



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
The Baptism of the Lord

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### **Third national lockdown – supporting our parish and community**

These are undoubtedly very troubling times, locally, nationally and internationally. There is hope – hope in the vaccine, and hope in the many and generous ways in which support is being offered across the community. The entire second page of this newsletter is filled with ways in which we can offer help – and if you know of anyone who is in need, anyone who is alone, or anyone who is struggling in any way, our Catholic community will be there for them. It does not matter who they are, or what their circumstance – we are blessed with great networks of help and kindness, rooted in faith, and we are here to support and give hope in all possible ways.

### **Prayers this week**

Today (10<sup>th</sup> January) is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and God the Father speaks to Jesus and to all of us: “You are my child, the Beloved, my favour rests on you.” There are many people who need to hear this profound truth: exhausted nurses and clinicians; parents whose home is also a school and an office; teachers grappling with online learning as well as looking after the children of key and essential workers; the key and essential workers themselves, working long and demanding shifts, often short staffed as colleagues are ill; young people whose exams are cancelled and who – surprising themselves, perhaps – miss school, and miss interaction with friends. We are all God's Beloved – name that truth for yourself today, and rest, wherever you are weary. Hold each other in gentle prayer, kindness, and hope. In particular, we remember in prayer Jenny Waterfield's father who is seriously ill in hospital.

## Helping our community

**THANK YOU for the exceptional generosity of the foodbank donations and donations for Women's Refuge.** 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). The foodbank are currently in need of Tomato Ketchup, Instant Coffee, Tinned Potatoes/Instant Mash, Long life fruit juice, Tinned Fruit/Custard/Rice Pudding, Biscuits, Tinned Fish, Dried Rice, Toiletries: Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shower Gel and Deodorant.

**Our St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and Golden Club** are doing 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

### Hearts of Hope

This lockdown feels much more bleak than last spring and summer; we are weary. So, to help ourselves and to help others, we need to do all that we can to be a sign of hope, and to uplift those around us. In conjunction with St Peter's school we are therefore asking every child and adult parishioner to design two "hearts of hope." Very simply **cut out a heart – of a reasonable size – and decorate** it with colour and, if you wish, the names of people (individuals or groups of people like nurses, teachers, refuse collectors, supermarket workers, the emergency services ... ). **When you have a beautiful "heart of hope" put one in your window, for all passing by to see, and bring the other to the presbytery.** We will be creating a way to display them in the garden by the grotto – hoping to build up a large "heart of hearts" in the next few weeks, as a sign of hope in lockdown – as well as something bright and spirit-lifting. As you put the heart in your window, and bring it to the presbytery, say a pray for those you have named – bring them, in your prayer, to the heart of God.

**Imagine what a sign of hope this will be if we can get a hundred or more hearts displayed – and what a lovely activity for a family, or for those living alone.** We look forward to seeing your brilliant creativity!

### Volunteering in the community

**Havering Volunteer Centre** is our local hub with many, many volunteering opportunities. There are more details on [www.haveringvc.org.uk](http://www.haveringvc.org.uk) and they are especially and urgently looking for volunteers for the testing and vaccination sites locally.

### Cafod resources

The pandemic has international implications that continue to be very serious. Cafod have some vital insights on their website – [www.cafod.org](http://www.cafod.org). In addition, each Sunday morning, they offer a really excellent liturgy for children. You'll find the details at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

## **Church open for Mass**

Under the lockdown guidance, the church (and all places of worship) can remain open for communal worship. There is a fuller statement about this on the parish website; there is much to balance in considering whether it is wise to keep the church open. For now, 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 are adopting 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.

**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](http://www.youtube.com/c/romfordrc). The direct link to the Mass is posted on the website each week.

**Fr Dominic writes:** “Thank you to so many parishioners who have been so kind in your cards, gifts, Christmas offerings and words of encouragement and support over the last few weeks. Your kindness – especially when we could not gather for Mass at Christmas – is both touching and uplifting. I look forward to a more hope-filled 2021, and most especially the time when we can fully gather together again.”

**We congratulate Rosemary Mason who this week celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.** The 9.30am Mass on 17<sup>th</sup> January will be offered for her intentions.

**The parish website has been refreshed, and is regularly updated.**

**Peace Sunday** Next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> is Peace Sunday. To find out more and for ideas and resources visit [www.paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021)

**“Let us Dream” – Livestream even with the co-author of a new book with Pope Francis, Dr Austen Ivereigh.** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 11 am – 12.30pm. The book presents the Pope’s vision for the post-pandemic future. How should we move forward from the multiple coronavirus crises? The priorities must surely be care for our brothers and sisters, especially those in greatest need, and care for the earth. We also need to build good relations internationally after the damage of recent times. To access this livestream event please go to [www.ssppilford.org.uk](http://www.ssppilford.org.uk) and click on live stream remote services. The event will be available subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org). If you have any questions about the event, or that you would like to as Dr Ivereigh, please contact: [adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**This week we celebrate:**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> St Aelred of Rievaulx**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> St Hilary**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Peace Sunday**

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>The People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mary Williams RIP (Heneghan)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Ints of Ben &amp; Therese D’Souza (Mothers Prayers)</b>
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Mary Hartigan RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)</b>
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>The People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Ints of Rosemary Mason (100<sup>th</sup> Birthday)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Josie Everett RIP (Everett)</b>

**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, 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.*