

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

1st November 2026 All Saints (A) Psalter Week 4

'Go to hell' – have you ever said that. What a charming thought! I find it interesting that in the entire history of our Catholic Church, not a single person has ever been declared to be in hell. Judas, Hitler...whoever. You name them, people who did very evil things, yet not one has the church pronounced as being in hell. Yet we pronounce, canonize people as being in Heaven. Why?

Possibly because we hold out for 'universal restoration', where God's love is so perfect, **so** victorious, **so** patient, **so** infinite, that in fact **He** will finally win out in every single person's life. (The ancient word for universal restoration is *apokatastasis* - impress your friends with that one!) The early church believed in it. Many may not like the idea of universal restoration, preferring a 'tit-for-tat' God. A preference to a God who punishes people to everlasting torment according to their terrible sins. Maybe this says more about themselves as opposed to an understanding of an ever-merciful God. Jesus' parables certainly teach some kind of universal restoration – the sinner getting to heaven before us, etc. Would God be that great if His love didn't win out eventually? Pretty lousy God otherwise! It may take an 'eternity', but God's love will eventually convince everyone to choose Him rather than the coldness and darkness of anything else. After all, God is infinite in His love. His love and patience are not 'very infinite' if He starts losing people to 'eternal damnation'. This universal restoration must surely be the meaning of Our Lord's resurrection: that God will turn ***all*** our human agonies and crucifixions into resurrection joys. Isn't this, at least, partly why we have our doctrine of 'purgatory'? A 'holding place' for restoration. Everyone will 'eventually' choose the light. How long is 'eventually' or 'eternity'- who knows? How long people will 'stick their heels in', by resisting God, who knows?

So, no-one has been declared in hell. But our Catholic Church canonizes saints, declaring them to be in Heaven. As our models, we are called to imitate them, to follow their example. Not to leave them on pedestals or in stained-glass windows, but to do as they did. We ask them to intercede through our efforts in following their examples.

Any Saint, whether officially named by the church, or not, (hence "All Saints") will confess that through profound faith and trust in Our Lord, with total honesty and openness about their dark sides – ie. sins, weaknesses, stupidities, their hells - healing happens. Heaven happens. Tough, but liberating. Then, grace abounds. It leads to true wholeness, true holiness. Can that be us?

Can it also be true that heaven and hell are separated by an act of consciousness? Please think about that carefully.



1st Reading: Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14

Psalm 24: 1-2. 3-4b. 5-6

2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12a

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 31st October	
5.30pm Mass	Michael and John Healy RIP – Rae Healy
Sunday 1st November	**All Saints**
8.00am Mass **10.00am Mass**	Parish Community James Rickards RIP – Mary Rickards
Monday 2nd November	**Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls)**
9.30am Mass	All Souls RIP
Tuesday 3rd November	
9.30am Mass	Michael and John Healy RIP – Rae Healy
Wednesday 4th November	**St. Charles Borromeo**
10.00am Mass	Billy McSweeney RIP – Eileen McSweeney
Thursday 5th November	
9.30am Mass	Sr. Josephine Burke RIP – Mike and Tricia Curnock
Friday 6th November	
9.30am Mass	Mary Rickard RIP – Kath and Stuart Cunningham
Saturday 7th November	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community and Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 8th November	**Thirty Second Sunday of the Year (Remembrance Sunday)**
8.00am Mass **10.00am Mass**	Kevin Halford RIP Emma Louise Lucibello RIP – Susan and Damian Lucibello

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**

Public Mass times:

Saturdays 5.30pm
Sundays 8am & 10.00am
Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am
Wednesdays 10.00am
Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am

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.

† Joan Walker RIP. Please keep Joan in your prayers along with her family and friends. Joan died last week. Her Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday November 25th at 11am. Burial at 12.45pm at Hall Road. May Joan 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.

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 started 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. Late applications will NOT be accepted. If you were not baptised at Our Lady of Ransom, please provide a copy of your baptism certificate from where you were baptized with your completed enrolment form which are now available from the Parish Office. Candidates who complete the programme will be confirmed at Pentecost. You must be in Year 10 or above at school to be eligible. If you were NOT baptised at Our Lady of Ransom, please provide a copy of your baptism certificate with your completed enrolment form. The form and any accompanying documents must be returned by Sunday 3rd January 2027 at the latest. Again, late applications will NOT be accepted.

Assisi – a Parish Pilgrimage. Interested? June 7th- 11th 2027. Follow in the footsteps of St. Francis. Medieval streets, stone houses, peaceful atmosphere, great food. Cost £895 per person, £160 extra single supplement (limited). Staying at Hotel Le Grazie, St. Maria degli Angeli, 3* hotel, half-board. Further details later. If interested, please contact Fr. Paul in writing. Thank you.

