

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

13th September 2026 Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year (A) Psalter Week 4



The rope was tied tightly around his neck. He was going to hang. The parents of the young lad so brutally murdered by this man, looked on. For several years these parents had unthinkably agonised, deliberated, felt incandescent rage, sobbed helplessly, and wondered at the sheer senselessness of it all. Their son was murdered. Their faith was at sea. Final revenge. Or was it? The killer was getting his just desserts. Or was he? Moments before the man was to hang, both parents walked over and removed the noose. They requested the death sentence be commuted. The request was granted, and the killer is serving a life-sentence in prison. Forgiveness. But still justice. Please don't confuse forgiveness with justice.

Countless true stories like this can leave us gob-smacked! How can they do this? Why? What about sweet revenge? It's their son, *their son for goodness' sake!* Not logical, surely?

The ultimate breakdown in logic is often forgiveness. Because true forgiveness is a real experiencing of God in our lives. When the grace of God acts in life, you can be sure that any sense of reason and logic is assaulted, broken down.

I think we need to be a little careful when talking about forgiveness as so many people are so deeply hurt. The whole process of forgiving is hard and complicated. Some literature can make it sound too easy, cheap, and magical. Not so.

Much prayer, compassion and wisdom are needed. True forgiveness frees us from painful memories, (the 'forgetting' part of forgiveness is exactly this – forgive and forget). It frees us from destructive impulses and helps us to be more life-giving and creative in our relationships. We see why Jesus commands forgiveness. Well over half his teaching is on forgiveness. It's pure therapy. Those who know at the outset they are forgiven by God for their own misgivings, find it least difficult to forgive others. Those who forgive others, sense how they are forgiven by God. Maybe that was how the parents above forgave. Maybe their faith wasn't at sea. We see how true forgiveness is always breaking logic down, it's beyond reason, and full of grace. A real act of faith, the Spirit working through us. To the unwise such acts of faith can make us appear stupid, mad, absurd.

Both spiritually and psychologically, forgiveness makes perfect sense for an all- round healthier life. Put it another way, by refusing to forgive, we are allowing that other person free rental in our heads and hearts. Is that what we want? Is it worth it? Are we open to God's power in our lives, so we can forgive, or at least honestly try our best, of course, with His help and grace, in working towards the forgiving of others?

1st Reading: Sirach 27: 30-28:7

Psalms 103 1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12

2nd Reading: Romans 14: 7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 12th September	
5.30pm Mass	Rosalie Croft RIP – Melanie Graham
Sunday 13th September	Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	John Lee RIP – The Bunker Family
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 14th September	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP - Kathleen Murray
Tuesday 15th September	Our Lady of Sorrows
9.30am Mass	Sr. Josephine Burke RIP – Sally McNamara
Wednesday 16th September	SS. Cornelius and Cyprian
10.00am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Eithne and Una
Thursday 17th September	
9.30am Mass	Joseph Brady RIP (Anniversary) – Ann Coady
Friday 18th September	
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Brenda Askem
Saturday 19th September	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 20th September	Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year (Evangelii Gaudium Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Margaret and Phil Roseman
10.00am Mass	Tom West RIP (Anniversary) – Rachel West

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: Joseph Brady, Daniel Scott, Monica Stokes and James Rickards.
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.

Please note: Thank you as always for the ongoing Mass Intentions. As mentioned in recent newsletters, all Mass intentions requested will need to wait until November at the very earliest for the Mass Intention to be honoured as the Mass intention diary is solidly booked until then. 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.

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.

Confirmation Programme 2027

Our next Confirmation Programme will start in January 2027 and run through to May where candidates will be confirmed at Pentecost. You must be in Year 10 or above at school to be eligible. Enrolment forms will be available from the parish office from **Sunday 1st November 2026**, and these must be returned by Sunday 3rd January 2027. Late applications will not be accepted. If you were not baptised at Our Lady of Ransom, please provide a copy of your baptism certificate with your completed enrolment form.

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.

Reclining chair available. Free. Please call the Parish Office. Thank you.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Our next Coffee morning is Wednesday 16th September 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.

Coffee morning this Sunday 13th will be hosted for the Our Lady of Ransom Toddler Group.



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.*

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

Anyone interested in the Children's Choir, please get in touch with me by email so that I can send you details. I shall start if there is enough interest. isobel@kennedykin.co.uk

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

Clrelizabeth.brewer@rayleightowncouncil.gov.uk

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: Marriage Help - Communication failure is a major cause of marital breakdown - 1,000's of couples have found Retrouvaille helped their relationship. Retrouvaille is not counselling but a programme to help married couples work through conflicts more effectively. We focus on helping restore trust and hope. **Bookings close 18th Sept.** www.Retrouvaille.org.uk
[+44 7887 296 983](tel:+447887296983)

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.

