



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 16th May 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year B)
World Communications Day

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth
5 Park End Road, Romford, Essex RM1 4AT
Telephone: 01708 740308
e-mail: romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

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
Head Teacher Mrs Jenny Waterfield

This weekend is World Communications Sunday, and Pope Francis' message encourages each of us to develop a "culture of encounter". In other words, when we meet someone else listen with an open heart and respect, ready to learn from them. Instead of just waiting for them to stop talking so that we can give our point of view! In all of our communications – our conversations with family and friends, our emails, our Facebook status updates, Twitter and Instagram posts, TikTok or YouTube videos, what messages are we sending? Are they messages of Christ's love, forgiveness, inclusion, welcome and peace? Or are we stirring up division, taking sides? If someone who was not a Christian was listening to our conversations or reading our social media, would they know that we are Christian? If you are looking for inspiration, have a look at the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a modern Saint – so modern that he built his own website. Or consider the life of St Dominic, patron Saint of all who preach God's word.

We hold in prayer the people of India, as Covid deaths pass the horrific figure of 250,000, with no sign of slowing down; we pray for **those in Gaza, Palestine and Israel**, where lives and hearts are torn apart by war and violence; we pray for **nurses** – Wednesday was International Nurses Day; we pray for **Foster Carers**. This fortnight is Foster Care fortnight; fostering can be a lifeline of security, hope, safety and fresh beginnings for children and teenagers; we pray for **students, from Year 11, Year 13 and at University**, taking exams and assessments in all sorts of combinations, online and in schools and colleges; we pray for **parents, grandparents and siblings** who feel the stresses of the students, as well as for **teachers and all who work in education**. May the summer bring fresh rest, relaxation and hope.

***LaudatoSi* week, 16th – 24th May**

On Wednesday evening we had a wonderful meeting with parishioners who have volunteered to be part of the group considering how we ever more carefully listen and respond to the cry of the earth, and the cry of the poorest people in the world.

Some changes that you'll see in the weeks ahead are:

- Where the wonderful "hearts of hope" have been, ever since January, we will now have a heart shaped flowerbed, full of sensory flowers and shrubs, attracting bees and butterflies. Thanks to the cubs and scouts who will be helping to create this in the weeks ahead, together with Jayne, our tremendous gardener.
- We will be buying cycle racks, to encourage more people to cycle to church
- Behind the hoarding, part of the land will be left to become wild, for natural diversity, and behind the presbytery fence, the same will happen in part of the garden. If you want a simple way to do this at home, in a garden or a window box, or to gift a friend some wildflower seeds, have a look at the website www.seedball.co.uk

Plus, one immediate action we can all take is to add to the petition asking that Havering Council recycles glass as part of the kerbside waste collection. Almost every other Council does this, and it makes a lot of difference to the amount recycled. The direct link to sign the petition is here: <http://chnq.it/HSsNQ2GSSf>

The members of the group who will be developing these ideas further, with a fresh idea in the newsletter every week, as well as beginning the application for the parish to receive the LiveSimply Award, are: Allison Rees, Amanda McKiernan, Colin Smith, Geraldine Ellis, Jayne Hickie, Joan Murphy, Judith Nichols, Nathaly Franzoni and Fr Dominic. More people are welcome to join, and we hope this will be a wonderful feature of parish life.

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.**

Foster Care Fortnight - Could you be a Havering Foster Carer and make a difference to the lives of young people? To find out more visit www.havering.gov.uk/fostering or Contact 01708 434574 email: fostering@havering.gov.uk

In the month of May we are invited to join with Pope Francis and Marian Shrines throughout the world in praying the Rosary, with a different Shrine leading the prayers each day - on Tuesday, 18th May, the Rosary will be led from Lourdes. We ask for the Intercession of Our Lady; Mary, who prays for us with a mother's love, with compassion and hope. All details and a live broadcast at 5pm each day (or watch and pray later in the evening) www.vaticannews.va

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, **next Sunday**, 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 that you need.** Those who have enrolled for the 2021 programme should have received an email 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. We have 3 volunteers - could you join them, as part of a team 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.

Diocesan Virtual Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Saturday 29th May – Bishop Alan will lead a virtual pilgrimage from the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, which we can join using the Shrine's live-streaming service via their website www.walsingham.org.uk or their YouTube channel 'Walsingham Catholic TV'.

St Bonaventure's school are beginning a new alumni network - Open to all former students and staff of St Bonaventure's School, Forest Gate. Please join and spread the word: news, events & opportunities to give back: <https://www.stbons.org/alumni/>

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).

Mass Intentions A list of Mass intentions sent to Fr Emilio in Kenya is on the notice board at the back of the church. He is very thankful for these; the stipends offered support him and others on the Mission in Kenya, including the running of a small hospital.

This week we celebrate:

Wednesday 19th St Dunstan

Thursday 20th St Bernadette of Siena

Friday 21st St Christopher Magallanes

Saturday 22nd St Rita of Cascia

Next Sunday 23rd PENTECOST SUNDAY (Year B) (Day of Prayer for the Church)

Mass Intentions

Saturday 15th	6.30pm	Donie O'Callaghan RIP (Peggy)
Sunday 16th	9.30am	The People of the Parish
	11.30am	Dec'd Members of McNeela Family (F)
Wednesday 19th	12.15pm	Elizabeth McHale RIP (McHale)
Friday 21st	2.00pm	Wedding – Amy Jones & Matthew Fleming
Saturday 22nd	6.30pm	Maria Victoria Contreras Renolayan RIP (Khlyd)
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Sharon Heaphey RIP (Winckle)
	11.30am	The People of the Parish
	2.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation – Mass offered for the young people being Confirmed today

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, Maureen Symes, 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