

OUR LADY OF RANSOM1

11th October 2026 Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year (A)

Psalter Week 4



The party went well. Relatives chatting, drinking, catching up with each other's lives. Then suddenly, a moment of deathly hush descends. Standing there with his girlfriend was a relative, Jack. The issue was that Jack has lived a life of crime, imprisoned many times. An embarrassment to the family. Although he stayed, the atmosphere for a while was thick with unwelcome. Ashamed to say, I was no different at the time.

But he is a member of the family. Shouldn't our love go beyond these feelings? Should we not love him beyond his crimes? I think we did, but it took time.

Such is God's love. God's love is pure grace. A grace that assaults and defeats our normal way of thinking. When grace happens, two and two no longer make four. Sorry maths teachers! Anyone who has **not experienced** the radical nature of grace in their lives will most certainly misinterpret the meanings and directions of Bible and church teachings. These people have to see God's love and grace as something earned, deserved, achieved or even manipulated. Maybe it is the overwhelming indoctrination of a capitalist culture we live in, where we get what we deserve, which we then project on to our God.

God's love is free. His forgiveness is free. But we don't do "free" too well. What's the motive, the agenda? - we may ask. Yet God is about excess, abundance and largesse. His invitation is to the good and the bad, the just and the unjust, as we see in today's Gospel. Let the normal mind compute that one! God is beyond our idea of morality, where we think we know who is good, bad, and so on.

Yet, it is the so-called good people, in today's parable, who have "better" things to do than go to the banquet (heaven). Busy doing their little things, little things that keep them from the one important thing. It is clearly not the "big" or "hot" sins that keep us from God, but our small ones that we often don't realise are happening. We ignore. But they are. And they build up...

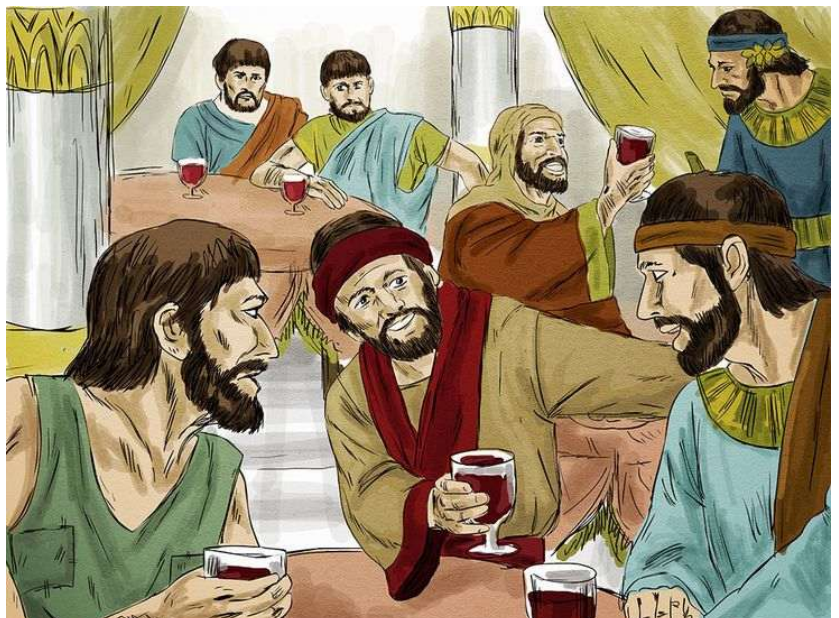
Have I experienced "grace"? If so, how has it radically change me for the better?

1st Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-10a

Psalms 23: 1-3a. 3b-4. 5.6

2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22: 1-14



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 10th October	
5.30pm Mass	Alice Allso RIP
Sunday 11th October	Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Maura Houchin RIP
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 12th October	
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 13th October	
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 14th October	Our Lady of the Rosary
10.00am Mass	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 15th October	St. Theresa of Jesus
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Friday 16th October	St. John Henry Newman
9.30am Mass	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 17th October	St Ignatius of Antioch
5.30pm Mass	Marie Griffin RIP – Colin Griffin
Sunday 18th October	Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year (World Mission Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – The Steward and Copestick Families

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 Maura Houchin, Anne Leigh, Eileen Rochford, Sharon Hillman and Margaret
La Pierre. **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.

