

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

26th July 2026 Seventeenth Week of the Year Psalter Week 1



The Emperor's New Clothes. Do you remember that wonderful fable? The emperor was naked. What were the people indoctrinated, brainwashed and conditioned to see? Beautiful clothes. 'How wonderful he looked'! A collective and wrong seeing. Unlike a child who wasn't yet conditioned or indoctrinated.... The truth came out. "Out of the mouths of babes...."

We see a lot of good in the world, but we also see 'good' that is motivated by something far more concerning. It may look superficially OK, but we may question the real driving force behind it? Basically, evil gets away with being evil because it disguises itself as good. And we fall for it. Satan is not happy with any lesser mask than that of God himself. So, evil has to 'look' religious; look' good; look' holy; 'look' like it is defending some great cause etc. Then evil can be done without any sense of guilt. And the indoctrinated people cry out "Great, don't the Emperor's New Clothes look wonderful! So, we see Solomon asking for the gift of wisdom, beyond anything else, so he sees truth, that pleases God (even though Solomon messes up later).

The gift of wisdom is to see real truth and the real lie. That's true prophecy. Prophets can let themselves be **de-conditioned and de-indoctrinated** so they see the real and be free. What the great prophets also see, is that evil is not just in a person. Evil seems most well disguised in groups, institutions and cultures. Pope John Paul brilliantly called it "collective sin". It is so much harder to unmask collective evil, so we tend to point the finger at individuals. Much easier, maybe very satisfying, but very wrong, and extremely bad.

The problem is that when you live inside a group that may well be disguised evil, call it communism, capitalism – or whatever; and if you are benefiting from it, why would you want to criticize it? You'll want to protect it and be rewarded for doing so. So, evil gets away with it – disguised as moral and good. Even well-intentioned and educated people are fooled and can sound very articulate in defending the evil system that they are benefitting from. People do not see beyond their own self-interest. The Emperor's New Clothes look beautiful! But the prophets see the truth, and like Jesus, are punished for doing so. They are not tolerated, especially by the establishment, why, because they see truth that others would rather not see. It is the establishment that punishes them for seeing truth. So, like Solomon, we pray for the gift of wisdom.

To remove any conditioning, brainwashing and indoctrination is not easy, but at times, so necessary. To be like children – it is a child who sees the truth in the story above? A child is not yet indoctrinated. We are called to see truth. To see beyond the lie. To see subtlety, nuances, different shades of meaning – this is the stuff of true wisdom so desperately needed in our world today. The parables we hear from Jesus require this skill of wisdom to really appreciate them. Then we see truth. Do we truly desire these gifts?

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3: 5-6a, 7-12

Psalms 119: 57, 72, 76-77. 127-128. 129-130

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 25th July	St. James
5.30pm Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Esther Thomas
Sunday 26th July	Seventeenth Sunday of the Year (Sea Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Susan Brady RIP – Ann Coady
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 27th July	
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Colin Griffin
Tuesday 28th July	
<u>8.30am Mass</u>	Fr. David Prior RIP
Wednesday 29th July	St. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
10.00am Mass	Jim and Maria O' Farrell RIP (Anniversary) – Kay O' Connor
Thursday 30th July	
<u>11am Mass</u>	Requiem Mass – Mary Rickard RIP
Friday 31st July	St. Ignatius of Loyola
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Peter Wood
Saturday 1st August	St. Alphonsus Mary de' Liguori
5.30pm Mass	Prayer Board Intentions
Sunday 2nd August	Eighteenth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – The Bunker Family
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

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 Mary Picton, Valerie O'Malley and James Coss. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please keep Mary Rickard in your prayers along with Pat and all the family and friends. Mary's Requiem Mass will be **THIS Thursday, July 30th at 11.00**. Her body will be received into the church the day before (29th) at 4pm. May Mary rest in peace. †

† Please also keep (young) Matthew Salter in prayer, along with his mother, Andrea, the family and friends. Matthew's funeral service (not a Mass) will be **THIS Tuesday July 28th at 10.30am** in our parish. May Matthew 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 **29th 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.

Please note there will be no Wednesday coffee mornings during August as the ladies who regularly bake and serve tea and coffee, (for which we are so grateful) are taking a well-earned break .

