

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

14th June 2026 Eleventh Sunday of the Year Psalter Week 2



Is our country in a mess? Socially, politically, control of crime? Do you think all countries are experiencing a similar mess? Maybe some even worse, others maybe not so much? What can we do? Please read on.

There are 2 people who enlighten me in solving this problem. The first is Einstein. He said you cannot solve a problem with the same mindset that caused the problem in the first place. So, if political mindsets have caused so many political problems, how can we expect political mindsets to solve them? Same mindsets! That's why we have an eternal political problem for whoever is in power. What we need is for a few politicians and public workers (not necessarily church or temple goers), but those few who are truly, spiritually aware. Those prepared to go to a deeper place. Those who are practiced in "listening to the silent music beneath the noisy traffic of our thinking in order to catch the Divine harmony within" (as Fr. Daniel O' Leary says) – i.e. contemplation - they will always find the bigger picture, where integrity can be found, from where an integrity of public life will follow. Now a different mind-set is operating.

Otherwise, corruption will always follow. Why wouldn't it? Power games, deceit, self-interest are just a few of the eternal issues we constantly see. Going deeper allows us to check our real motives. Frightening maybe (what is really lurking deep down?), but it must be done, especially if we are in public life. Or, all we'll ever get is "what's in it for me". When this spiritual part is not there, selfishness, deceit and Power-games always follow. Why wouldn't they?

So, for me, Einstein was so right, we must go to a different place, a deeper bigger and different mind-set, not more politics, but a spiritual place, if we are to see our political world and society heal. It may just take the few, then good things start to evolve. The other person is Moses. From the Burning Bush experience. Today, we see Moses' experiencing the Divine; such experiences always have social and political consequences. 'Let my people go'. 'Tell the House of Jacob...' His confrontation with Pharaoh and the House of Jacob all flows from this deep personal experience of the Divine, which is open to us all if we are prepared to take the scary journey into our souls/ hearts. This is why Moses remains a man of such integrity, never giving up. Neither must we. Action affecting people's lives flowing from the divine within.

So, yes, the same of course for us. Public life must entail going to that bigger, deeper place and checking ourselves out, so we remain people of integrity in these public lives, politically, or otherwise. Yes, Einstein and Moses are so right. This is where all our institutions can be healed from, public figures checking out real motives with the Lord, 'the Divine harmony within.' Actions and decisions will flow from there. An authentic political or social system of integrity will evolve. And it may only take the few, or as Jesus says elsewhere, the 'Leaven', to make it happen. Can we be some of those few?

1st Reading: Exodus: 19: 2-6a

Psalm: 100: 1-2.3.5

2nd Reading: Romans 5: 6-11

Gospel: Matthew 9: 36- 10:8



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 13th June	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 14th June	Eleventh Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Mina Fox RIP – Melanie Graham
10.00am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP – (Anniversary) Susan and Damian Lucibello
Monday 15th June	
9.30pm Mass	Norah Binding RIP – Mary Butterworth
Tuesday 16th June	
9.30am Mass	James Logue RIP – Mary Rickards
Wednesday 17th June	
10.00am Mass	Jean Wood RIP – Eileen McSweeney
Thursday 18th June	
9.30am Mass	Doris Warrington RIP
Friday 20th June	
9.30am Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Sally McNamara
Saturday 21st June	
5.30pm Mass	DV and Leelamma Cyril (THG) – Lixy Cyril
Sunday 14th June	Twelfth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Kath and Stuart Cunningham
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>
--	--

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.
May they rest in Peace.

† **Christopher Godfrey.** Christopher died recently at Timber Grove. Please keep Christopher in your prayer, along with Peter and all the family. Christopher's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday July 16th at 11.30am. May he rest in peace. †

† **James (Jim) Logue.** Please keep Jim in your prayers. Jim died recently. Please also keep Pauline and the family in prayer too. Jim's funeral will take place on 2nd July at 11am. May he rest in peace. †

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.

This Saturday at our 5.30pm Mass (June 13th) I will be commissioning new Eucharistic Ministers. And again on Saturday 27th June at the 5.30pm Mass. Please keep them in your prayers. 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 **17th June after the 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.

There will be a coffee morning this Sunday 14th June, hosted by The Knights of St Columba.



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

1. *Sunday 14th June Coffee Morning after 10am Mass.*
2. *Coffee Mornings will be held on the last Sunday of every subsequent month.*
3. *Saturday 11th July Bingo Night (provisional date).*
4. *Saturday 12th September Summer Ball to celebrate 75th anniversary of Co 456 Knights of St Columba.*
5. *Saturday 3rd October Knights' Open Evening, with guest speaker Sr Joachim.*

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.

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

Christian Aid Week – a total of £239.66 was raised and sent to Christian Aid. Thank you for your generosity in your kind donations.

**The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) will be hosting the
very popular and successful
2026 Strawberry Tea Party on Saturday 11th July.
At the Pope John Paul Hall
London Road, Rayleigh**

From 2.p.m. until 4.p.m.

**Invitations will be sent out shortly and Transport will be provided
where possible.**

**Priority will be given to those on our Care List.
Volunteer Drivers would be gratefully appreciated.**

Pat Rickard, President, SVP Conference, Rayleigh 01702 206842 or Mobile 07831 558242.

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

Sick & Retired Clergy Fund

This weekend there will be the annual collection for the Sick & Retired Clergy Fund of the Diocese.

Donations can be made in the 2nd Collection, online via the Diocesan Website or using any available Contactless devices, selecting the second collection option, (if applicable).

