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|   | ***Parish newsletter*** **ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR****CATHOLIC CHURCH****Sundays 20th & 27th September 2020****25th and 26th Sundays of the Year**  |

**Feasts and Saints in this fortnight**

Monday 21st – St Matthew

Wednesday 23rd – St Padre Pio

Thursday 24th – Our Lady of Walsingham

Tuesday 29th St Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Wednesday 30th – St Jerome

Thursday 1st – St Therese of Lisieux

Friday 2nd – The Guardian Angels

(Friday 2nd is also Cafod Harvest Fast Day)

**Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth**

**5 Park End Road, Romford, Essex RM1 4AT**

**Telephone: 01708 740308**

**e-mail:** **romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org**

**Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin**

**Parish Website** [**www.stedwards-romford.org.uk**](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk)

**Parish YouTube Channel: RomfordRC (**[**www.youtube.com/c/romfordRC**](http://www.youtube.com/c/romfordRC)**)**

**Parish Facebook Page and Twitter account: RomfordRC**

**St. Peter’s Primary School 01708 745506**

**Head Teacher Mrs Jenny Waterfield**

**A warm welcome** to all visitors, and to those returning to Mass for the first time this weekend. For those watching and praying on YouTube, from within the parish and across the globe, welcome.

**Fr Dominic writes: “Thank you** for the great kindness, encouragement, affirmation and welcome you have offered over the last fortnight, as I have begun to serve as your parish priest and celebrated being both 50 and 18! I have been uplifted by your messages, and I am very thankful for your very generous gifts. You are all in my prayers as we continue the journey together.”

**This week we pray for** all of those affected by Covid-19, and most especially those who are anxious about the future, in Romford and across the world.

**It is the Tenth Anniversary of Pope Benedict XVIs visit to the United Kingdom**; in his words at Hyde Park he said, “We know that in times of crisis and upheaval God has raised up great Saints.” How true and necessary that is today. It could be you! Read all the homilies and watch the videos from 10 years ago at [www.thepapalvisit.org.uk](http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk)

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| **Please pray for all who are sick** in our hospital, our nursing homes and at home. For those who are anxious, bereaved or struggling in the Faith. May they experience the healing hands of Jesus through our prayerful actions and visits. Especially we pray for:*Margaret Alake, Sheila Appleton, Mgr Arthur Barrow, Fr Michael Butler,**Dyllis Dangerfield, Fr Kieran Dodd, Pauline Gillooly, Margaret Harvey,**Fr Liam Hayes, Evelyn Hughes, Benjamin Joseph, Paula Lam, Mrs D Langan,* *Fr Jean-Laurent Marie, Bina McCarthy, Fr John McKeon, Brendan O’Connor,* *Eileen O’Connor, Jacqueline O’Neill, Bernadette O’Sullivan, Terry Raftery,* *Samantha Rowe, Michael Scullion, Peggy Squires, Fr John Taylor, Andrew Todd,* *Danny Toye, Stephen Toye, Betty Walsh and Trudy Wijeyeratnam* |

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday 19th 6.30pm** Raymond O’Donnell RIP (Foundation)

**Sunday 20th 9.30am** The People of the Parish

 **11.30am**  Raymund Graves RIP (Pitkin)

**Wednesday 23rd 12.15pm**  Holy Souls (Rabbittte)

**Saturday 26th 6.30pm** Andrew Grimes RIP (Grimes)

**Sunday 27th 9.30am** Dec’d Members of Murphy Family (Murphy)

 **11.30am** The People of the Parish

**Wednesday 30th 12.15pm** Fr Tom Jordan RIP (Adetoro)

*If you are returning for the first time since Lockdown began, please ask a Steward for a sheet which will help you with the small differences in the celebration of Mass at this time, to keep us all as safe as possible.*

**Health and Safety – Please be careful!**

There is restricted access to the Presbytery via the Prayer Garden in view of the possible risk of falling stonework. We are currently working very hard in relation to all aspects of the building, and plans for the future, and expect to bring ideas to you for discussion and input during October. Please keep it all in prayer!

**First Holy Communion 2021 – DEADLINE NEAR!**

Parents and carers of children in current year 2 and above are invited to registeryour intention to apply for your Child(ren) to join the Programme commencing January 2021. Places are limited and preference will be given to Children who worship regularly and reside within our Parish Boundary. Forms can be downloaded from the parish website [**www.stedwards-romford.org.uk**](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk)and **must be returned by 30th September.** Please email romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you have any concerns or questions, and we will help you in any way we can.