We look forward to seeing you again in September.



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.

Coffee morning this Sunday 26th will be hosted by the Knights of St Columba.



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

- *Coffee Mornings will be held on the last Sunday of every month.*
- *Saturday 12th September Summer Ball to celebrate 75th anniversary of Co 456 Knights of St Columba.*
- *Saturday 3rd October Knights' Open Evening, with guest speaker Sr Joachim.*

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

Legion of Mary Recruitment Drive 25th-26th July 2026

The Legion of Mary are holding a recruitment drive for new members over the weekend of 25th and 26th July. 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 to visit people and discuss their faith with them. If you would like to find out more, talk to one of our legionaries at the back of the church, take a leaflet and come along to our 'no obligation' Information Meeting on Wednesday 29th July at 7pm. At this meeting we will provide more details about the Legion of Mary, our weekly meetings (held on a Tuesday at 7pm) and the contact work we do each week. There is a three-month probationary period before any commitment needs to be made.

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**

MISSION 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

A Massive "Thank You"

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (The SVP) would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the Strawberry Tea Party 2026 last Saturday in the Pope John Paul Hall.

Thank you also to those people who made or donated cakes, provided transport, helped in setting up and clearing the Hall, working in the Kitchen and the Bar.

It was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves and it proved to be a very successful afternoon.

I would ask you to keep the SVP in your Prayers so we can continue to carry on our work of supporting those in need.

Pat Rickard President SVP Conference Rayleigh

01702 206842 or Mobile 07831 558242.mobility issues

**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._**

Finance Manager- Cathedral House

We are looking for a finance manager to support the Diocesan central finance department in all aspects of general accounts administration.

The post will be full time working 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday or 21 hours per week worked over three days.

The salary will be dependent on qualifications, skills, and experience.

The full job description is available on our website www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us and attached to this email.

The closing date for applications is 31st July 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV to HR@BRCDT.ORG

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 From The Rayleigh SVP Conference

Tapestry of Voices

FUNDRAISING COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Many Voices, One Heart

Celebrating **diversity**, **resilience** and **community** where **every voice** matters and **every story** has value.

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST | **12PM - 4PM**

St Vincent's Centre, Southend
Thank you for being part of our story.



St Vincent's
a place of help, hope and opportunity

Help us help others

WE NEED YOU!

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Help us collect. Help us feed. Help us **change lives.**

Every day, we collect surplus food from our amazing partners to provide around 50 lunches and 95 dinners daily to those who need it most.

Without our volunteer drivers, none of this would be possible.



OUR REGULAR COLLECTIONS



WAITROSE SOUTHEND

- Sunday 5pm
- Tuesday 8pm
- Wednesday 8pm
- Tesco Extra Thursday 8pm



M&S FOOD

- Tuesday 7.30pm
- Wednesday 7.30pm
- Thursday 7.30pm
- Friday 7.30pm
- Saturday 7.30pm
- Sunday 5pm



LIDL WOODGRANGE

- Monday - Friday 8am



KFC & PARTNERS

KFC HIGH STREET

- Monday 10am



KFC HIGH STREET & GREYHOUND

- Wednesday 10am



KFC HIGH STREET + GREYHOUND

- + LEIGH PROGRESS ROAD
- Friday 10am



HUNGRY CUPBOARD COLLECTIONS

We collect food from local schools to restock our food bank.

- Monday or Friday 10am - 1pm (Using our Luton van)
- Tuesday 10am - 1pm Furniture delivery (Using our Luton van)
- Tue, Wed or Fri 10am - 3pm Furniture delivery (Using our Luton van)



THE HIGH ST SVP MARKET STALL

Every Thursday 9am - 4pm

- ✓ People to set up
- ✓ People to sell (2 hour slots)
- ✓ People to pack up



WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Every hour you give helps us feed, support and bring hope to our community.

Thank you!



CAN YOU HELP ON A REGULAR BASIS?

If you can spare a little time, we would love to hear from you.



GET IN TOUCH TODAY!

NesperM@svp.org.uk

01702 592980



www.svpssouthend.org.uk



Unit 9, Victoria Business Park,
Short Street, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5BY



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR MISSION. **TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE LIVES.**