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

The next Wednesday Coffee morning will be **Wednesday 4h November.** 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.



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: 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 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

Blessing of Graves

Sutton Road Cemetery, Sunday 8th November at 2pm. We all gather by the large cross near the entrance for a short service and then Father will attend individual graves to bless them. All are most welcome.

Thank you for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day!

Thank you for putting your faith into action this Family Fast Day. Your generous donations will help more children stay in school. Children like Tayla in Zimbabwe, where CAFOD's local partners worked with her community to install a solar-powered water supply. Now Tayla has access to safe water and nutritious food at school, helping her to keep learning and develop her God-given talents.

To find out more about the work that your generosity at Fast Day makes possible visit:

//cafod.org.uk/parishthankyou

Job Vacancy - Assistant to the Chancery and Tribunal Office in Brentwood.

For more details or to apply please email: hr@brcdt.org and/or please click on the link below.

Closing date for applications, 5pm on 16 November 2026

Trib Chan Asst new role 2026 FINAL.doc

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.

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has just published
***Reading the Bible through Advent and Christmas*. This new book includes commentary on all the Scripture readings for Mass**
throughout these two seasons. Full information about the book can be found on the homepage of the website
www.whatgoodnews.org

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

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 – 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

Refugees and People seeking asylum

Saturday, 14th November hosted by St Anne Line Church, South Woodford12:45pm 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

BCCS Christmas Craft & Gift Fair
Join us for Christmas crafts, stunning gifts & refreshments, in support of BCCS.
Sunday 15th November - 10:30-15:30 - The Mill Arts & Events Centre, Rayleigh, SS6 7ED
£1.50 entry (free for under 14s) & free onsite parking

Charity Christmas Luncheon
Join BCCS for a delicious two-course meal, exclusively hosted in the beautiful Grade II listed Georgian House.
Friday 4th December - 12:30-15:30 - The Lawn, Rochford, SS4 1PL
£38.50 per person - book now: //www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/christmas-luncheon/ or scan the QR code
Any questions contact Julie: jabbott@bccs.org.uk | 07912277413

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

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





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

Rayleigh, Rochford & District Association for Voluntary Service

VOLUNTEER DROP-IN SESSIONS

Are you keen to help others? Want to give something back? Looking to build skills or enhance your CV? Like to meet new people?



COME AND FIND OUT MORE

SEARCH ONLINE NOW: WWW.VOLUNTEERESSEX.ORG
OR COME TO DROP-IN SESSION AND LET US HELP YOU

Drop-in sessions:

- Thurs 3rd Dec 2026
- Tues 19th Jan 2027
- Thurs 25th Feb 2027
- Tues 23rd March 2027

All 10.30am-12.30pm

Contact us:

Volunteers@rravs.org.uk

Venue:

RRAVS Office,
The Courtyard,
Parish Centre,
Rectory Garth,
Rayleigh, SS6 8BB

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.

YOUR TIME CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



OUR REGULAR COLLECTIONS

WAITROSE SOUTHEND

- Sunday 5pm
- Tuesday 8pm
- Wednesday 8pm
- Tesco Extra Thursday 8pm

M&S FOOD

- Tuesday 7.30pm
- Wednesday 7.30pm
- Thursday 7.30pm
- Friday 7.30pm
- Saturday 7.30pm
- Sunday 5pm

LIDL WOODGRANGE

- Monday – Friday 8am

KFC & PARTNERS

KFC HIGH STREET
- Monday 10am

KFC HIGH STREET & GREYHOUND
- Wednesday 10am

KFC HIGH STREET + GREYHOUND + LEIGH PROGRESS ROAD
- Friday 10am

HUNGRY CUPBOARD COLLECTIONS

We collect food from local schools to restock our food bank.

- Monday or Friday 10am – 1pm (Using our Luton van)
- Tuesday 10am – 1pm Furniture delivery (Using our Luton van)
- Tue, Wed or Fri 10am – 3pm Furniture delivery (Using our Luton van)

THE HIGH ST SVP MARKET STALL

Every Thursday 9am – 4pm

- ✓ People to set up
- ✓ People to sell (2 hour slots)
- ✓ People to pack up

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Every hour you give helps us feed, support and bring hope to our community.

Thank you!

CAN YOU HELP ON A REGULAR BASIS?

If you can spare a little time, we would love to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH TODAY!
NesperM@svp.org.uk

01702 592980
www.svpsouthend.org.uk
Unit 9, Victoria Business Park, Short Street, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5BY

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR MISSION. TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE LIVES.