Mass for Altar Servers – Guild of St Stephen (Brentwood Diocese) The Guild of St Stephen – Brentwood Diocese warmly invites all altar servers and their families to the Mass for Altar Servers on Saturday 19 September 2026 at 11.30am, taking place at St Joseph the Worker, Hutton (CM13 1BJ).

Servers are asked to arrive by 11.15am and to bring their own alb/cassock and cotta. Parking is available onsite, and the nearest train station is Shenfield (Elizabeth Line & National Rail).

Following Mass, refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall, after which the Guild of St Stephen Brentwood Diocese AGM will take place.

This special Mass will be offered for all altar servers across the Diocese and in thanksgiving for John McCormack, marking 36 years of dedicated service as Chairman of the Guild.

If you would like to attend the Altar Servers' Mass, please email guildofststephenbrentwood@gmail.com by 13 September 2026, as this will assist us in planning for numbers.

All are warmly welcome.

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

13th September marks Education Sunday, a time when we celebrate and pray for the brilliant work of our Catholic schools. These schools rely heavily on good governance, and on this special day we are asking if you, or anyone you know, may be able to support our schools by becoming a foundation governor. There will be leaflets at the back of the church and/or you can scan this QR code for more information.



Schools-----

ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING,

THURSDAY 1st October 4.00-7.00 P.M.

Headteachers talks at 5pm & 6pm

For families who have students – boys and girls - in year 11 of secondary school who are intending to begin sixth form studies in September 2027. Come and visit the school and meet the staff and current sixth form students. There will be tours of the sixth form building and the rest of the school.

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

Part Time Librarian – Monday-Wednesday – 8.00am-4.00pm – to start as soon as possible

Salary Scale 7-12 £26,403 - £28,598 (pro rata actual salary £13,764 - £14,908

Calling all reading enthusiasts!

We are seeking to appoint a Librarian to job-share with our current part-time Librarian

You will work alongside our current part-time Librarian to maintain an engaging environment for our students for the development of reading, wider literacy learning and the joy of reading for pleasure. You will be running Rapid Plus intervention and supervising Library lessons for our Year 8 & 9 students. Working knowledge of Accelerated Reader preferable. Previous experience ideal but not essential.

St Bernard's High School is a vibrant Catholic girl's school from Years 7-11 with a co-educational mixed Sixth Form. Our school is ranked one of the top schools in Southend, and we are in the top 20% of schools across the country for our progress with students and our outcomes. It is a warm and welcoming school where our Catholic values underpin our day to day life.

All new staff are supported within the positive ethos of this happy and high performing school, and to this end all staff complete an applicable induction training programme. The community at St Bernard's welcome applications from people of all faiths or none.

Please complete a support staff application form which can be found on our website in High School/Key Information/Vacancies, and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk.

Please note that CVs will not be accepted

Closing Date: 14 September 2026 @ 9am

Interviews: w/c 14 September 2026

We do reserve the right to close this advertisement early if we receive a high volume of suitable applications.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment.

At **Brentwood Ursuline**, we believe that a truly great Catholic education should form the whole person: nurturing faith, furnishing the mind, building character and inspiring ambition.

For over a century, our school has offered an education rooted in the Catholic faith and the Ursuline tradition; intellectually ambitious, rich in opportunity and centred on each young person.

Here, faith is lived, excellence is expected and every student is known and valued. Our outstanding academic results tell part of our story; the confident, compassionate and purposeful young people who leave us tell the rest.

We warmly invite prospective students and their families to join us for our Year 7 Open Evening. Come through our doors, meet our community and discover all that a Brentwood Ursuline education could offer your daughter.



Brentwood Ursuline
Convent High School *Founded 1900*

YEAR 7 OPEN EVENING

Thursday 24th September 2026

6.30 – 9.00pm, (last entry at 8.00pm)

Headteacher's talks at 6.30pm and 7.30pm

OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October 2026

9.10 - 11.00am

By appointment only ~ please scan the QR code

There is no onsite parking for these events



Queen's Road
Brentwood
Essex

01277 227156
admin@buchs.co.uk
www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk

'The quality of education is outstanding, including in the Sixth Form'

Ofsted 2023





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

Help us 
help others

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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.**