Rogue builders – Please be aware of rogue builders currently operating in the area. If you have any concerns or would like a recommendation for a trusted tradesman, please contact the parish office.

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.

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.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning is **Wednesday 14th October** 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.

Coffee morning this Sunday 11th October will be hosted by OLOR Toddler Group. The Knights of St Columba will be hosting a coffee morning on the last Sunday of every month.

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

Welcome Our Lady into your Home for October – the Month of the Rosary

The Legion of Mary invites individuals and families to welcome a statue of Our Lady into their homes for a week of prayer. It is a beautiful opportunity to gather as a family, pray the Rosary, entrust your intentions to Our Lady, and ask her to lead your home ever closer to Jesus. To receive the statue for a week or to find out more, please contact: Shirley 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

Sunday 18th October is World Mission Sunday. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'One in Christ, united in mission to celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday. Thank you to all who continue to support Missio and the vital work that they carry out worldwide.

****Box Collection Time**** If you have a red Missio Box which has not been emptied recently, please bring to the church to be collected and banked by the end of October, or call/text Katherine Abel on 0790 6844 284 to have your box collected from your home. Don't forget, you can make your donation online directly to Missio at [//missio.org.uk/redbox](http://missio.org.uk/redbox) or see the Autumn magazine for more details.

Autumn Missio Magazines and prayer cards are available to collect from the back of the church, please help yourself. If you would like to have a red box in your home, please contact me.

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 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.

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.

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Come and be part of something special – join St Stephen's Guild today!

We are looking forward to a talk on Catholic Social Teaching from **Monsignor John Armitage**. This will be followed by lived experience from parishioners, as well as young adults involved with Citizens UK.

Saturday, 17th October at St Alban's Parish Hall, Elm Park
9:45am arrivals - 12:30pm departures (refreshments provided)

To register, clergy and parishioners can email us directly, go to our website or visit this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/caritas-brentwood-events-4458423>

THE CALL TO BE HUMAN: *What has religion to do with morality?* A talk to be given by Fr Martin Boland. Wednesday 14th October 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. in the parish centre of Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. All welcome. www.ourladyoflourdes.com

A Day With Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7 November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

Maranatha at Upminster 15 October 2026

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! All are warmly invited to an evening of prayer, praise and worship, including Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, where we come together to encounter the Holy Spirit and share fellowship in a Catholic context. At St Joseph's Catholic Church, Upminster RM14 2SY on **Thursday 15th October 2026** 7:00pm to 9:00pm, with refreshments afterwards. Not been to Maranatha before - why not come and see?

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>

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>

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.

Job Vacancy - St Helen's Parish Westcliff

*Person required for **paid position of Finance Co-ordinator to cover maternity leave 15 hours per week***

If you or any of your family /friends are interested, please first contact the parish office for a job description and person specification, next send in your CV, with a covering letter demonstrating how your experience and skills and attributes match the essential requirements of the role.

Closing dates for CVs / applications Tuesday 27th October

Interview Date Tuesday 3rd November

Contact 01702 342324 Email westcliff@brcdt.org



OUR LADY OF RANSOM CHURCH

TODDLER GROUP

EVERY THURSDAY
IN SCHOOL TERM TIME

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

£1
PER CHILD

POPE JOHN PAUL HALL
RAYLEIGH



Our Lady of Ransom
Pre-School

CHRISTMAS *Market*

FREE
ENTRY

MUSIC,
FOOD &
GIFTS

SUNDAY 29TH
NOVEMBER 2026
FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM

POPE JOHN PAUL HALL,
LONDON ROAD
SS6 9DT





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

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.**