The fund helps Clergy who require assistance in their retirement after years of service, it also helps those who are in ill health at any age.

This is also an opportunity to thank parishioners who have bequeathed legacies in their wills and we would welcome any who are about to make, or review existing arrangements, to consider this worthy cause.

The Administrators of the fund would also like to express their gratitude to the families of deceased parishioners who have gifted legacies in the past.

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.

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

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 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

A fully edited version of the recent talk given by Fr Alban McCoy OFM Conv to mark eight hundred years since the death of St Francis of Assisi is now available free of charge from the home page of www.whatgoodnews.org The talk was given at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park on 2nd May.

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!

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, summer 2026 – places filling fast. Applications are open for children currently in school year 5 – 7 (i.e. aged 9-12 in August 2026) to spend a week at camp. 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August. Activities include archery, fishing, AquaPark visit, football, kayaking and much more. The camp is especially for children who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but full bursaries are available. All application details and full information are at www.boscocamp.co.uk. Places are going quickly – you are encouraged to apply this week.

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.](#)

St. Thomas' Church and School, Grays. In October this year St. Thomas' Church and School in Grays will be celebrating 140 years of serving the community.

Please do come along for Mass with the Bishop on the 10th October at 5:00pm.

In addition, if people have images or memories that they would like to share please invite them to send them to the parish. Thank you. Canon Stephen.



Stella Maris

(formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) falls on 11/12 July this year This is the day when the Church comes together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families, and takes a second collection to support the work of Stella Maris. Please contact roland.hayes@stellamaris.org for more information.

Related to that, all parishioners are warmly invited to an online webinar being run by Stella Maris on Wednesday 17th June from 7:30pm to 9pm. You will hear about the work that Stella Maris has been doing with seafarers and fishers over the past year or so, including the use of the funds kindly donated on Sea Sunday last year. To attend this webinar, please sign up at: www.stellamaris.org.uk/thankyou

Day for Life 2026

On Sunday, 21 June, we mark the Day for Life under the theme "The Wonder of the Child in the Womb." The theme also recognises the loss of children who died before birth and the grief of their parents. The bishops' message and prayers can be found on the Day for Life website: www.dayforlife.org. The second collection will go towards the Day for Life Fund, which distributes grants to organisations that promote respect for life from conception until natural death. You can also donate online via the Day for Life website."

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

St. Bernard's Open Evening for Year 5 Students

(Starting Year 7 in September 2027)

Thursday 9 July 2026

5.30pm to 8.30pm

We would be delighted to welcome Year 5 girls and their parents/carers to our Open Evening. This is an evening for girls wishing to join Year 7 in September 2027.

We are also offering an opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school during a normal teaching day, between 9.30am and 11.00am on set days in October, dates will be published on our website. Appointments for these guided tours will be available in September.

St Bernard's High School offers selective places based on success in the CSSE selective tests and non-selective places according to faith-based admissions criteria. (Please see school website for full details.)

'St Bernard's High School is a welcoming, inclusive school'. Ofsted 2023

'Leaders have high expectations of pupils in terms of learning and behaviour.

Pupils live up to these expectations.' Ofsted 2023

'The behaviour of students is exemplary both in lessons and throughout the school as they strive to live out the mission statement, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. (Diocesan Inspection, 2024)

'Behaviour for learning is outstanding, fostered through extremely positive teacher-student relationships'. (Diocesan Inspection, 2024)

www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

Tel: 01702 343583

[Headteacher - Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery, Southend-on-Sea](#)

Deadline for application: 09:00 Wednesday 17th June 2026

[Headteacher - St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Chingford](#)

Deadline for application: 09:00 am Friday 26th June 2026

[Deputy Director of Education – Diocese of Brentwood](#)

Deadline for applications: 5pm, Monday 29th June 2026

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School

Vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant - Early Years

For details, please visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/olorcps.net/olor-website/school-info/vacancies>

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

A Catholic Academy

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Full-time, Term Time Only (37 hours per week)

**Scale 4 – 6 (£25,185- £25,989,
actual pro rata salary is £21,591- £22,280)**

We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to join our friendly and supportive SEN department. This is an exciting opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people by helping them achieve their full potential.

Key Responsibilities

- Support pupils in the classroom, individually and in small groups.
 - Assist students with a range of learning needs and abilities.
- Work closely with teachers and the SENCO to support the learning of students with additional needs.
- Encourage students' confidence, independence, and social development.
 - Help create a safe, inclusive, and positive learning environment.

The Ideal Candidate Will Have

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Patience, empathy, positive attitude and caring nature.
- The ability to work effectively as part of a team.

Applications are welcomed from both experienced LSAs and those new to support.

St Bernard's High School is a Catholic girl's school from Years 7-11 with a co-educational mixed Sixth Form. Our school is ranked one of the top schools in Southend, and we are in the top 20% of schools across the country for our progress with students and our outcomes. We offer our students an environment where they can excel academically, personally and spiritually. It is a warm and welcoming school where our Catholic values underpin our day to day life.

All new staff are supported within the positive ethos of this happy and high performing school, and to this end all staff complete an applicable induction training programme. The community at St Bernard's welcome applications from teachers of all faiths or none.

Please complete the support staff application form found on our website www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk under School Information/Vacancies – please note we do not accept CVs. Please contact the HR department for further information on recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

Closing Date: Monday 29 June 2026, 9.00am
Interviews: w/c 29 June 2026

We do reserve the right to close this advertisement early if we receive a high volume of suitable applications.

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