



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 25th April 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)
Good Shepherd Sunday
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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**Each year, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter,
the Gospel gives us an image of Christ, the Good Shepherd.**

The Good Shepherd seeks us when we are lost, watches over us, leads us and nurtures us. And the Good Shepherd calls us – are we ready to listen to his voice? Today is the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The word vocation comes from the Latin word “vocare” – to call. Our personal vocation is our response to a call from God. Amongst us there are people living their vocation, and those still discerning it. Are you called to married life? To priesthood? To religious life? Or to the single life? Do you ever pray about who and what God is calling you to be? We think too of professions with a vocational element, notably nurses and teachers. If your own vocation is settled, please pray today for those who are still discerning, especially the young people in our parish. And if you are a young adult considering priesthood or the religious life, please know that you are always very welcome to speak with Fr Dominic.

Please keep in prayer our Diocesan seminarians: Rev. Deacon Tony Grant and Rev. Deacon Michael Barwick (both due to be ordained priests this summer), Damien Wade (due to be ordained Deacon this summer), Alexander Johnson, Jonathan Burden, Frank Westcott, Alex Wyndham, Matúš Meleg and Moses Itene. We pray for couples engaged to be married, and for those discerning single life and Religious life.

We also hold in prayer the people of India, including relatives of parishioners, as Covid-19 ravages the country. We pray for the people of Myanmar and Nigeria, victims of terrible violence. We pray for those working to bring peace, and hope.

Annual Migrants' Mass. In the Year of St Joseph, and in honour of St Joseph the Worker, the London Dioceses of Southwark, Westminster and Brentwood will celebrate the 16th Annual Mass for Migrants on Saturday 1st May 2021 at 11.20am. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan and live-streamed from St William of York Roman Catholic Church, Forest Hill. Although we cannot welcome the faithful in person this year, this lively online service will still celebrate of the significant contribution made by migrants to the life of our Dioceses, especially those who have served as frontline workers throughout the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Livestream the Mass at: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/migrants-mass>

An odd request – but is anyone travelling to Exeter in the next few weeks? We have two large boxes of ends of used candles, weighing many kilos. It would be sad to throw them away, and expensive to post them. In Exeter there is a company that uses old wax to make fresh candles. If you could take the boxes, that would be wonderful.

Mary's Channel of Grace An initiative by the Legion of Mary to join them for nightly rosary, adoration, discussion forums, chats and much more. Starts with the Rosary 8pm daily. Zoom ID 4083 3503 Passcode: 876433. More details available from <https://www.legionofmary.ie/prayers>

Covid-19 Arrangements remain UNCHANGED

Arrangements within the church

Our pews are 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.**

Foodbank donations. The foodbank continues to be as busy as ever, and your donations are helping to feed families every week. It should not have to be like this – as we come out of the pandemic there will be fresh campaigns from the Trussell Trust to ensure that families do not need to use foodbanks, and that we can end child poverty. For now, foodbanks are the lifeline for many in our local community. The foodbank are currently in 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. **Please also think about items such as nappies and sanitary products.** Thank you for any donations that you make – donations can be left whenever the church is open for Mass, and can also be left at the presbytery (please just ring ahead first to be sure someone is in).

Caring for Creation – are you interested in protecting and caring for the environment, God’s creation? During this year we will be considering practical ways in which we could make parish life “greener”, as the country prepares to host International Environment Conferences with world leaders, in June and November, making commitments which affect us all. **Care for creation is part of our faith** – from the Book of Genesis right through to Pope Francis brilliant letter to the world, “LaudatoSi”, we are reminded that we are stewards of God’s creation. How we live, the resources we use, and how and where we spend our money, all have environmental impact.

Here’s just one practical question: if we were to put cycle racks in front of the church, would people cycle to Mass instead of driving? Would you? Or could you walk to Mass?

Last weekend several people responded to the call to be part of a group considering all this – and working towards becoming a recognized Cafod “LiveSimply” parish. If you would like to join them, or if you have comments/questions about this, please would you email Fr Dominic this week (frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org). We are looking for parishioners of all ages – and especially some teenage / young adult voices – to see what could be possible, and to develop this vital part of parish life during the spring and summer.

To read more about the LiveSimply Award, you will find plenty of links and information at <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>

Pope Francis and the Culture of Encounter On Saturday 15th May from 11 am until 12.30 pm Dr Austen Ivereigh, biographer of Pope Francis, will lead a Gidea Park live stream study day on the theme ‘The Culture of Encounter: Can Pope Francis’ vision of fraternity counter the politicization of faith?’ To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow the instructions found there.

Havering Council have also been in touch about an online residents meeting. They say: To help residents ease their way of out lockdown, we’ve arranged an online public Zoom meeting on **Monday, 26 April from 6pm**. We’ve invited public health professionals to answer your questions about the new rules, who can get vaccinated and when to get tested. Register to attend now: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/easing-out-of-lockdown-in-havering-tickets-150887637987>

Livestream volunteers needed. Could you be one of a team of 3-4 people to learn how to operate the Livestream? Ideally you will be familiar with the programme OBS (Outside Broadcast Studio), or have other very good IT knowledge. You'd be needed for Sunday 9.30am Mass, and it would be an act of faith and service for those who are ill, housebound, or unable to be at Mass. Training from now until the end of June with the amazing Beth who has seen us through the last 12 months, but soon heads for pastures new. Contact Fr Dominic if you are interested.

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.

Assistant Manager, Walsingham House at Abbotswick. The Youth Service are seeking to appoint an Assistant Manager at Walsingham House at Abbotswick to begin in the late summer. Closing date for applications is midday on Monday 10th May 2021. All information is on the website: <https://bcys.net/assistantmanager>

This week we celebrate:

Thursday 29th St Catherine of Siena

Saturday 1st St Joseph the Worker

Next Sunday 2nd Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Mass Intentions

Saturday 24th	6.30pm	Agnes Carey RIP (F)
Sunday 25th	9.30am	Ints of Matt Casey & Family (Foxen)
	11.30am	The People of the Parish
Wednesday 28th	12.15pm	Tom Murnane RIP (Phillips)
Saturday 1st	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd	9.30am	In Thanksgiving (Conti)
	11.30am	Michael & Brigid Power (Foundation)

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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