



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 24th January 2021
Third Sunday of the Year (B)
Sunday of the Word of God

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

Sunday of the Word of God

Today (24th January) is the Sunday of the Word of God. The Church divides the Sunday readings into a three year cycle – we are in Year B, where the focus is on the Gospel of Mark. Fr Dominic will say more about this on Sunday, but a beautiful way to immerse yourself in Mark's Gospel is to listen to the actor, David Suchet, reading the entire Gospel. The recording is available on DVD from many retailers, and also on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjOgcMQXvSc>. You may know David Suchet as Poirot – he is a brilliant actor and his reading is captivating. The piece lasts for just under two hours; it is possible to listen to it all in one go, and you may also find it helpful to take it as one chapter (about 10-15 minutes) a day for the next 16 days. It will help each time you listen to Sunday readings in the year ahead.

Prayers this week

We continue to pray for those who are feeling the greatest stresses and strains of the pandemic, most especially the staff at Queen's Hospital, remaining so kind and dedicated despite utter exhaustion. We pray for teachers, students and families as they navigate online learning and home schooling. We pray for volunteers at the testing and vaccination centres. We pray for those who are ill, those who grieve, and those who are battling loneliness and depression. We pray for all those who are signs of hope – those phoning others in the community, delivering shopping and medicines, and serving as a listening ear and a prayerful heart.

Baptism

For those awaiting **Baptism** of their child, we will be emailing you this week. We cannot celebrate Baptisms at this time, but as soon as that changes we will be in touch again. If you have a child you would like to be Baptised, please email romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org and we will send you the details.

First Holy Communion

All those who registered on the 2020/21 **First Holy Communion** programme should have received an email in the last day or two, with details of the 2021 arrangements. If you registered and have not seen the email, please get in touch.

Confirmation

For those on the 2020 Confirmation programme, you will know that your Confirmation is now scheduled for Pentecost Sunday 2021 (May 23rd). We will be in touch with you again soon.

For those in **current Year 11, you are warmly invited to get in touch, if you would like to be Confirmed this year.** We hope to run a programme for you from late April until November, with Confirmation on National Youth Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King (21st November). Please email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org by 15th February, and we'll send you more details. This is an invitation, not an instruction – Confirmation is a Sacrament where you, as a young adult, have the opportunity to ask questions, and discover fresh depths of faith. We hope it is a joyful, inspiring and sociable experience, and we look forward to welcoming you.

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. If Covid-19 rules permit, we will use the presbytery garden and church car park, otherwise we will encourage people to sleep in their own gardens, with shared Mass and other activities via Zoom. **Save the date! 9pm Friday 26th March – 7am Sunday 27th March.** Info at <https://bcys.net/events/sleepout2021/> - please also email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you would like to take part in Romford.

“Let us Dream” – Livestream event next Saturday, 30th January, from 11 am until 12.30 pm Dr Austen Ivereigh will speak about the book he recently co-authored with Pope Francis. ‘Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future’ presents the Pope’s vision for the post-pandemic future. How should we move forward from the multiple coronavirus crises? Pope Francis among many other topics addresses the problems of human solidarity, the ecological crisis and the rise of populism. To access this livestream event please go to www.sppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. The event, which is sponsored by Gidea Park parish in conjunction with Brentwood Interfaith, will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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. The direct link to the Mass is posted on the website each week.

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). All donations are welcome. **THANK YOU also for the 14 laptops and iPads donated in the last fortnight.** Each child in St Peter’s who needed one now has one, and this is immensely important for their learning. **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: *Hearts have continued to pour in and are now on display in the front garden as a sign of hope to all who pass by. 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.** 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.

Rest in Peace

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Leslie Moore**, father of Jenny Waterfield (Head at St Peters). Leslie died last weekend, and we join the whole school community in praying for Jenny and her family. His funeral will take place in Birmingham.

We pray also for the Repose of the soul of **Terry Mernin**, a regular parishioner at the 11.30am Mass, who passed away last week. We pray for all his family. His funeral will take place in Ireland.

We continue to pray for the Repose of the soul of **Shing Tam**, Father-in-law of Sandra, whose funeral takes place this Thursday, 28th January. May he Rest in Peace.

This week we celebrate:

Monday 25th	The Conversion of St Paul
Tuesday 26th	Ss Timothy & Titus
Thursday 28th	St Thomas Aquinas
Sunday 31st	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Racial Justice Sunday

Mass Intentions

Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 24th	9.30am	Martin Gillooly RIP (Gillooly)
	11.30am	Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life (KSC Romford)
Wednesday 27th	12.15pm	Mary Hines RIP (SVP)
Saturday 30th	6.30pm	In Thanksgiving (Peggy)
Sunday 31st	9.30am	Brian Newall RIP (Rickard)
	11.30am	The People of the Parish

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.