



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Second Sunday of the Year (B)  
Peace Sunday

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth  
5 Park End Road, Romford, Essex RM1 4AT  
Telephone: 01708 740308  
e-mail: [romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto: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

### **Supporting our parish and community during lockdown**

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 (17<sup>th</sup> January) 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)

Peace, in the midst of the troubles of the pandemic, is such a precious gift, and peace begins with each one of us. In prayer this week, consider where you bring peace – in your family, in your workplace, with your friends. What about your Social Media? Do your posts promote peace? As you reflect, are there people with whom it is time you made peace? Could a letter, email or call in lockdown be the beginning of that? Finally, please keep in prayer those living in war zones, oppressed by terror, or living in fear. "Peace be with you" Jesus says, after the Resurrection – and it is a peace for us to share with everyone, wherever we can.

## Helping our community

**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). 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, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shower Gel and Deodorant.

**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

### Hearts of Hope

***Update:** Since we began this last week we have had hearts from Newport in Wales, and from Leigh on Sea, as well as from children and adults across the parish. We'll be constructing the large heart over the next fortnight, ready to display them all – keep sending them in! In case you missed it, here's what to do:*

We are 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>

**Please pray for Jenny Waterfield's dad**, who is very ill in Birmingham. **Please pray for many parishioners who are ill, isolating and grieving at this difficult time.** We hold each other in prayer, and in hope.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of Shing Tam, RIP** (Father-in-Law of Sandra, and Grandfather of Jessica) whose funeral service takes place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen O'Brien, RIP**, for whom we celebrated a memorial Mass on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, before her family took her to Ireland for burial.

**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.

### **Sunday of the Word of God: Online Conference**

To prepare for the second Sunday of the Word of God, which falls on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Catholic Biblical Federation has organised an online conference with participation from all over Europe. The Conference can be followed via [c-b-f.org/streaming](http://c-b-f.org/streaming) or YouTube and Facebook at the Catholic Biblical Federation. Fr Adrian Graffy, English representative at the Catholic Biblical Federation, explained: "In the rich but fragmented European continent we aim to come together around the Word of God. In the post-pandemic world it will be important to derive from the Scriptures guidelines in our relationships with God, with brothers and sisters throughout the continent and beyond, and in our protection of the planet."

**St Elizabeth's Hertfordshire** are currently recruiting a Lay Chaplain to work alongside the Senior Leadership Team More details at [www.stelizabeths.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths.org.uk) or telephone 01279 844524 for an informal discussion regarding the role.

**“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 19<sup>th</sup> St Wulstan**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> St Agnes**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> St Vincent**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday of the Word of God**

**Mass Intentions**

<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>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Tom Murnane RIP (Reilly)</b>
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>The People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Martin Gillooly RIP (Gillooly)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life (KSC Romford)</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.*