

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

16th August 2026 Assumption of Our Lady (A) Psalter Week 4



Street Bible preachers challenged me. They “warned” me about Our Lady. The Mother of God. Why? Because I was going to Lourdes. They were concerned that many Catholics seem to put Mary before Jesus. I could understand their point, since some prayers and religious attitudes may give that impression, and Lourdes seemed to them a typical example. However, do they realise just how extraordinary the Mother of God truly is?

So, what is it about this lady, Mary of Nazareth, the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady, that we, Catholics hold in such esteem and love? Too many to go into all of them here, so let’s look at an important few.

She is clearly a prophetess of the highest order and quite a radical revolutionary in her own way as we see in today’s Gospel. The Angel Gabriel incident, we call the Annunciation, shows her to be a listener, a contemplative in silent prayer. Today’s visitation shows her to be a woman of action, totally self-confident and self-possessed, actively getting on with the task at hand, always knowing God is in charge leading the way. Mary is a contemplative in action. And the extraordinary prayer we hear today called the Magnificat, shows her to be a prophetess second to none. Wow! So, what does she prophesy?

She prophesies 4 freedoms. 1) **Religious freedom**, ‘his mercy reaches from age to age’, God’s love is available to everyone. Religiously bigoted people may not like this. 2) **Social freedom**, ‘routing the proud of heart’, God doesn’t respect class or status, yet we can so easily think of ourselves as better than another because of title, status or money. 3) **Political freedom**, pulling the mighty from their thrones, raising the lowly, does this suggest Our Lady has communist tendencies? Equality for all? Is that our God? And 4) **economic freedom**, filling the hungry with good things, sending the rich away empty’. God is always on the side of the victim, especially victims of war and evil. That kind of God pleases no-one who has, or looks for worldly power, control and domination. Do her prophesies influence our lives in any way?

So, Mary, a great prophetess, is a woman of the world, yet completely open to be filled with grace...she is full of grace. She struggles yet lets no personal plans and needs get in the way between herself, God, His love and His plans. How much of our own agendas get in our way, between ourselves and God? So, she is empty enough of this world’s agendas to be filled with God’s grace. Hence, we pray Hail Mary, **full** of grace.... All this, and so much more, allows her Assumption to be the logical conclusion of everything she is. Of course, then, our esteem and love for her to make sense. Mary’s destiny is our destiny. All we can do is follow her example and know the same awaits us all.

How does Our Lady help us to live our lives?

1st Reading: Revelation 11: 19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Psalms 45: 10.11.12.16

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-27

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-55



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 15th August	
5.30pm Mass	Paddy Corr RIP (Anniversary) – The Corr Family
Sunday 16th August	The Assumption of Our Lady
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Steve and Marie Butler (Ints) – John and Ann Butler
Monday 17th August	
9.30am Mass	Mike Healy RIP -Rae Healy
Tuesday 18th August	
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – SVP Rayleigh
Wednesday 19th August	
10.00am Mass	Jean Wood RIP – Rita Gurney
Thursday 20th August	St. Bernard
9.30am Mass	Peter Atkinson RIP – Jane and John Cook
Friday 21st August	Padre St. Pio of Pietrelcina (St. Pius)
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Rita Gurney
Saturday 22nd August	
5.30pm Mass	Bridget Smith (Ints) – Debbie Smith
Sunday 23rd August	Twenty-First Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Norah Parker

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 Eileen Cousins and Kathleen Smart. **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, 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 in September. 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.



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.*

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

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.friendsof Essex churches.org.uk/ride-stride

Mary Rickard R.I.P.

My Family and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to those of you who attended the Mass in Celebration of Mary's life.

For the many Mass Cards, Sympathy Cards, Donations to the MND Association and kind words and reflections for Mary.

It is a great comfort to the family, that Mary, made such a mark on so many people in her own way and we will gather strength from that.

You will be forever in our thoughts and Prayers. God Bless you all.

Pat Rickard & Family

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.

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.

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 CATHOLIC TEACHING IN THE WORLD OF AI

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.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August 2026 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Slough, Ealing Broadway and Victoria



St Vincent's

a place of help, hope and opportunity

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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

- 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.**

