



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 14th February 2021
Sixth Sunday of the Year (B)
World Day for the Unemployed

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

Valentine's Day

Love is a precious gift, from God; indeed it is what defines God. St Valentine was martyred for his faith in around 270AD, and ever since then a wonderful array of myths and legends, hearts and chocolates have been woven together to bring us to Valentine's Day. However the traditions began, it is undoubtedly beautiful and uplifting to celebrate love, romantically. For some today is a sad day, a reminder of broken hearts: you are in our prayers. For those celebrating, we give thanks to God: relax and rejoice in your love!

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

There is a handout with this newsletter, also available to download on the website, where there is a dedicated page www.stedwards-romford.org/lent-and-easter-2021

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday there will be **Masses at 9.30am, 12.15pm and 7pm**. The Government advice remains **Stay at Home**, except for exercise and essential work, and so to help you with "ashes at home" we are **Livestreaming the 9.30am Mass** (see website for link). The Livestream Mass will then be available all day, to watch and pray at home. From 10.30am you will be able to **collect blessed ashes from the presbytery**, and then administer ashes to those at home; you could watch and pray the Livestream Mass, and give ashes at the same moment as they are given in the Mass (any Baptised person can administer ashes). Within the Mass, ashes will be sprinkled on people's head, rather than a cross on the forehead, to minimize any possibility of Covid transmission. This is in accordance with guidance issued by the Bishops.

Hearts of Hope – Our hearts of hope will turn purple for Lent, with hope-filled quotes.

CAFOD would like to say a big Thank You for your generosity in the funds you have donated in recent months. These have helped to provide information and resources against the Corona Virus in very poor parts of the world. Your contributions definitely saved lives. However, the problems that existed before the virus are still there, which is why we are sending information that the next Family Fast Day is on Friday 26th February and the collection will be taken up on the week-end of 27th/28th of February. There will be more details next week.

National Marriage Week.

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. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, and managing fears can all be a source of conflict and stress. 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.

Parish Council for 2021

Fr Dominic writes: So many people help in kind and magnificent ways, serving the parish. To you all, thank you. Since last summer I have been meeting with a group who helped in the first and second lockdowns, as well as helped guide wider comments in relation to the building project. This group contains many of the leaders of Sacramental programmes, and social elements of parish life, and as such they are quite representative, as well as having good networks – hopefully each person in the parish recognizes one of these names! As we navigate the next few months, they have kindly agreed to serve as an Interim Parish Council, helping guide decisions. Please keep them in prayer and please offer them any comments, celebrating what is good in the parish, highlighting any problems, and suggesting fresh ideas: **Annette Bacon, Emilie Elays, Geraldine Ellis, Tony Hable, Siobhan Marshall, Joan Murphy, Liz Nicotra, Mark O’Donoghue, Julia Pitkin, Nicola Roberts, Colin Smith and John Swallow.**

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.

Confirmation – it is the **final day** for those in **current Year 11 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 **tomorrow, Monday 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 the 17 of you 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. For now, please **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.

Bishop John Arnold is the first speaker in a weekly series of talks focused on the **Catholic response to Climate Change.** He is speaking on Thursday 18th February 7.30pm – 8.30pm and the talks continue via Zoom on Thursdays in Lent. To register please email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global and for more information about this area of Catholic life and faith have a look at www.catholicclimatemovement.global

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.

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

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 the foodbank is 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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 13th	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Eleanor Piper RIP (KSC Romford)
	11.30am	Ints of Kris Suarez (Suarez)
Wednesday 17th	9.30am	Leslie Moore RIP (Mother's Prayers)
	12.15pm	Terry Mernin RIP (Heneghan)
	7.00pm	Tom Murnane RIP (Grimes)
Thursday 18th	8.00am	Nurses and Doctors in our community
Saturday 20th	6.30pm	Peter Schroeyers RIP (Schroeyers)
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Ints of Terry Raftery (Donnelly)
	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, 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.

Diocese of Brentwood Registered Charity No. 234092. Web site: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net