



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 21st February 2021
First Sunday of Lent Year (B)

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
Parish YouTube Channel: RomfordRC (www.youtube.com/c/romfordRC)
Parish Facebook Page and Twitter account: RomfordRC

St. Peter's Primary School 01708 745506
Head Teacher Mrs Jenny Waterfield

Lent and Easter – a Lent of Giving, not Giving Up!

There is a handout full of Lenten opportunities at the back of the church, also available to download on the website, where there is a dedicated page:

www.stedwards-romford.org/lent-and-easter-2021

In prayer this week we think of those like the young man featured in the **Cafod appeal** (see next page), who have to walk miles for water. In a time when sanitation has been on our minds for months, to give to Cafod this week is an act of faith and solidarity with the poorest in our world. "Whatever you did to the least of my sisters and brothers ..."

Along similar lines, today marks the beginning of **Fair Trade Fortnight**. We are committed as a parish to Fairtrade – using tea and coffee for meetings and socials (in normal times!) with the Fairtrade mark. It is also possible to buy Fairtrade chocolate, fruit juice, biscuits, clothing, trainers, flowers, wine, gin and vodka ...! What it means for something to be certified as Fair Trade is that those working on the product are paid a decent wage, and work in decent conditions. To buy FairTrade is part of the fight against slavery, and it is another way to live faith. Most of the large supermarkets have FairTrade options – look out for them. **Pray for all those campaigning to bring justice, hope and kindness to workers**; to find out more go to <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/> where there are also some superb resources for schools.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 26th February (THIS Friday)

Getting **water** in our lives is not usually a problem, yet for people in many parts of the world it is literally a matter of life and death. The subject of the Cafod Appeal this year is a young man called Abdella who lives in a remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. He spends **10 hours a day collecting water so his people can survive** and he feels he is wasting his life as he has no time for anything else. Having water on tap in his village would make an incredible difference not just for drinking, cooking and washing but for irrigation to enable the villagers to grow crops which would enable them to become more self sufficient. You can view the video giving more details about Abdella at cafod.org.uk/fastday There are several ways of donating:

Using the Family Fast Envelopes

Online at cafod.org.uk/give

Text LENT5/10/20 [according to how much you wish to give] to LENT 70460 *

**Texts cost donation plus standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising. via telephone and SMS. If you .d like to give a donation but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO [plus amount] to 70460 For more information please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice*

Thank you once again for your help and generosity to this vital appeal.

Stations of the Cross – online on Fridays at 7pm (and then remaining online throughout Lent). Jesus' journey to the cross is full of characters who have much to say to us in a time of pandemic: Simon of Cyrene, Veronica, the soldier who witnesses the crucifixion and declares Jesus is the Son of God. We consider Jesus' falls, his words of forgiveness from the cross, and the moment when Mary cradles him in her arms, after his death. The link for this week's Stations is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaIBxHYoiRs> and there is an accompanying booklet to pick up in church or to download from the Lent and Easter page on the website.

Sponsored Sleepout – “Sleep out to help out” – to help the homeless & BCYS.

The BCYS are arranging a Diocesan wide sponsored sleepout in aid of charities working to provide for people who are homeless, as well as to raise funds for the BCYS. We will be working with young people (aged 15+) in the parish to encourage great participation in this. Sleep out from **midnight Friday 26th March – 7am Sunday 27th March. Fr Dominic will be sleeping out**, with the deer and the moles at Walsingham House at Abboswick, from where Mass will be celebrated as part of an evening leading into the sleepout, for people to watch from home as they prepare to sleep in their gardens (or, if permitted, the gardens of friends). Full info, including sponsor form, at <https://bcys.net/events/sleepout2021/>. Please also email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you are taking part in Romford. To sponsor Fr Dominic go to www.bcys.net/donate and select the “sleepout” option, or put good old fashioned cash in an envelope marked “sleepout” and put it through the letterbox of the presbytery.

Covid 19 has, for some, strengthened the bonds of love in remarkable ways. However, for many married couples, this is a very challenging time. There is so much uncertainty around: health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. For some, being together all the time brings even more challenges. You may wonder if you would be better apart. **It always helps to talk things through,** and two sources of help to do that are **Marriage Care** (www.marriagecare.org.uk) who offer a dedicated helpline as well as a Counselling service, and **Retrouvaille**, a programme to support couples. A “Retrouvaille” (“rediscovery”) weekend brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage and you don’t need to leave home! The next Virtual weekend is 25th- 28th February 2021. Call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

Church open for Mass. We remain open for Mass, with the strong encouragement to people to follow the Government guidance and stay at home. We do recognise, though, that especially at a time of grief or turbulence, the church is a sanctuary of hope and peace. We have adopted additional safety measures, including more limited numbers (30-35 at each Mass), pews now spaced at 2metres (the Government guidance for places of worship allows 1metre+ with face coverings, but guidance for all other settings is 2metres, so we are following that). Please see the website for the full range of Covid safety measures, and the latest updates.

We strongly encourage people to use the provision of the Livestream and “Spiritual Communion” at this time. We have prepared a sheet of “tips and hints” to help the experience of watching and praying from home, and this is on the Livestream section of the website. **The 9.30am Mass is Livestreamed** via the parish YouTube channel, which is at www.youtube.com/c/romfordrc. The direct link to the Mass is posted on the website each week.

THANK YOU for the continuing generosity of the donations to the foodbank. Every time the church is open for Mass, donations can be left for the foodbank; they can also be brought to the presbytery at any time (but please phone ahead first, to be sure someone is in). All donations are welcome. During this time of Lent why not donate “Forty days of Food for others”. Make a list of 40 items – basics, essentials, treats, toiletries – and sort out one item each day, so that you arrive at Mass on Easter Sunday with a wonderful “hamper of hope” to donate to the food bank

Our St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and Golden Club continue to do exceptional work, phoning some parishioners daily, and some weekly, wherever they know someone is on their own and would welcome a call. If you would like to join the SVP, or you know of an individual or family in need of support, please email the parish office and help will be arranged, with discretion, kindness, and confidentiality

Baptism We cannot celebrate Baptisms at this time, but in the meantime if you have a child you would like to be Baptised, please email romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org and we will send you the registration details for when things change.

Rest in Peace

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Simon Khoury** who died recently. His funeral will follow.

We pray also for the Repose of the soul of **Terry Mernin** whose funeral will take place on Saturday 27th February at 12noon in Aglish, Co Waterford. The Funeral will be available to view via Livestream at <https://www.aidanwalshandsons.ie/viewing-room>

This week we celebrate:

Monday 22nd **The Chair of St Peter**
Friday 26th **Lent Fast Day**
Sunday 28th **Second Sunday of Lent**

Mass Intentions

Saturday 20th	6.30pm	Peter Schroeyers RIP (Schroeyers)
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Ints of Terry Raftery (Donnelly)
	11.30am	The People of the Parish
Wednesday 24th	12.15pm	Nancy Kelly RIP (Hayden)
Thursday 25th	8.00am	For Teachers and all who work in our schools.
Saturday 27th	6.30pm	Eileen Fox RIP (Rickard)
Sunday 28th	9.30am	The People of the Parish
	11.30am	Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life (KSC Romford)

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, Joe Bellotti, Mgr Arthur Barrow, Fr Michael Butler, Dyllis Dangerfield, Fr Kieran Dodd, Angela Fitzpatrick (Moss), 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

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.