



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 2nd May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

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This weekend the Gospel gives us the image of the vine – Jesus the gardener is ready to tenderly and prayerfully prune, cutting away those parts of our lives that are dead wood, so that we may live ever more fruitfully and joyfully.

Yesterday (Saturday 1st May) was the Feast Day of St Joseph the Worker, the patron saint of all workers, especially those in manual work. We think of carpenters, gas fitters, electricians, plumbers, cleaners, and those who stack our supermarket shelves. We think also of the many migrant workers who are so essential to our community, and pray that they may always be welcomed kindly and generously. Yesterday Mass was celebrated for migrant workers across the Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, honouring their work, and recognising – with great sadness – the numbers of frontline workers from minority communities who have died in the pandemic.

We hold in prayer the people of India, including relatives of parishioners, as Covid-19 ravages the country. In this week of elections across the country, including elections for the Mayor of London, we pray for all of those in public office. At a time of difficult and challenging decisions, locally and nationally, we pray that our politicians will always consider the needs of the poorest in our communities, and those on the margins, at the heart of their policy making and decision taking.

In the month of May we also ask in a particular way for the Intercession of Our Lady; Mary, who prays for us with a mother's love, with compassion and hope.

Candles to Exeter – many thanks to those who offered; Paige, a student at Exeter, is taking the boxes of our part-used candles this weekend. A wonderful bit of recycling!

St Peter's School have created a wonderful virtual Easter Assembly which can be viewed via the school website [St Peter's Catholic Primary School Romford - Home \(st-peters.havering.sch.uk\)](http://St-Peter's-Catholic-Primary-School-Romford-Home-st-peters.havering.sch.uk)

Confirmation – 23rd May 2021. Finally! A group of 19 young people began their Confirmation programme in January 2020. They were due to be Confirmed on Pentecost Sunday 2020, and two attempts to celebrate the Sacrament since then have coincided with national lockdowns. But finally it looks as if we will be able to celebrate with them, on Pentecost Sunday 2021. Please do keep them all in your prayers – especially as many of them have exams at this time. **If you are one of the group, or a parent, please do check your email to be sure you have the information you need.** Those who have enrolled for the 2021 programme will receive an email in the next few days, and your course will begin on 6th June, heading towards Confirmation on National Youth Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King, 21st November 2021.

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.

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. As a parish we raised £518.50. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

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>

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. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow the instructions found there.

A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar for the faithful of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021 from 10am to 11.30am with a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

LaudatoSi Week begins next Saturday, 8th May. In next weekend's Masses there will be a particular focus on this aspect of living our faith.

THANK YOU to the parishioners who have volunteered to be part of the group considering **Care for Creation**. During the rest of 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?

The group considering all this – and working towards becoming a recognized Cafod "LiveSimply" parish – will meet in the next few days. If you would like to join them, or if you have comments/questions about this, please would you email Fr Dominic (frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org). Some teenage / young adult voices would especially help to complete the group – 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>

Covid-19 Arrangements remain UNCHANGED – see the website for full information

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.

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. **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).

St John's RC School, Woodford Bridge are recruiting full time Class Assistants. Previous experience of working with children or adults with special needs is essential. These are term time only positions and successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. Please visit www.stjohnsrcschool.co.uk

Rest in Peace

We pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Doris Colairo** who died recently. We pray for her son Matthew and her family. Her funeral will take place on 13th May at 10am.

This week we celebrate:

Monday 3rd SS Philip & James
Tuesday 4th The English Martyrs
Thursday 6th St John Payne
Next Sunday 9th Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Mass Intentions

Saturday 1st	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd	9.30am	In Thanksgiving (Conti)
	11.30am	Michael & Brigid Power (Foundation)
Wednesday 5th	12.15pm	Roisin O'Donnell RIP (O'Donnell)
Saturday 8th	6.30pm	James Carey RIP (F)
Sunday 9th	9.30am	Ints of Rita Gaillard (Gaillard)
	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.

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