

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

5th July 2026

Fourteenth Week of the Year

Psalter Week 2



Little Betsy was dying of a disease. But her brother, just 2 years older than her, had recovered from the same disease 18 months previously. Only a blood transfusion from him would save the life of his little sister. “Are you prepared to give your blood” asked the doctor gently to the little lad. His eyes widened in fear, a moment’s hesitation and the lad replied, “OK doctor, I’ll do it”. All went well. About 2 hours after the transfusion, the little lad said to the doctor, “excuse me doctor, when do I die?” Suddenly, everyone clicked, because they looked at the world through the child’s eyes, realized through the eyes of the child the enormity of what the child was doing. All eyes welled up...

Is the child stupid? Of course not. Simply naive and innocent? No. Or is there more to this? Yes, absolutely. Jesus calls us to be more like children. Does that mean we should suck our thumbs or have childish tantrums? Of course not. Words like simplicity, humility, childlike trust, sense of wonder, playfulness and joy come to mind. All these are well knocked out of us by society, culture and its demands for competitiveness, superiority, intelligence and having the most. What Jesus is clearly looking for is a people who can be wise to society, culture and its demands on our souls, without losing too much of those values mentioned above, so our souls, our characters remain intact, and close to the Lord.

And yet none of those values above, wonder, simplicity etc, are achieved by willpower or determination. They are achieved by a genuine awareness of our pride and ego, and then honest desire to let go. When we live in the shadowlands of unawareness, as many seem to do, all which keeps us far from God, we will always play those games of superiority and importance, all which suffocate our souls. No wonder our world is in such a state!

To be childlike is to hold on to the characteristics of childhood that are deeply human and permanent. On the other hand, to be “childish” is to imitate a child’s temporary qualities that are immature and lack experience. Wisdom and experience teach us who to trust and who not to, how we trust in God, how we hold a sense of wonder and awe, playfulness and joy – all using wisdom and experience without having had culture and society knock these values out of us. How childlike can we be?

1st Reading: Zechariah 9: 9-19

Psalms: 145: 1-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13c-14

2nd Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13

Gospel: Matthew 11: 25-3



MASS INTENTIONS	
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
Monday 6th July	
9.30pm	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 7th July	
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 8th July	
10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 9th July	
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Friday 10th July	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
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

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 Rosemary Hassell, James O'Farrell, Nicolette Denkmaver, Marie Baxter, Gladys Taylor, Marie Goulbourn and Maria Woolcott. **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. †**

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 **8th July 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 after 10am mass this Sunday 5th July.



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.

**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

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.

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Vacancies

[Headteacher – St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Upminster](#)

Deadline for application: 17:00 Wednesday 2nd September 2026