Wood.** Please keep Jean in your prayers. Jean died recently. Please also keep Peter, family and friends in prayer too. **Jean's Requiem Mass will be 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 also keep Yvonne in your prayers. Yvonne died recently. Please also keep Helen, Chris, family and friends in prayer too. **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 last week. 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: Morning Masses on Wednesday and Friday are 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.

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

**1st Holy Communions** will be this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May both at our 10am Masses. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers. Thank you.

**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, Tuesday-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 6th May at **10.00am (Mass at 8.30am)**

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 -**

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

### **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)

**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.

## **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).

## **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

## **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.

## **School Vacancies:-**

### **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](mailto:recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk).

[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](http://www.canonesses.co.uk)

**You are warmly invited to join the Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark, and Westminster for the 20th annual Mass for Migrants on Bank Holiday Monday, 4 May 2026, at St Antony of Padua Catholic Church.** The celebration will begin at 12.00 pm with a procession of banners.

This year, the Mass is hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood. Celebrated for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, the Mass is prepared by the Caritas and Ethnic Chaplaincies of the three dioceses and gives thanks for the contributions made to faith, life and work in the UK by all those who have come from other countries to make their home here.

**The preacher will be Archbishop Richard Moth, and the celebrant will be Bishop Alan Williams, sm.**

Music will be provided by Nathan Chan and students from St Antony's Catholic Primary School, St Bonaventure's Catholic Secondary School and St Angela's Ursuline School.

We will also be joined by community organisers from [Citizens UK](http://Citizens UK).

---

Please do come along and bring the family, whether you are from a migrant background or not; **all are welcome!** It is a joyful and celebratory occasion, providing a wonderful chance to embrace our communities. Everyone is invited to wear their national dress.

---

*Banner bearers are invited to gather at St Bonaventure's Secondary School at 11.15 am, ready for the procession to begin at 12.00 pm.*

*Parish and Catholic organisations are welcome to bring banners for the procession. Please contact: [caritas@brcdt.org](mailto:caritas@brcdt.org)*



➔ 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.*

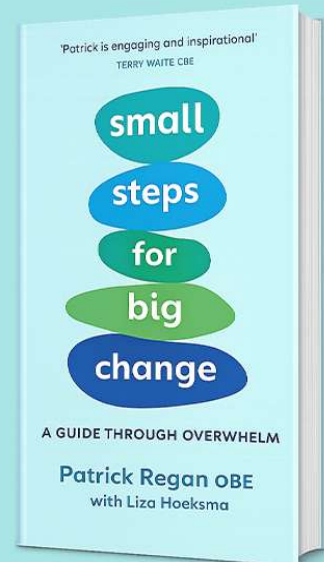
For more information please visit our website: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)  
or email: [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk)

# 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

