



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 28th March 2021
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (Year B)

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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
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Holy Week and Easter

There are paper copies of information available at the back of the church. For the most up to date information, for all the Livestream links for Masses and services, and to download booklets and other resources helpful in Holy Week, please go to dedicated page of the website:

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

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.

There is 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. Please take a copy for yourself and family members; this can be used at home, to follow the Livestream, or brought to church. **We cannot reuse copies (due to Covid rules) so please keep your personal copy for use all week.**

We hold in prayer all those in the Middle East. This week, when the location of all our Gospel readings is the holy city of Jerusalem, we pray for those caught in conflict in Israel, Gaza and Palestine, and for those who have fled Syria, the Lebanon, and many other countries as refugees. We are called to "welcome the stranger" and we pray our country will be a safe and welcoming haven for those fleeing war zones. We give thanks for Pope Francis recent visit to Iraq, and we continue to pray for peace.

The Lenten Penitential Service – is now online 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. The direct link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOpBD7yhaTA>

Holy Week posters are available after Masses, for display in your window, to help spread the message of how precious and sacred this week is. Please take one and put it where it is as visible as possible!

Stations of the Cross online, to reflect and pray during Holy Week. You will find the booklets and 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/>

Gift Aid Boxes If you use the weekly offertory envelopes, please collect your new box of envelopes from the Porch. If you have any queries please contact Tony Hable our Gift Aid organiser at romford-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org or the Parish Office on 01708 740308. Thank you.

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>

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.

Sponsored Sleepout – “Sleep out to help out” – to help the homeless & BCYS.

At the time of writing the newsletter the forecast was for rain throughout Friday, but then for a cold and clear night Friday into Saturday. By the time you read this, you'll know how the weather actually was – and those who took part in the sleepout will certainly know it, to their very bones.

Prior to the sleepout over £850 had been received, online and in cash, for those taking part from Romford, and that is wonderful; when we know how much has been raised by all those taking part, we will update this total. The money will be split between charities working to provide essential support for those who are homeless, and the BCYS, who provide superb opportunities for young people across the Diocese.

Congratulations to all those who completed the sleepout: from St Peters, **Mrs Waterfield, Mrs Parker, Miss Griffin, Mr Hetchin, Miss Munday, Mrs O'Bryan and Mrs Bond**, 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, as well as Fr Dominic (who slept out with the deer, moles and badgers at Walsingham House at Abbotswick). And some of the young Cub Scouts in the parish slept in cardboard dens in their homes – well done!

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 any time this week.

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 final week of Lent why not donate “Forty days of Food for others”.** Make a list of 40 items – basics, essentials, treats, toiletries – and arrive at Mass on Easter Sunday with a wonderful “hamper of hope” to donate to the food bank

Rest in Peace

We pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Norman Greene** who died recently. We pray for his wife Joan, and for all the family. His funeral will take place at South Essex Crematorium on 6th April.

We pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Patricia Jeeves** who died recently. We pray for her daughter Lisa and her family. Her funeral Mass will take place on 15th April.

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 27th	6.30pm	Ints of Caroline McNiff (Heneghan)
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Andrew & Margaret Gumbs
		60th Wedding Anniversary
	11.30am	The People of the Parish
Wednesday 31st	12.15pm	Agnes Carey RIP (F)
Maundy Thursday 1st	7.30pm	In thanksgiving for the service of the Parish SVP
Good Friday 2nd	11am	Children's Service
	3pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
	7pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
		<i>Paschal Vigil</i>
Saturday 3rd	7.30pm	Fr Tom Jordan RIP
		<i>The Resurrection of the Lord</i>
Sunday 4th	8.00am	Parishioners who have passed away in the past year
	9.30am	The People of the Parish
	11.30am	Ints of Lucy Marks (Marks)

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.*

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