



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 28th February 2021
Second Sunday of Lent Year (B)

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

There is a handout full of Lenten opportunities at the back of the church, also available to download on the website, where there is a dedicated page:

www.stedwards-romford.org/lent-and-easter-2021

This weekend the Gospel tells us of the Transfiguration: **we remember in prayer those who transform our lives by shining as lights in the darkness.** Take a moment to pray personally for someone who has illuminated and transformed the last few months for you. Thank God for them – their brightness is a reflection of Divine love.

The “Road Map” out of Covid-19. We are still receiving details from the Government and the Bishops' Conference, but the key elements are:

- Restrictions will remain tightly in place for **Holy Week and Easter**; we will arrange extra Masses and services where possible, and those details will be available from 14th March.
- **Baptisms** will be possible from 17th May, with up to 30 guests, and we will be in touch in the next few days with those families who have let us know that they have children awaiting Baptism, to begin to arrange dates.
- **First Holy Communion** dates will be adjusted so that they take place after 21st June. We will be in touch with families in the next few days.
- **Confirmations** will take place (for the 2020 cohort) on Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May; there will be final details after 12th April, to be as certain as possible.

We are in the midst of Fair Trade Fortnight. We are committed as a parish to Fairtrade – using tea and coffee for meetings and socials (in normal times!) with the Fairtrade mark. It is also possible to buy Fairtrade chocolate (www.divinechocolate.com), fruit juice, biscuits, clothing, trainers, flowers, wine, gin and vodka (www.fair-drinks.com) ...! What it means for something to be certified as Fair Trade is that those working on the product are paid a decent wage, and work in decent conditions. To buy FairTrade is part of the fight against slavery, and it is another way to live faith. Most of the large supermarkets have FairTrade options – look out for them. **Pray for all those campaigning to bring justice, hope and kindness to workers;** to find out more go to <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk> where there are also some superb resources for schools.

CAFOD Family Fast Day. Please bring fast day envelopes back **today** or post through the presbytery door this week. You'll remember hearing about Abdella last week, walking **ten hours a day** to get water for his family. As he said, this is a "waste of my life." Change can happen for Abdella – thank you for any donation you are able to make to Cafod this Lent. You can view the video giving more details about Abdella at www.cafod.org.uk/fastday. You can donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/give

Stations of the Cross online. Jesus' journey to the cross is full of characters who have much to say to us in a time of pandemic: Simon of Cyrene, Veronica, the soldier who witnesses the crucifixion and declares Jesus is the Son of God. We consider Jesus' falls, his words of forgiveness from the cross, and the moment when Mary cradles him in her arms, after his death. To reflect and pray during Lent you will find the link for the Stations first shown on 19th February (reflections inspired by the events of the pandemic) and those shown on 26th February (reflections written by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal) on the dedicated website page: <https://stedwards-romford.org.uk/lent-and-easter-2021/> On this webpage are also the accompanying booklets, to download, and printed copies remain available in the church.

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. Sleep out from **midnight Friday 26th March – 7am Sunday 27th March. Fr Dominic will be sleeping out**, with the deer and the moles at Walsingham House at Abbotswick, from where Mass will be celebrated as part of an evening leading into the sleepout, for people to watch from home as they prepare to sleep in their gardens (or, if permitted, the gardens of friends). And – STOP PRESS!!! – teachers from St Peter's will be sleeping out – names revealed next week! <https://bcys.net/events/sleepout2021> for full info, including a sponsor form. Please also email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you are taking part in Romford. To sponsor Fr Dominic go to www.bcys.net/donate and select the "sleepout" option, or put good old fashioned cash in an envelope marked "sleepout" and put it through the letterbox of the presbytery.

Missed the Thursday 8am Mass so far this Lent? Don't worry – there are still four more! Simply arrive any time before 7.59am on a Thursday in Lent for a simple and prayerful Mass – a lovely way to begin the day before (home) school or work

Easter Eggs for the Foodbank. In addition to the normal – and wonderful – Foodbank donations of all the essential items, keeping some families going in very tough times, this would also be a moment to consider donating Easter Eggs, as these will form part of special food parcels in the weeks ahead. **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. **During this time of Lent why not donate “Forty days of Food for others”.** **Make a list of 40 items – basics, essentials, treats, toiletries – and sort out one item each day, so that you arrive at Mass on Easter Sunday with a wonderful “hamper of hope” to donate to the food bank**

Instagram Youth Mass. There is a simple monthly Youth Mass on Instagram at 8pm on the first Wednesday of every month. This month we will be praying for those who are homeless, who are at risk of being back on the streets when the Covid-19 measures ease. The Mass is also a chance to offer prayers and intentions during the Livestream, notably for those who are ill, those who have lost loved ones, and those with particular struggles or joys. You’ll find it all by following @BrentwoodCYS on Instagram.

Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society – bccs – do incredible work supporting children, families and schools across the Diocese. Fr Dominic had the privilege of writing the cover article for their spring newsletter, published this week – you can read it at https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS_Spring_Newsletter_2021.pdf

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

Rest in Peace

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Patrick Lobo** who died on Wednesday. His funeral details will follow. We pray for Miriam and the family.

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Saman Khoury** who died recently. His funeral will take place on Thursday 4th March at 1pm, with just close family attending, though it will be available to livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h735CpuaK8o>. The family thank the parish for our prayers, and have asked for donations (in lieu of flowers) to be made to Medical Aid for Palestine (www.map.org.uk).

This week we celebrate:

Monday 1st **St David**
Friday 5th **Women's World Day of Prayer**
Sunday 7th **Third Sunday of Lent**

Mass Intentions

Saturday 27th	6.30pm	Eileen Fox RIP (Rickard)
Sunday 28th	9.30am	The People of the Parish
	11.30am	Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life (KSC Romford)
Wednesday 3rd	12.15pm	George Williams RIP (Watson)
Thursday 4th	8.00am	Members of the Emergency Services.
Saturday 6th	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 7th	9.30am	Valarie Moyse RIP (O'Donnell)
	11.30am	In Thanksgiving (Ibeh Family)

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.