



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 14th March 2021

Laetare Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year (B)

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Parish Website www.stedwards-romford.org.uk

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Parish Facebook Page and Twitter account: RomfordRC

St. Peter's Primary School

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Head Teacher

Mrs Jenny Waterfield

Preparing for Holy Week and Easter

All the information you need is on a handout with this newsletter, and also available to download from the dedicated page of the website:

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

This includes:

Mass and Service times for Holy Week and Easter

Booking arrangements (which apply for the Good Friday Services, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses). Bookings open from 2pm, Sunday 14th March.

From Palm Sunday there will be a booklet to guide you through Holy Week, "in church and at home", with the readings and Order of Service for each of the main liturgies.

This week we hold in prayer all mothers and mother figures. We pray in a particular way for children who grieve the loss of mothers, and mothers who grieve the loss of children. We pray for mothers and children separated from each other, for any reason. We pray tenderly for mothers and grandmothers who could not be visited on Mothers' Day last year, and for whom visits this year will take place in a park, from the end of a driveway, or through a window. We pray for mothers who in addition to everything else have been home-schooling for several months of the last year. In the gentle embrace of Mary, and in the hope of the Resurrection, we pray for more joyful times ahead.

Covid-19 Updates

Arrangements within the church

This weekend we revert to the 1m+ distancing of our pews (they are spaced at 1.25m, as a minimum), with **face coverings remaining compulsory for anyone without medical exemption. We ask those with exemption to wear a lanyard, if at all possible**, to avoid embarrassment for you or for our Stewards. The church windows will continue to be opened, to assist with ventilation.

All of this is reverting back to the pre-Christmas arrangements; in January we removed pews due to the catastrophic situation in Havering. This was a pastoral response, and in returning to the pre-Christmas arrangements, we remain fully consistent with all the laws and guidance. **We also remind you, please, to use sanitizer when entering and exiting the church, not to gather after church, and to follow the advice of our Stewards.**

So far, the way that everyone has followed all the Covid-safe arrangements has been a delight – we have, hopefully, just three or four more months – please continue to help everyone to be safe and well. We continue to pray for the nurses, doctors, key workers, essential workers and front-line heroes who are doing so much.

Livestream

The Livestream remains permanently in place, and if you have any Covid symptoms, or are shielding, please do not risk your health or others by coming to Mass. The 9.30am Mass each Sunday is available on www.youtube.com/c/romfordrc, and if 9.30 is not a convenient time the Mass then remains online. The direct link for the most recent Mass is on the parish website. If you **subscribe** to the channel (which is free) you get a reminder whenever a fresh Mass or service is broadcast.

Sacramental Programmes

We have been in touch with the families of the 29 children awaiting Baptism, as well as with the 19 candidates awaiting Confirmation (from May 2020!). The First Holy Communion programme, with 49 children, begins in late April, and the 2021 Confirmation programme, with 25 candidates, will run from late April to November.

Please keep all the families, children and young people in your prayers

Stations of the Cross online, 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 Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS) 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, takes place from **midnight Friday 26th March – 7am Saturday 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 (11.15pm, on the BCYS YouTube channel) as part of an evening leading into the sleepout, for people to watch from home as they prepare to sleep in their gardens.

From St Peters, **Mrs Waterfield, Mrs Parker, Miss Griffin, Mr Hetchin, Miss Munday, Mrs O’Bryan and Mrs Bond are all sleeping out**, and from amongst our young people **Matthew Bacon, John Bond, Cian Bush, Aimee O’Sullivan, Izzy & Megan Roberts and Izzy Seaman.** Also, **Denis Courtney** and other parishioners sleeping outside, in gardens too!

Thank you to you all – it is not too late to sign up, or find out more: for all the details, including a sponsor form, go to <https://bcys.net/events/sleepout2021>. Please also email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you are taking part in Romford. **To sponsor Fr Dominic or anyone from the school or parish, 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.**

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**

I hear about refugees and I ask, “what can I do”? Inspired by his Grandparents, themselves refugees, Rob Green, a former Champion pupil and a young BCYS leader, travelled to a refugee camp in Greece: what he saw inspired and challenged him. Interspersed with reflective questions, and information from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) hear Rob tell his story in the latest BCYS voices video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqt0mvRrDH0>. More details of the whole BCYS voices series and much more at www.bcys.net

Missed the Thursday 8am Mass so far this Lent? Don’t worry – you have two more chances! 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 school or work.

Rest in Peace

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Patrick Lobo**. His funeral will take place on Thursday 25th March at 1.45pm and the livestream link will be on the website from later this week. We pray for Miriam and the family.

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Anne Cheasley** (daughter of Rose and Dan Kenneally) who died on 27th February aged 57. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 23rd March at 12.15pm and the livestream link will be on the website from later this week. We pray for her husband Martin and her family.

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Norman Greene** who died on 6th March aged 85. His funeral will take place on Tuesday 6th April at South Essex Crematorium at 11.20am. We pray for his wife Joan and his family.

We pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Veronica Oddi** who died recently. We pray for her sister Rosanna and her family.

This week we celebrate:

Wednesday 17th St Patrick

Friday 19th St Joseph

Sunday 21st Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

Saturday 13th	6.30pm	Margaret Kelly RIP (Bacon)
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Ann Wartanbany RIP (Gillooly)
	11.30am	The People of the Parish
Wednesday 17th	12.15pm	Thomas Murnane RIP (Heneghan)
Thursday 18th	8.00am	For Essential Workers
Saturday 20th	6.30pm	Andrew Corbett RIP (Corbett)
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Ann & John Rickard
		60th Wedding Anniversary
	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. 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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