



Fr Tom Jordan, RIP

Funeral arrangements – information for parishioners, and for parents and children at St Peter's Romford.

Dear friends

Thank you for the wonderful messages, prayers and cards you have sent since Fr Tom died on 5th August. He died very peacefully; he had been ill with cancer for six years, and since late February it had been clear that there were no longer treatments available to him. Very sadly, that coincided with the beginning of lockdown, and so the final stages of his illness have been with one of his sisters living with him in the presbytery, and with carers attending to him three times each day. He has been comfortable throughout, and very much wished to die at home, surrounded by his family and friends. He constantly asked after parishioners, and about the school, and remained very attentive and aware about all that was happening.

If you would like to send a card to his sisters, their names are Maria, Monica and Theresa, and you can drop a card into the presbytery at any time.

I have known Tom for 25 years and his model of pastoral kindness, inclusion and welcome, as well as his profound acceptance of his illness, has made a deep impression on me. I know that he will be sadly missed.

In these times of Covid-19, there is a challenge to the funeral arrangements. Together with Fr Tom's family, I pray that the information here helps everyone to be able to pay their respects as fittingly as possible, within all the current restrictions.

With blessings and in deepest sympathy
Fr Dominic

Flowers and Donations

Fr Tom has asked for no flowers, please, but instead for donations to be made to Cancer Research UK (marked for Prostate cancer). These can be sent directly to CRUK or given in to the presbytery and we will pass them on.

Altar Servers

Although it is not possible to serve at Masses at the moment, we would invite any regular server aged 11+ to take an alb on Tuesday 18th August and then to process in front of the hearse along Park End Road on Wednesday 19th at 12.30. (to collect your alb, and to be part of this, please liaise with Julia – Romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Tuesday 18th August, 6pm – 9pm, Pray for your Priest

Fr Tom will be received into church on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th, in a small service with his family. After that the church will be open for groups of approx. 50 people at a time. You will need to wear masks, please, and the timed entries will be at **6.00pm; 6.40pm; 7.20pm; 8.00pm**. If necessary there will be a further group at 8.40pm. Each group will be seated in the usual way, and there will then be a time of quiet prayer, a decade of the Rosary, and a Bible reading. You will have about 25 minutes in church, and will then be asked to leave so the church can be cleaned before the next group is admitted. **Printed copies of the Order of Service for the Funeral Mass will be available, to take so that you can follow the Livestream the next day.** This will also be available to download from the website.

Wednesday 19th August 11.00am – Requiem Mass – Livestream

Even in normal circumstances, a funeral for Fr Tom would have filled the church three times over. Sadly, we are not in normal times, and we can only have a total of 30 people in church. This will be Bishop Alan, a handful of clergy, and Fr Tom's family. Siobhan Marshall, Chair of Governors at St Peter's, will represent the school, and read the intercessions. In accordance with Covid guidelines, a soloist and organist will provide the music in the church – those watching and praying at home can download the Order of Service from the website, or collect one from the church on Tuesday evening.

The Mass will be Livestreamed, and the link will be on the parish website www.stedwards-romford.org.uk so you can watch with just one click from the website.

Wednesday 19th August 12.30pm – “Turn out for Fr Tom!”

Over 17 years, Fr Tom has Baptised, Married and accompanied hundreds of people in Romford. **This is the moment to honour him, by lining Park End Road, as the hearse processes.** There will be about 20-30 minutes between the end of Mass, and this procession, to give you time to gather. **Please leave the area closest to the church clear, for the procession to form, please keep a social distance, and please stretch along both pavements, from Church Lane to The Avenue.** Follow the directions of the Knights of St Columba, who will be stewarding for us.

Bishop Alan, Mgr Kevin Hale, Fr Phillip (from Collier Row) and Fr Dominic, together with priests of the Diocese, and altar servers, will walk in front of the hearse.

Everyone is welcome.

If you have any questions, please call the presbytery – 01708 740308 – or email Romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org and Fr Dominic or Julia will help you in any way that we can.