**Applying for a place in a Catholic Secondary School for September 2021**

**DIOCESAN GUIDANCE TO PARENTS/CARERS**

“If you are intending to apply for a place for your child for September 2021, you need to see your Parish Priest and ask him for a Certificate of Catholic Practice. Your Parish Priest will give this to you providing he is satisfied you are a practising Catholic. You will then need to take this to the Catholic School to which you are applying, together with your child’s Baptismal Certificate (or Certificate of Reception where appropriate). If you do not, for whatever reason, qualify for a Certificate of Catholic Practice and your child is baptised, then your application will come into the next category for Baptised Catholic Children. For further details, please read carefully the admissions criteria/arrangements of the Catholic school to which you wish to apply. If you think you are likely to be, in this second category, **please do still apply** in the normal way, and remember to take a copy of your child’s **Baptismal Certificate** to the school”.

In the normal course of events, Fr Dominic would be delighted to meet families but in these COVID times it will be safer for everyone if just one parent/carer attends on behalf of the family on one of the following dates:

**For Secondary School ONLY**

**Sunday 4th October between 4pm – 6pm**

**Wednesday 21st October between 1.30pm and 3pm.**

 There is no need to make an appointment, just turn up **in the Church**.

Please bring your child’s Baptismal Certificate to the interview.

A Certificate of Catholic Practice will be required for the following schools:

All Saints School, Dagenham

Sacred Heart of Mary Girls’ School, Upminster

The Campion School, Hornchurch

The Coopers’ Company and Coborn School, Upminster

A Certificate of Catholic practice is not required for Brentwood Ursuline Catholic High School.

**First Holy Communion 2020**

A reminder to parents and carers that only those named in the Track and Trace forms will be admitted to the Communion Masses. **These forms must be returned to the parish office by 25th September 2020.**

**Confirmation**

For those candidates on the current Confirmation programme, the final two sessions will take place this Sunday 20th September and Sunday 11th October from 6pm in the Community Centre.

**From Bernice Hall**

“On behalf of myself and my family, I wish to thank all those parishioners who prayed for Des and sent flowers and Mass cards. Your support and comfort are much appreciated.”

**Cafod Strawberry Teas**

Cafod would like to say Thank You to all those parishioners who held, attended and donated to the Cafod Appeal for those in great need in areas of the world where Cafod is working. The problems in these areas have been greatly increased by the Corona Virus Pandemic. Your donations will enable Cafod to alleviate some of the problems being experienced in those areas. The Strawberry Teas was an opportunity for friends and family to come together with social distancing, and incredible generosity has been displayed by all those who attended and by generous  individual donations. The amazing sum of £875.50 has been raised. Thank you all very much

**McMillan Coffee Morning**

Sadly this year we are unable to have our usual Coffee morning. However, if you feel you are able to host a coffee morning at home, with groups of six please do so. Any money raised can be sent directly to McMillan Cancer or passed to the parish office.

**Minister, Readers and Stewards**

If you have requested a hard copy of the new rota, please collect this from the correspondence rack in the porch. Thank you.

**Caritas Diocese of Brentwood – Development Co-ordinator.**

If you are passionate about supporting local volunteers, and have strong experience in training and networking in the charitable sector, this could be your perfect job! Please visit <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/developmentcoordinator/> for the Job Description and full details of this significant new role, which will help enhance our Gospel mandate to serve and recognise Christ in the poor, and in those on the edges. **Applications close midday 2nd October2020**.

**The Campion School**

An invitation to you and your son to a virtual Open Evening presentation online at www.thecampionschool.org.uk. on Thursday, 24th September 2020.

**Site Manager**

The Diocese is looking for a Site Manager for the Cathedral Site to manage the routine maintenance of the buildings and grounds at the Cathedral Site. A job description is available upon request. For more information and a full job description contact recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org Closing date 2nd October.

*Our Parish is part of the Brentwood Diocese and Alan Williams is our Bishop.*

*We are part of the Romford Parishes Partnership within the Havering Deanery, together with Christ the Eternal High Priest, Corpus Christi, Most Holy Redeemer & St Dominic.*

*We are twinned with the parish of Regina Pacis, Ladysmith, Diocese of Dundee, South Africa, and pray for their Bishop, Graham Rose.*

*Diocese of Brentwood Registered Charity No. 234092*

*Web site:* [*www.dioceseofbrentwood.net*](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)