

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

28th June 2026

SS. Peter and Paul Psalter Week 1



“I’m a brilliant footballer” said little Jack to himself as he threw the ball up and went to kick it. He missed, caught the ball firmly and tried again saying the same thing. Again, he miss-kicked, caught the ball firmly, and tried again. Each time he either mis-kicked or missed the ball and caught it firmly. The last go, the same thing, caught the ball, looked up at God and said “wow! what a brilliant goalkeeper you want me to be!”

Sometimes God calls forth something different than we expect of ourselves. It may take a certain radical event in our lives to help us to realize this truth.

This is so true of our two heroes today. For Peter, it was his confession of the Christ along with God’s mercy; for Paul it was his Damascus experience and knowing the Lord’s power and mercy in his life. Both men make honest statements on how we come to God. Not by being holy, not by being nice, pious or right, but, against all the odds, by getting it wrong. They profoundly witnessed God’s strength and mercy. Except Jesus and Mary, all Bible heroes are testaments of that truth – and so many of our church saints too. All come to God by getting it wrong. Where is there a commandment saying “thou shalt be right?”

I wonder if Peter or Paul (and many others) would have been made Saints according to today’s criteria of holiness. Holiness is about God’s faithfulness to us, grace, and his call, not about our responses to him, since our initial responses, like the child above, may well be wrong or poorly chosen. But we try...

Like Peter and Paul, true holiness is an appreciation that God loves us because God is good, merciful and patient, not because we are. Once we get that, we stop neurotically trying ourselves. We all mess-up; but instead of relying on God’s goodness and mercy in a effort to do better, we can try to be totally self-reliant. This then so easily leads to denial, pretense and disguise. Very bad for the soul.

God does not love us *if* we are good, God loves us *so we can* be good. Please reflect on that. Peter and Paul radically get this, know that their sillier moments are all totally forgiven, live out that truth and become great.

Now, what about us?

1st Reading: Acts 12: 1-11

Psalm: 34: 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-19



ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL. BY JUAN FERNANDEZ NAVARRETE.

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 27th June	
5.30pm Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Alan Coleman
Sunday 28th June	SS. Peter and Paul
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Philippe Bedford RIP - David and Veronica Micklewright
Monday 29th June	
9.30pm Mass	James Logue RIP – SVP Rayleigh
Tuesday 30th June	
9.30am Mass	Pat and Mary Rickard and Family (Ints) – Gerald Miller and Family
Wednesday 1st July	
10.00am Mass	Jean Wood RIP – Peter Wood
Thursday 2nd July	
9.30am Mass	Alice Allso RIP
Friday 3rd July	
9.30am Mass	Patrick Murray RIP – Kathleen Murray
Saturday 4th July	
5.30pm Mass	Mary and Pat Rickard (Ints) – Colin Griffin
Sunday 5th July	Fourteenth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Paddy Corr RIP – The Corr Family

All Church Services are now Live Streamed. To take part please go to
<https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/olor>
 Masses can be watched “live” or later as a recording

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 38.24.99 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@brcdt.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am</p>
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The Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.30pm – 5pm Saturday evenings (not in the confessional box) *Please be aware - times and days of weekday Masses are subject to change.*
 Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time. Especially Maria Hughes, Peter Negus, Hannah Rooke, Diedre O'Farrell and Patricia Wood. **May they rest in Peace.**

† **Christopher Godfrey. Please keep Christopher in your prayer, along with Peter and all the family and friends. 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. 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 27th) I will be commissioning new Eucharistic Ministers. Please keep all our Eucharistic Ministers in your prayers. Thank you.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Programme (RCIA)

All are welcome to come along to our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programme and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic

Christian. Our Programme will be starting on Monday 14th September 2026 at 8pm in the Bethany Room.

Perhaps you are completely new to Christianity, or maybe you left the Church as a teenager and now want to return to the Catholic faith. Alternatively, you may just want to informally ask questions to deepen your understanding. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome to come along and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian. Please come along to find out more. You do not have to make any commitments at this point. However, if you are not part of the Catholic tradition, and you decide during the programme you would like to commit yourself to the Catholic faith, you may be received into the Catholic Church at Easter in April 2027.

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 **1st July 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.



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

2. *Coffee Mornings will be held on the last Sunday of every subsequent month.*
3. *Saturday 18th July Bingo Night.*
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

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. The idea will be to join in the singing with the main choir at the 10am Mass. Please contact Isobel Kennedy on 07795 821705 for further information.

**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.

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

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.

Day for Life 2026

On Sunday, 21 June, we marked 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. Donations 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." Please read letter at the end of this newsletter. Thank you.

Could you take part in **Ride & Stride's 75th anniversary** year to raise money to help your own church and others? The Friends of Essex Churches Trust strive to raise money to award grants to preserve and improve Christian places of worship of all denominations in Essex, Southend, Thurrock, Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest.

Open to all from keen cyclists, hikers, families with young children, teenagers, the elderly and more, the event takes place on Saturday 12th September 2026 9am-5pm and is an opportunity to visit some of England's most rare and unusual places of worship. Half of any money you raise through sponsorship is returned to your church, and half goes into the main fund. And if you don't walk or ride, there are many other ideas for fundraising on this website: www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride

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.



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

[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>

Walsingham House Manager

Vacancy: To ensure the smooth and efficient running of Walsingham House at Abbotswick, as an inspiring, faith-filled retreat house welcoming over 5,000 young people each year. Specific responsibilities include leading retreats, and leading and training the volunteer community. The post holder also has overall responsibility for Safeguarding and (together with the Site Manager) Health and Safety.

