

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

30th August 2026 Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year (A) Psalter Week 2



What a shock! The burial went as well as any burial can go. The family thanked me. I wished them well, turned around and...and what a fright! For the grave behind me was that of one of my students, Noel, his little picture of him on the stone. I never knew he had died. I have asked around and no-one seems to know what happened. For I remember Noel with some affection and tinges of non-affection. He was mischievous, often the ringleader if there was trouble and quite lippy when confronted. Despite all that, we got on quite well.

He had a difficult home life, but what I loved about him was that aside from his machismo, he loved looking after the smaller children. With them he was tender, kind, gentle, helpful, supportive, protective, and never worried about what his mates thought. He just did what was right by them. You would never have thought he was the same young man I describe above. But both are true. How? Why?

I suspect Noel had an inner voice which he knew was correct. The voice of God, conscience, vocation possibly. But being with his mates encouraged him to ignore that inner voice, maybe due to peer pressure, peer needs, in-fighting to be the top-man, and so on. Jeremiah agonizes over this in the first reading.

Noel could change his way of thinking when with the smaller children to an arguably Godlier way of being. If only he could have been more that way with his mates. Maybe human ways took over. May Noel rest in peace.

Jesus wants Peter to change his way of thinking, from that of a kind of human machismo violent warrior, to appreciate the kingdom will come about, not through machismo and muscles, but through suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus' rebuke to Peter is a pretty blistering one..."get behind me Satan". Peter obviously struggles, yet we know he can go deep, as we saw earlier when he intuitively Jesus as the Christ.

Jeremiah's mind-blowing dramatic words today say it all. Trouble happens when we ignore those deeper resonances. (The picture below is of Jeremiah seriously struggling). We don't always want them, but they are there forcing an internal struggle, both within ourselves, and between our human ideas, and God's. Eventually, we must lose, and God will win, if we are to find peace. Never easy. How do we cope?

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-9

Psalms 63: 2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

2nd Reading: Romans 12: 1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16: 21-27



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 29th August	
5.30pm Mass	Michael Strawson RIP – Zoe Booker
Sunday 30th August	Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year (Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation)
8.00am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Mary and Bill Holmes
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 31st August	
9.30am Mass	Mags Simmons RIP – Mo Bright
Tuesday 1st September	St. Sebbi
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 2nd September	
10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 3rd September	St. Gregory the Great
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Friday 4th September	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 5th September	
5.30pm Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Joan Gardiner
Sunday 6th September	Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year (Education Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Marcel Grobelny (Ints) – Krystyna Grobelny

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: Andrew (Andy) Smyth, Margaret Parsad, Mina Fox,
William (Billy) McSweeney and Margaret Walsh. **May they 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 Holy Communion, please consume the sacred Host **immediately**. Please do so before receiving the Precious Blood from the Chalice. If you do not receive from the Chalice, 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.

Please note: Thank you as always for the ongoing Mass Intentions. All Mass intentions requested as of last week will need to wait until November at the very **earliest** for the Mass Intention to be honoured. 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

Wednesday Coffee mornings resume next Wednesday September 2nd after the 10am 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.

Coffee morning on Sunday 30th August 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 3rd October Knights' Open Evening, with guest speaker Sr Joachim.

Knight's "Summer Celebration" on 12th September to commemorate 75 yrs of service in the parish. This event is open to all parishioners.

Place --- Pope John Paul Hall.

Time ---- 7.00pm

Entrance -- £10.00 per person.

Food - will be a cold buffet

Bring your own drinks

Dress code --Smart casual.

There will be a DJ and the customary raffle.

It would be useful to know numbers attending. Please contact Christopher Johnson 07783 326732 or Tom Kennedy 07831 238837 before 5th Sept. Thank you.

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 Children's Choir is starting on Thursday 3rd September at 6.30pm in the organ loft.

