

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

12th July 2026

Fifteenth Week of the Year

Psalter Week 3



The tourist was admiring the native's necklace. "What's it made of?" she asked. "Alligator teeth" replied the native. "I suppose alligator teeth have the same value for you that pearls have for us". "Not quite", said the native, "anyone can open an oyster".

Truly healthy, spiritual, enlightened and aware people with depth are people who realise that the diamond is only a stone until endowed with value by the human mind. And that things are as big or small, loving or hateful, rubbish or great, inspiring or useless as our human minds choose to make them.

If there is love in our hearts, then we will see love even in the most unexpected of places. If our hearts are filled with suspicion, cynicism, judgment and fear – we will see exactly that. These people doubt even the most beautiful of scenarios. What you see is what you get. And what you have will determine what you see. If you can't see or hear, because of shallowness or fear, then you won't see or hear. Simple.

Two people can go and watch a film, lecture, sermon– the one who has a dead heart and closed mind will probably immediately rubbish it, the one filled with faith, trust, hope and love will see (at least in part) how wonderful it was. Good people can draw blood out of a stone! They just see goodness everywhere and in everyone – irrespective of how evil that person may be. That's enlightenment. The Gospel asks us to strive for this.

What we see is what we get. And what we expect is so often what we draw forth and recognise. But these things have to be in us first before we recognise them over there in another person or situation.

Pope Paul had the wonderful insight when he said that "spiritual gifts increase with use", material gifts decrease with use" (try selling your car the day after you've bought it!) But the more faith, hope and love we have, they keep growing, and deepening. That's the rich humanity Jesus is calling for.

So, Jesus asks us to be a people who have this rich fertile soil, a rich humanity. Thorny, edgy or rocky soil is not very good, and will only wither people and things away. How open, rich and fertile is the soil of our hearts?

1st Reading: Isaiah 55 10-11

Psalms 65:10a-d. 10e-11. 12-13. 14

2nd Reading: Romans: 8: 18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 11th July	St. Benedict
5.30pm Mass	Valerie Johnson RIP - Marie Smith
Sunday 12th July	Fifteenth Sunday of the Year (Sea Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Gracelyn Isaac (THG) - Lixy Cyril
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 13th July	
9.30am Mass	Fr. Pater Dwyer RIP
Tuesday 14th July	
9.30am Mass	Jean Pye RIP – Mathew Thomas
Wednesday 15th July	St. Bonaventure
10.00am Mass	Margaret O'Dwyer and Mona Foley RIP – Carol Todd
Thursday 16th July	
<u>11.30am Mass</u>	Requiem Mass – Christopher Godfrey RIP
Friday 17th July	
9.30am Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Norah Parker
Saturday 18th July	
5.30pm Mass	Leonard Smith and Jeffrey Henry RIP – Debbie Smith
Sunday 19th July	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – Helen Culf

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

PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 38.24.99 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@brcdt.org	<u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am
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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 Russell Gonsal and Barbara Williams. **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. †

† Please keep Mary Rickard in your prayers along with Pat and all the family and friends. Mary died last week. Mary's Requiem Mass is to be confirmed. May she 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.

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 **15th 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.

WANTED – Help in a large garden. Please contact Mary on 01702 200727 for more information.

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.

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

MISSIO RED BOXES

Summer Mission Today magazines are available at the back of church and being delivered where possible.

If your red box needs emptying, please contact Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 or warren_katherine@hotmail.com, alternatively leave in the sacristy/presbytery to be collected.

Due to bank closures, it is unfortunately increasingly difficult to bank cash and cheque donations. Please see details in the back of the Mission Today magazine for ways *would 'Think outside the box'* if you would like to donate.

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 or text.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

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

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.

Celebrating 20 years of survivor voices, creativity, and community impact: To mark its 20th anniversary, The Medaille Trust has a touring art exhibition created by survivors of modern slavery and exploitation. Join Medaille and Caritas Brentwood on Saturday, 11th July 2026, 13:00 – 15:00 at St Margaret's Parish Hall, 79 Barking Road, Canning Town E16 4HB. All are welcome.

Final Places – Summer Holiday Opportunity. The St John Bosco Children's Camp is held near Brentwood. It is an activities camp including archery, fishing, Aqua Park visit, football, kayaking and much more. Final places are currently available for children currently in school year 5 – 7 (i.e. aged 9 - 12 on 31st August 2026) to spend a week at camp. Week One 25th July – 1st August or Week Two 1st – 8th August. The camp is run with a Catholic ethos and is for all children, especially those who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but fully funded places are also available thanks to generous grants. All application details are at www.boscocamp.co.uk

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!



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.

www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk

Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

Tel: 01702 343583

BCCS invites you to join them on an exclusive, personal tour of Ingatestone Hall, conducted by the Petre family, offering unbeatable insight of the past and present of his Grade I listed building and gardens, followed by a hot drink and homemade biscuit on Thursday 3rd September, 11:00-15:30. The event was over-subscribed last year so get your tickets fast - entry is £25 per person - book online today: [//www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/)

Please note, due to the age of the building, there is no disabled access to the upper floor, and some of the lower floor and grounds are uneven and thus not suitable for those who have mobility issues.