

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

27th September 2026 Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year (A) Psalter Week 2



The archer shoots his arrow. He shoots for nothing and has all his skill. But if he shoots for a prize, he becomes nervous. The better the prize, the more nervous. His skill has not changed, but the prize begins to divide him. Now he cares about winning, the prize is more important than the joy of taking part. So, he is divided. The need to win drains him of his power. (An ancient Chinese proverb). I'm sure we can all empathise with this situation in some way.

What prizes do we crave in life? The prizes of wealth, prestige, power, possessions? Honestly? The more we reach out for these kinds of things, the more we want. So, we are never happy. This really is the root of addiction. We need more and more of what isn't working. And our lives are controlled by these powers. Such powers we might call "possession", presences pushing us to need things that aren't really me. Things that are so self-destructive. And yet our great Saints are people who need less and less. Isn't that partly why they are Saints?

So, before things become compulsive, obsessive or addictive, we are called to let go. Let go of these insatiable needs. Cravings that so divide us (and families) up, we don't know who we are anymore.

Remember Adam and Eve? Adam grasped at divinity, wanted to play God, but God was having none of it. Not possible. All so destructive and self-destructive.

Jesus totally reverses what Adam did. What Adam wrongly tried to hold on to, Jesus lets go of. He lets go of His divinity, He lets go of His being equal with God, emptying himself of earthly needs. Letting go of his Godhead, which we see in His temptations in the desert. St. Paul points to this today. Real humility. Letting go. Freeing ourselves. Checking out our real motivations. Freeing ourselves of any selfish incentives. But do we? Really?

Like the archer, we must not let our talents, skills and inherently beautiful nature become distorted or divided because we insist on the wrong things. Especially those "wrong things" within us, such as those unhealthy and insatiable cravings, along with all questionable motivations. How much can we let go, free ourselves, so as our inherent beauty and talents for life will last, and shine?



1st Reading Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Psalms 25: 4-5b. 6-7. 8-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 1-5

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 26th September	
5.30pm Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Barrie and Mary Mason
Sunday 27th September	Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Sheila Scully RIP – The Scully Family; and the SVP (Ints)
Monday 28th September	
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 29th September	Sts. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and all Archangels
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 30th September	St. Jerome
10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 1st October	St. Therese of the Child Jesus
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Friday 2nd October	The Holy Guardian Angels
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 3rd October	
5.30pm Mass	Patricia Herlihy RIP (Anniversary) – Eithne and Una
Sunday 4th October	Twenty Seventh Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Mike and Eithne Rennie
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: Patricia Herlihy and Bridget O'Sullivan.

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.

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 started last **Monday 14th September. There is still time to join if you wish. Just come along on a Monday at 8pm -**

-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.

Repository – Christmas cards are now on sale. Individual cards from 60p each and boxes of 18 cards for £4.25. Cash can be put in the box on the wall if no one is available to serve you.

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 30th September 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.

This weeks coffee morning will be hosted by the SVP to celebrate the Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul.



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

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

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.

THE CALL TO BE HUMAN: *an introduction to Catholic morality.* Four talks to be given by Fr Martin Boland, parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. For more information go to www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com All 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

Freedom in Christ Conference on Saturday 3rd October from 1-3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Square, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5JX. Discover five keys to genuine freedom in Christ and to experience His amazing love, joy, and peace. Many of us, despite our best efforts, struggle with the same sins and feel hopeless in our search for freedom. Come and discover how the Lord can bring healing and freedom from spiritual bondages such as addictions, fear, anger, envy, lust, greed, and unforgiveness.

'The Priests' return to the Brentwood Diocese!

BCCS invite you to a weekend of musical celebration. Choose from a Gala Dinner or Charity Luncheon, both held at a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house. Enjoy fine dining and seize a rare opportunity to see world-renowned singers Fr. Eugene and Fr. Martin, formerly of 'The Priests', perform in this intimate and exclusive setting - an occasion not to be missed!

09th-10th October at The Lawn, Rochford - for full details and to purchase tickets, please visit www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/ or contact Julie Abbott 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest

Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support

children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens.

Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [//cafod.org.uk/envelope](https://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030.



