



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 21st March 2021
Fifth Sunday of Lent Year (B)

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Preparing for Holy Week and Easter

All the information you need is on a handout, 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 are coming in quickly – book today!**

From next weekend, 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 weekend we are very mindful that it is exactly a year since the first lockdown began. 125,000 people have died in the UK, and millions across the world. Many more have been gravely ill. Front line, emergency and care workers have been stretched to breaking point. Friday (19th March) was the Feast of St Joseph – he is an example of a silent, quiet, heroic and vital presence throughout Jesus' life. Today, let us hold in prayer all the quiet yet essential heroes of the last year; those we have needed in our own lives, and those across the country and across the world. Pope Francis has written a special letter, “A Father's heart”, about St Joseph – you can read it at www.vatican.va

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 is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT-2fOYRVjo> 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 is <stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-edward> 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.

Mass Intentions

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
Tuesday 23rd	12.15pm	Funeral Mass – Anne Cheasley RIP
Wednesday 24th	12.15pm	Samantha Donnelly RIP (Donnelly)
Thursday 25th	8.00am	Vaccination and Test Centre Volunteers
	1.45pm	Funeral Mass – Patrick Lobo RIP
Saturday 20th	6.30pm	Ints of Caroline McNiff (Heneghan)
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Andrew & Margaret Gumbs
		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-LaurentMarie, 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

This week we commemorate:

Thursday 25th The Annunciation of the Lord

Friday 26th A national day of prayer for the survivors of sexual abuse

Sunday 28th Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Lenten Penitential Service – online from 7pm this Friday, 26th March, and available throughout Holy Week. The service includes reflections on three short Bible passages – words of forgiveness, love and mercy spoken on the way to the cross, and on the cross. You will find the service on our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/c/romfordrc and the direct link to the service will be on the website later this week.

Palm Sunday Masses begin in the church; palms will be blessed during the Mass, and available to take home at the end of Mass. For those watching and praying from home, palms can be collected from the presbytery after the Sunday morning Masses.

Covid-19 Updates

Arrangements within the church

Our pews are now 1m+ distancing (they are spaced at 1.25m, as a minimum). **Face coverings remain 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. **We 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

Sunflowers St Peter's Parents Association are hosting a 'Tallest Sunflower Competition' £1 entry for 3 seeds and a prize for the tallest entry. Measure your sunflower on 14th July. Proceeds to Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

More details and growing tips <https://st-peters.havering.sch.uk/havering/primary/st-eters/site/pages/parents/parentsassociation>

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/>

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. **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.**

Thank you The SVP would like to thank all those who have made donations to the society during the pandemic which has enabled us to offer support to those in need.

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**

Missed the Thursday 8am Mass so far this Lent? Last chance! Simply arrive any time before 7.59am this Thursday for a simple and prayerful Mass – a lovely way to begin the day before school or work.