Location- Walsingham House at Abbotswick, with travel to retreat locations and BCYS events, as needed.

Hours- 35 hours per week- including significant evening and weekend work

Start Date- Ideally September 2026/autumn term

Salary- £30 - 32K depending on prior experience (ideally this is a "live in" role, with a one bedroom flat provided, however it is not essential).

Contract: 3-year fixed term contract

The closing date for applications is midday Tuesday 7th July 2026 (suitable applicants to interview in the week commencing 13th July 2026).

Deputy Director of Education – Cathedral House

A vacancy has arisen for a Deputy Director of Education to join the Education Department at Cathedral House, Brentwood.

The position is a permanent full-time role, working term time only plus five days.

The start date for the role will be around January 2027 or earlier.

The Diocese serves a network of 90 schools: comprising 72 primary and 18 secondary schools, providing for the formation and educational needs of some 40,000 children and young people.

The role of Deputy Director of Education is an inspiring, rewarding and fulfilling position.

The successful candidate will join a dedicated and committed team at a significant time for the education sector, for Catholic education nationally, and for the schools and colleges across our own Diocese as we look to serve Bishop Alan and the mission of our Church with Christ as the foundation of our entire educational enterprise.

As Deputy Director you will be expected to establish good relationships with each authority as well as engaging with the Regional Director, DfE, and Ofsted so that our schools and their staff are well served.

The role offers the opportunity to utilise your existing skills, gifts and talents in new and innovative ways as we look to preserve and protect our distinctive educational heritage and history whilst forming and co-constructing an authentically Catholic educational landscape for the future.

We are looking for someone who has:

- Extensive leadership experience in an education context, at Headteacher/Deputy level in school/academy/diocesan leadership or local authority/SIP setting.
- A strong grasp of current educational issues (including CMATs' evolving role within the parish, diocese and local community)
- A deep knowledge and understanding of Catholic education as structured in this country.

A requirement of the post is that applicants *must* be practising Catholics.

If you would like to apply for this role please forward your CV to hr@brcdt.org.

Closing date: Monday 29 June at 5 pm; interviews will be carried out in July.



info@marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk

www.bcos.org.uk

64 Aitken Street, Airdrie, ML6 6LT



Day for Life 2026 Bishops' Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Day for Life presents an opportunity to celebrate the dignity of all human life from conception to natural end. The theme for 2026 is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb'.

Every year *Day for Life* falls on Father's Day and we wish fathers a blessed day. Today we remember with gratitude the loving care and direction our parents gave to us, whether they are still with us or have gone to the Lord.

Parenthood is a vocation of joys and hopes, of griefs and anxieties. On this year's *Day for Life*, we acknowledge the particular grief of mothers and fathers who have lost a child before birth or in infancy. Mother's Day and Father's Day can be especially difficult for parents who experience the loss of an infant. Such loss often takes its bodily toll upon the mother, and it can leave fathers feeling helpless and unsure of how to support their family, or of how to express their own grief.

The Church wants to be especially close to parents who have suffered the loss of an infant. We try to offer spiritual support through the pastoral care and blessing of our priests, and through the comfort of our liturgy. You only have to reach out to your priest or deacon if you would like to know more about this.

Just as importantly, many parents find consolation in their faith and its assurance that every child, including those who lose their life before they are born or soon after, is created, willed and deeply loved by God from all eternity. We have the Lord's promise from the Scriptures that: "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you*" (Jer 1:5).

The Word of God reveals the sacred humanity of the unborn child and perhaps helps us understand why we feel such profound grief at the loss of a baby. Parents instinctively grasp how precious and unique the child is whom they have lost and whom they may already have called by name. They know how no other child can ever replace them.

Science is clear that life begins at fertilisation when a new and unique living human being comes into existence. Every technological development in recent decades has



given us insight into how life in the womb unfolds for each of us. At conception, our gender, genetic makeup and eye and hair colour are already determined. As early as five weeks, our heart begins to beat. By ten weeks, we can move and respond to touch and, beginning two weeks later, we have the capacity to feel pain. By eighteen weeks, our mother can sense our movement in the womb. By twenty-seven weeks, we can recognise the voices of our parents. For some decades, parents have been able to observe some of these stages through ultrasound scans during pregnancy. The more we learn about the science, the more we understand the teaching of the Church on the unique value of the unborn baby.

This understanding, however, is not complete without the recognition that, from the beginning, every human being is not just a body but also an immortal soul, with a unique and eternal connection with God, our Creator.

It is because of what both science and faith reveal to us that the Church and many people of good will have always held that the unborn child merits the full protection of the law, and why we have always rejected elective abortion.

This *Day for Life 2026*, we reflect on the wonder of human life from the moment of fertilisation. We remember how the Lord Jesus Christ Himself sanctified and experienced the beginning of life in the world as an unborn child, hidden in the womb of Mary. Mary knew that she was carrying the Son of God – God and man – as soon as He was conceived. John the Baptist leapt in his mother Elizabeth's womb when Mary greeted her. Our Lady treasured Our Lord in her heart and womb until His birth.

We, in our turn, commit ourselves to work and pray for our society to cherish the value of every little one, especially those at the earliest stage of human life, and to help our parish communities support all those in our midst who have suffered the loss of a child.

Most Reverend John Sherrington,
Archbishop of Liverpool, *England and Wales*

Most Reverend Kevin Doran
Bishop of Elphin and of Achonry, *Ireland*

Right Reverend John Keenan
Bishop of Paisley, *Scotland*