



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 31st January 2021
Fourth Sunday of the Year (B)
Racial Justice Sunday

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Racial Justice Sunday

Today the Church in England and Wales focuses on racial justice. Central to our faith is the teaching that every person is a beloved child of God, and every person is made in the image and likeness of God. The colour of our skin, language that we speak, and country of our birth should make no difference at all to how we are treated by others. Indeed, how wonderful to celebrate a diversity of cultures, a richness of heritage from which we can all learn, one from another. This is faith at its best – the Pentecost faith where the disciples could be heard and understood by those of all nations, as they spoke the faith-filled, joyful, hope-filled and unifying language of Christ's love. To discover more about the Catholic Church's work for racial justice have a look at www.carj.org.uk, and to hear recently ordained Priest Fr Paschal Uche talk about his experience as a young black Catholic have a look at the BrentwoodCYS YouTube Channel for Fr Paschal's "BCYS Voices" talk from December 2020.

Prayers this week

As the national death toll from Covid-19 passes 100,000 we remember that each one of those people is a son or daughter, a friend; many are a brother or a sister, parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. For those we know by name, we pray by name. For those who grieve, we stand together with you in sorrow. Through it all, we hope – hope in the vaccine, hope in the exhausted and dedicated medical teams, and hope in the truth of faith that "death is life changed, but not ended."

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.

First Holy Communion All those who registered on the 2020/21 **First Holy Communion** programme have now received emails 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. Thank you to those who have already been in touch – you should have received a reply; if you haven't, please give us a ring.

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.

Banning Nuclear Weapons. Last Sunday, Peace Sunday, marked a significant moment in the work for peace, as the United Nations treaty banning nuclear weapons came into international law on 21st January. The treaty states that signatories must: “never under any circumstances ... develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”. However, the UK Government has refused to sign this treaty. Our Bishops and other church and faith leaders have asked them to reconsider this position, and more details about this can be found at <https://paxchristi.org.uk/nuclear-ban-treaty-2021/> We are a Church that champions life, from conception to natural death: together with climate change, nuclear weapons are currently the biggest single threat to life on our planet. Please take time to learn more about this, and to support the work of Pax Christi.

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 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.

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 and at the moment they are in particular 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, Deodorant. All donations are welcome.

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: *We now have two new hearts on display in the front garden as a sign of hope to all who pass by. There is plenty of room so 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 recently 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. We pray for all his family. His funeral will take place in Ireland.

This week we celebrate:

Tuesday 2nd	The Presentation of the Lord
Wednesday 3rd	St Anne Line and St Blaise
Friday 5th	St Agatha
Saturday 6th	St Paul Miki & Companions
Sunday 7th	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

Mass Intentions

Saturday 30th	6.30pm	For the staff of Clover Cottage (Peggy)
Sunday 31st	9.30am	Brian Newall RIP (Rickard)
	11.30am	The People of the Parish
Wednesday 3rd	12.15pm	Teresa McNeela RIP (Ware)
Saturday 6th	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 7th	9.30am	Hilary Bliss RIP (Bliss Family)
	11.30am	Mary Williams RIP (West)

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.