

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

7th June 2026 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
Psalter Week 1



Maybe at your wedding, you vowed to love someone such that you promised them your body. It's an intimate, unique and deeply personal promise being made. Of course, it is a mutual promise of your flesh.

Jesus seems to be talking this way to bring his divinity to a fleshly level. It's an intimacy he wants with us. So much so it shocks many people and they walk away in disgust. It's meant to shock us too. But it doesn't. Mass becomes harmlessly repetitive rather than a life-changing ritual. Mass has become too domesticated maybe. Does Mass change us? Does it shock us? Even a little? If not, maybe we've lost something important.

Eat me, drink me Jesus says. Digestible chewable human flesh. Shocking! Such fundamental bodily actions, eating and drinking - these are so much more primitive than talking or thinking. The soul gets it, not the mind. So, like last week, don't try working it out in our heads. But what have people done?

Exactly that! Gone right into the head. So, they try and they fail miserably. And what happens? We form big fancy words, theologize, debate, argue and fall out over it. Such a shame. Yet no surprise! Ancient religions, including ours, had God wanting human or animal sacrifices to appease God. And yet our Jesus - wow! We see what Jesus does - turns it all upside down - now God has given himself as food for us. God in Jesus is sacrificed on the cross. He is the one sacrificial victim, so we don't create other victims. Do we create victims through judgement and gossip? That surely says something about our level and real depth of faith.

Who really is included or worthy? Who really can judge? No-one. The prayer we say just before Holy Communion says it all - 'Lord I am not worthy'.... This is the very prayer that makes us worthy, irrespective of what's going on in our lives. We are worthy because God has made us so, not by our own merits. Wicked statements of who's in and who's out, who's worthy or included. Some are sadly enshrined in our traditional teachings. Yet it cannot be what Jesus really intended. Jesus never intended such exclusivity. In His ministry, Jesus was always inclusive because Holy Communion is that hospital for sinners - that's everyone!

Or, as Pope Francis reminds us, Holy Communion is not just a reward for good, or those who conform, but food for our human journey, medicine for the sick. So true. We don't deprive the sick of medicine. We come forward because life has wounded us in some way - as Jesus said, he came for the sick, not the healthy. Holy Communion is for healing, a hospital for us sinners, not a country club for the 'supposedly good or those who supposedly conform'. We all need this medicine. This medicine, 'Real Presence' is a crucial and healthy orthodox part of our tradition that should bring healing, as Real Presence, it should never be reduced in any way, or we do the same to ourselves and each other. What does 'Real Presence' mean for us?



1st Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

Psalm: 147: 12-13. 14-15. 19-20

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17

Sequence

Gospel: John 6: 51-58

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 6th June	
5.30pm Mass	Kath and Mike Geeson RIP – Nicola Geeson
Sunday 7th June	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP – Susan and Damian Lucibello
Monday 8th June	
9.30pm Mass	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 9th June	
9.30am Mass	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 10th June	
10.00am Mass	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 11th June	St. Barnabas
9.30am Mass	Kath Geeson RIP (Anniversary) – Nicola Geeson
Friday 12th June	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
9.30am Mass	Jean Wood RIP – Eithne and Una
Saturday 13th June	The Immaculate Heart of Mary
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

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>Public Mass times: 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 Mary Manton. **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. May he rest in peace. Christopher's Requiem Mass to be confirmed. †

† **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 Sunday (7th) we are celebrating our children's First Holy Communion Going Forth Mass at 10am. Please keep them in your prayers.

Next week at our 5.30pm Mass (June 13th) we will be commissioning new Eucharistic Ministers. 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 **10th June after the Eucharistic Service**. 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 7th June, hosted by our First Holy Communion group.



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.

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

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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.

BCCS invites you to join them for a lovely early-evening indulgence at the Tandoori Parlour in Benfleet. Enjoy a buffet of delightful Indian & Nepalese cuisine as part of a feelgood community event -

Sunday 14th June - 16:00 - £20/person - book here [/www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/)

St. Thomas More High school - open evening, Thursday, 9th July 4.00p.m. to 7.00p.m. - for families who have a son due to transfer to secondary school in September 2027 - come and see the school, meet the staff and pupils. The Headteachers talk will be at 5pm and repeated at 6pm

Parents of boys who wish to apply to St. Thomas More School for a place in September 2027 should complete the local education authority single application form (saf) and fill in the supplementary information form (sif) that can be collected at the open evening.

If you are unable to come to the open evening, please contact the school in order to get the supplementary information form. The form can also be downloaded from the school web site:-

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 – 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:

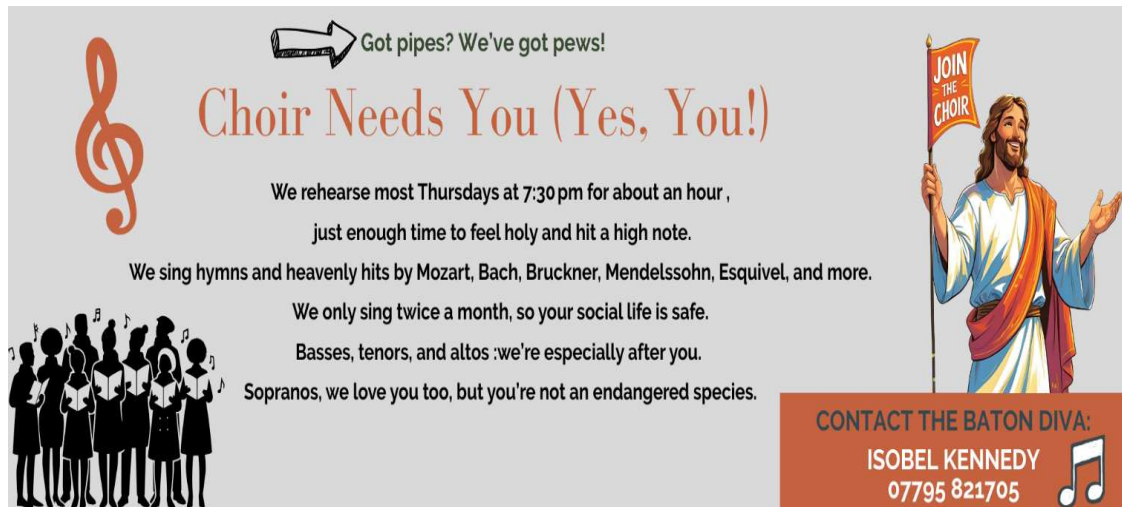
<https://forms.office.com/e/KTevSZwGQH>

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.](#)



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

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.



OUR LADY OF RANSOM PRIMARY SCHOOL
LITTLE WHEATLEY CHASE, SS6 9EH

SUMMER FETE

GREAT PRIZES TO WIN
STAR HAMPER
IPAD.
ROSLIN VOUCHER
MEAT HAMPER

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
FROM 1PM - 5PM

LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES
WITH A SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE

BOUNCY CASTLES ★ RAFFLE PRIZES ★ PIMMS ★ CRAZY GOLF
TRACTOR ★ PONIES ★ GAMES ★ ICE CREAM ★ TEA & CAKES

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