Join Caritas Brentwood this autumn for three special gatherings across the Diocese exploring Catholic Social Teaching in action. Hear from inspiring speakers, connect with other parishioners and discover how local parishes are living out our faith. Saturday 26 September: Brentwood Cathedral on Environment, Saturday 17 October: St Alban's, Elm Park on Homelessness and Saturday 14 November: St Anne Line, South Woodford on Refugees. To register, and find out more go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/caritas-brentwood-events-4458423>

Saturday, 26th September hosted by Brentwood Cathedral of St Mary & St Helen

9:45am arrivals - 12:30pm departures

A talk on Catholic Social Teaching from Fr Matthias Baidoo. Followed by lived experience from parishioners in St Teresa of Lisieux Parish, Lexden.

Homelessness and the Cost of Living

Saturday, 17th October hosted by St Alban's Church, Elm Park

9:45am arrivals - 12:30pm departures

A talk on Catholic Social Teaching from Monsignor John Armitage. Followed by lived experience from parishioners in St Margaret & All Saints Parish, Canning Town.

Refugees and People seeking asylum

Saturday, 14th November hosted by St Anne Line Church, South Woodford 12:45pm arrivals - 3:30pm departures

A talk on Catholic Social Teaching from the Sisters of St Joseph of Tarbes. Followed by lived experience from parishioners in St Antony of Padua Parish, Forest Gate.

To register for any of these events, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/caritas-brentwood-events-4458423>

FOUNDATION DAY TALK - Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre

The Community invite you to their Foundation Day Talk on Friday 9th October at 2pm. Venue: 74, HOWE CLOSE, COLCHESTER CO4 3XD. Speaker: Dr Cormac Begadon. The talk is entitled: 'Between Faith and Fortune - The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, Atlantic World and the Paradox of Religious Benefaction in the 18th century'. For more information and to book your place:

<https://canonesses.co.uk/event/foundation-day-2026/>

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School

Vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant

For details, please visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/olorcps.net/olor-website/school-info/vacancies>

Walsingham House Manager

Vacancy: To ensure the smooth and efficient running of Walsingham House at Abbotswick, as an inspiring, faith-filled retreat house welcoming over 5,000 young people each year. Specific responsibilities include leading retreats, and leading and training the volunteer community. The post holder also has overall responsibility for Safeguarding and (together with the Site Manager) Health and Safety.

Location- Walsingham House at Abbotswick, with travel to retreat locations and BCYS events, as needed.

Hours- 35 hours per week- including significant evening and weekend work

Salary- £30 - 32K depending on prior experience (ideally this is a "live in" role, with a one bedroom flat provided, however it is not essential).

Contract: 3-year fixed term contract

The closing date for applications is 23rd October 2026.

ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING,

THURSDAY 1st October 6.00-8.00 P.M.

Headteachers talks at 7.30pm

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.



OPEN EVENING

Discover St John Payne Catholic School



THURSDAY
1 OCTOBER 2026
17:30 - 20:00

We look forward to welcoming prospective families

No booking required

Simply come along, explore the school, meet our staff
and students and discover what makes SJP special

HEADTEACHER TALKS

5:45pm • 6:45pm • 7:45pm

*Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason
for this school.*

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

A Catholic Academy

SOCIAL MEDIA & DESIGN ADMINISTRATOR

Part-time, 4 hours per day (Monday-Friday), flexible working hours (occasional evening work required to support school events), term time plus two weeks

Salary Scale 7-12 £27,274-£29,541

(pro-rata actual salary £13,260-£14,363)

We are seeking a creative and organised individual to celebrate our students and share our school's story with the community. This role blends digital content creation, physical display design, and vital administrative support.

If you have a creative flair, are proficient with social media platforms and have strong administrative skills with high attention to detail then this role is perfect for you!

Key Responsibilities:

- Create engaging social media content for the school on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.
 - Design and update physical display boards across the school site.
- Take photographs of school events such as Results Days, Open Evenings, Summer Soiree, Carol Concert.
 - Co-ordinate and manage annual whole-school student photograph sessions.
- Provide administrative support for events such as our Celebration Event, designing and printing certificates.
- Manage achievement and awards to celebrate students who demonstrate respect, service, and justice.

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: 28 September 2026 @ 9.00am

Interviews: w/c 28 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.



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

- 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



0170 2592980



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.**





OUR LADY OF RANSOM CHURCH

TODDLER GROUP

EVERY THURSDAY
IN SCHOOL TERM TIME

STARTING FROM
8TH OCTOBER
9:30-11:30



POPE JOHN PAUL HALL
RAYLEIGH