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

Dementia Support Day. Local organisations are offering advice, information and services for people living with dementia, their families and carers.

on Wednesday 16th September 2026 10.00am – 2.00pm

at The Mill Arts and Events Centre, Bellingham Lane Rayleigh SS6 7ED

For more information, please contact Elizabeth on

Cllrelizabeth.brewer@rayleightowncouncil.gov.uk

Legion of Mary Function - Sunday 6th September 2pm to 4pm

The Legion of Mary are holding a function to celebrate Our Lady's Nativity on Sunday 6th September 2026 from 2pm to 4pm in the Bethany Room. Active and auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary are invited, as well as anyone who may be interested in joining. The afternoon will comprise of the Legion Rosary and prayers, afternoon tea, general conversation and some entertainment. If you would like to attend, please contact Shirley Tel: 07900 396256.

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

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

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.](#)

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.

Magnifica Humanitas . Pope Leo has recently published ***Magnifica Humanitas***, an encyclical letter on 'safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence'. It puts 'artificial intelligence' in the context of Catholic Social Teaching. The Holy Father writes: 'In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human.' Fr Hugh MacKenzie, chaplain at Westminster Cathedral, is an expert on AI. He will be giving a presentation on the topic on Saturday 26th September 2026 at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park, beginning at 11 am. The event is in-person but is also available live-stream from www.whatgoodnews.org The talk will be of particular interest to our young people, with their IT competence.

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA: On ***Saturday, 12th September*** the Diocese of Brentwood will host the Visitation of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, at the **Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood**. This will be a Day of Prayer & Devotions, with the opportunity for the veneration of the relics. Bishop Alan accompanied by Priests of the Diocese will concelebrate Holy Mass (10:30am), this will be followed by the Consecration Prayer of the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Alan.

As the above is a Day of Prayer, we ask all those participating to bring a packed lunch, teas and coffees will be available in the Cathedral Parish Hall. Following lunch, there will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with recitation of the Chaplet of Adoration and Reparation. Communal Recitation and reflection on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, and then a Docu-film and Talk in the Parish Hall on "Fatima Message for the World." Finally, the Enrolment and Investiture of the Brown Scapular will be facilitated in the Parish Hall. Please see poster for full details

YOUTH EVENTS -

Youth Mass – First Thursday of Each Month– Brentwood Cathedral: Young people, youth groups, Confirmation groups and school groups are invited to join the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service for monthly Youth Mass, with food, prayer and different activities each month before celebrating Mass together. Join at 6pm in the Parish Hall, followed by Youth Mass in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

BCYS Rooted 2026 – Years 7–9 / Years 10-13

Rooted – Saturday 24th October for years 7-9 / Sunday 25th October for years 10-13: A brand-new day of faith, friendship and adventure at Walsingham House for young people. With inspiring talks, workshops, outdoor activities, team challenges, prayer and Mass, it's a great opportunity to meet other young Catholics and grow in faith. For more information, and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events

Catechist Training & Resources Day

Catechist Training & Resources Day – Saturday 7th November: An opportunity for First Holy Communion and Confirmation catechists, youth leaders, children's liturgy teams and anyone working with young people to come together for a day of training, inspiration, new resources and sharing ideas. The FREE event takes place at Brentwood Ursuline Convent School from 10am–3pm. For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

FLAME 2027 – Saturday 6th March: Join thousands of young Catholics from across England and Wales at Wembley Arena for a huge day of inspiring speakers, live worship, prayer, Adoration and celebration. Open to young people in **Year 9 and above**, with BCYS group places available from £30. For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

World Youth Day 2027 – Seoul

World Youth Day 2027 – Seoul: Join young people from around the world in Seoul, South Korea, from **1st–8th August 2027** for an unforgettable week of prayer, celebration, friendship and encountering the global Church. The BCYS pilgrimage is open to those aged **19–30** in August 2027, with applications now open. For more information, and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events

BCYS Summer Lourdes 2027

BCYS Summer Lourdes 2027 – 17th–24th July: Join BCYS for an incredible week in Lourdes, France, combining pilgrimage, prayer, service and friendship. The first wave of applications opens **1st October 2026**, so now is a great time to start thinking about joining! For more information, and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events



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.svpsouthend.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.**

