



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Third 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](http://www.stedwards-romford.org/lent-and-easter-2021)

This weekend we hold in prayer the **visit of Pope Francis to Iraq**. It is a visit with great significance, and great hope; over a million Christians have fled Iraq in the last twenty years, and many churches have been desecrated. The Pope's visit is a sign of fresh beginnings, and for it to take place while the pandemic rages is a sign of how much Pope Francis yearns to reach out to those on the edges, as a shepherd close to his people even in the most dire situations. Please pray for everyone involved, and do look at the Vatican website [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) to find the words of the Pope in homilies this weekend.

**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**; the Parish Council will confirm arrangements this week; details available next weekend.
- **Baptisms** will be possible from 17<sup>th</sup> May, with up to 30 guests. We are in touch with those awaiting Baptisms; if you have not heard from us, please email.
- **First Holy Communion** dates have been adjusted so that they take place after 21<sup>st</sup> June, to enable families to gather as fully as possible.
- **Confirmations** will take place (for the 2020 cohort) on Pentecost Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May; there will be final details after 12<sup>th</sup> April, to be as certain as possible.

**Building works – Update.** For our main building works, we still await an appointment with Havering Council; we are hopeful this will happen soon. **For the work to the disabled toilet and sacristy, and for the installation of the permanent Livestream facilities, there has been wonderful progress and this work is complete.**

There were wonderful donations received to support these projects – which we could not have afforded otherwise. The donations totalled **£16,765**

The costs total **£20,041**. This is made up of the **Livestream: £5,766; Sacristy works and disabled toilet: £7,895; Decoration, plumbing, electrical and minor works to presbytery: £6,380**. Most of the presbytery has not been painted for 18 years.

There is an **ongoing cost of £22/week for the Livestream**, to cover Copyright licences for broadcast, as well as the service charge for the server hosting the Livestream, and any ongoing maintenance. We know it is a lifeline for many who are housebound, ill, or unable to attend Mass, and we will continue the provision after the pandemic. If anyone can help with the ongoing cost, that would be greatly appreciated.

### **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 26<sup>th</sup> March – 7am Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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). From St Peters, **Mrs Waterfield, Mrs Parker, Miss Griffin are all sleeping out** as are several of our young people – we will list all the names next week! Go to <https://bcys.net/events/sleepout2021> for full info, including a sponsor form. Please also email [frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org) if you are taking part in Romford. To sponsor Fr Dominic go to [www.bcys.net/donate](http://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 Campion 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=xqt0mvRrDHO>. More details of the whole BCYS voices series and much more at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)

**'Will we survive or drown?'** Calais Light is a small refugee charity group that is still caring for refugees here & in Northern France. Watch & listen to the desperate thoughts of a refugee mother adrift in the dark in our Guided Meditation : **“A minute on the Aegean Sea”**. **Imagine the terrible decisions she has to make. Watch on the website: [www.calaislight.com](http://www.calaislight.com) & please donate. Thank you.**

**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 19<sup>th</sup> February (reflections inspired by the events of the pandemic) and those shown on 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Missed the Thursday 8am Mass so far this Lent? Don't worry – there are still three 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 school or work.

**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” as significant Covid restrictions remain in place.** 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](http://www.youtube.com/c/romfordrc). The direct link to the Mass is posted on the website each week.

### Rest in Peace

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

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Anne Cheasley** who died recently. Her funeral will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>The People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Valarie Moyse RIP (O'Donnell)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>In Thanksgiving (Ibeh Family)</b>
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Mary Hines RIP (Ellis)</b>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>For those who work in care homes.</b>
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Margaret Kelly RIP (Bacon)</b>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Ann Wartanbany RIP (Gillooly)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>The People of the Parish</b>

**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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