



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 7th February 2021
Fifth Sunday of the Year (B)
World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

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Preparing for Lent

Fr Dominic writes: We've just put the crib away and it is Lent already?! Well, nearly – **Ash Wednesday** is 17th February. This Lent I am very mindful that we have already given up so much in the last year, and had so much taken from us, that it will help for our focus to be looking outwards – who can we help? What acts of charity and kindness can we offer? Who is in need of some extra prayers? A Lent of “**giving - not giving up**”! Next week we'll have more details of “**Forty days of food for others**”, along with a **special early Mass for schoolchildren and home-workers**. We will have **Stations of the Cross** available via YouTube each Friday, and also record a **Lenten Penitential Service**. Most vitally, it will help us to keep in our hearts and minds that Lent is a preparation for Easter – we have been on Calvary, in many ways, for a year – we journey forward towards the Resurrection, in hope and in faith.

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday there will be three Masses, at 9.30am, 12.15pm and 7.00pm. **Remember that the Government guidance is still to Stay at Home, apart from daily exercise and essential work.** So the 9.30am Mass will be Livestreamed, and available all day. From 10.30am you'll be able to collect ash from the presbytery to take home, and then watch and pray Mass, offering ashes at home at the appropriate moment in the Mass. Within Mass, ash will be given by sprinkling on the head, following guidance from our Bishops, to minimise any risk of Covid transmission.

Prayers this week

The death of Captain Sir Tom Moore is symbolic of so much that is both heroic and appalling about Covid. Reflecting on him, we pray for all those who quietly serve others in this time, those who will never make headlines and are just calmly and wonderfully helping with kindness. We pray, too, for all who have died from Covid, and all who grieve – not one of them “just another number” but every person a picture on a mantelpiece, treasured in the hearts of others, remembered with love, and cherished by God in whom we have the faith and hope that “death is life changed, not ended.”

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 Elayts, 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 week** 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 **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

Livestream Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World day of Prayer for the Sick, Thursday 11th February 7pm. This Mass will be celebrated especially for those who would have been due to travel with HCPT and Diocesan pilgrimages this year. At a time of pandemic, the graces and prayers of Lourdes seem especially important, and all are welcome online. Music, from young musicians of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, will include songs and hymns familiar from Lourdes. YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/2RI1GCARDQM>

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.

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.

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 – We continue to welcome new hearts – simply post them through the presbytery letter box. It is Valentine’s Day next Sunday – why not design a special extra heart for someone you love, as a sign of hope and joy in lockdown?!

We remember in prayer the family of Kathleen O’Brien on the first month’s anniversary of her death.

This week’s Saints and days for particular prayer:

Monday 8th **Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking
and those who work to combat it.**

Wednesday 10th **St Scholastica**

Thursday 11th **Our Lady of Lourdes**

Sunday 14th **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time –
World Day for the Unemployed**

Mass Intentions

Saturday 6th	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 7th	9.30am	Hilary Bliss RIP (Bliss Family)
	11.30am	Mary Williams RIP (West)
Wednesday 10th	12.15pm	Carlos Simporios RIP (Short)
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)

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.

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