



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 23rd May 2021
Pentecost Sunday (Year B)
Day of Prayer for the Church

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

We congratulate and pray for our young people who will be Confirmed on Pentecost Sunday. They have waited a year to celebrate this Sacrament, and we pray for the parents, grandparents, catechists and friends who have journeyed with them. The Mass will be Livestreamed on the parish YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/c/romfordrc at 2.30pm on Sunday.

*Danny Annells (St James), Olivia Annells (St Christopher), Jessica Doumit (St Mary),
Ryan Doumit (St Charbel), Preston Fernandes (St Anne),
Nichola Gill (St Katherine Drexel), Isabella Ginivan (St Philomena),
Anna Grannell (St Marcella), Madison Hegarty (St Yves),
Aleksandra Karaczyn (St Catherine), Isaac Kelly (St Joseph of Cupertino),
Justin Lopez (St Maximilian Kolbe), Joshua Lopez (St Francis de Sales),
George McAulay (St Peter), Jack Mockus (St Antanas), Jessica Prendi (St Sebastian),
Scarlett Prior (St Lucy), Anthony Rotimi (St Martin de Porres),
Aaron Studdart (St Francisco d'Assisi), Roisin Tewkesbury (St Helena)
and Christopher Udeho (St Anthony).*

We hold in prayer the people of Gaza, Palestine and Israel, where lives and hearts are torn apart by war and violence; we continue to pray for the people of India and all those ravaged by Covid, especially where medicines are scarce. 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.**

Easing out of lockdown, with great care.

Some arrangements for places of worship have changed this week, but with the advice that where the Indian variant of Covid-19 is in the community, we should not change practices. For now, therefore our arrangements remain **unchanged**, with three exceptions:

Additional weekday Masses. From the beginning of June Mass will be celebrated on a Thursday at 9am and Friday at 9am, in addition to the Wednesday 12.15 Mass, and weekend Masses.

Funeral congregations can now increase to our Covid-safe maximum, of 85.

We are delighted to be resuming **Baptisms** – between now and September over 50 children will be Baptised at St Edwards! If you had a baby in lockdown, or have a child that is not yet Baptised, please get in touch and we will happily help you. **Thank you** to the catechists who help prepare families for Baptism.

Please see the Parish Website for all our additional Covid-safety measures, including the spacing of pews at 1.25m, the use of sanitizer and face masks, and the ventilation of our church before and during all Masses.

Laudato Si – Caring for our common home; listening and responding to “the cry of the earth, the cry of the world’s poorest people.”

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://chng.it/HSsNQ2GSSf>

The members of the group who are developing these ideas further, are: Allison Rees, Amanda McKiernan, Colin Smith, Geraldine Ellis, Jayne Hickie, Joan Murphy, Judith Nichols, Nathaly Franzoni, Sue Courtney, and Fr Dominic. We are beginning the application for the *LiveSimply* award, and there will be a fresh “LaudatoSi” idea in the newsletter every week, starting next weekend. More people are welcome to join the group, to share ideas, and we hope this will be a wonderful feature of parish life.

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.

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.

“Lourdes at Your Local”

From **Monday 26th - Friday 30th July** (the usual week of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes), Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alan each morning at 11am, with Anointing of the Sick and joyful music, followed by a cup of coffee and refreshments in the parish hall afterwards. The Masses will take place in Leigh-on-Sea, Clacton-on-Sea, Canning Town, Wanstead and Brentwood and everyone is warmly invited. Our nearest Mass is at **Brentwood Cathedral** at 11am on **Friday 30th July**.

These will then be streamed online each evening, and there will also be a Daily Rosary, Torchlight Procession and Talent Show available to take part in virtually during the week. Further details and a full itinerary – including **“Lourdes on the Lawn”** for **young adults, aged 18-28**, at Walsingham House on Saturday 31st July – are available on www.bcys.net/events.

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. All details and a live broadcast at 5pm each day (or watch and pray later in the evening) www.vaticannews.va

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 – next 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'.

Foodbank donations. The foodbank continues to be as busy as ever, and your donations are helping to feed families every week. At the moment, the foodbank are in particular need of **washing up liquid, long life milk, sugar, multi pack bars of chocolate and laundry detergent.** **Thank you** for any donations - 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).

Questions about the Vaccine, pregnancy, fertility? Speak to the Havering health professionals on a public zoom meeting on 27th May at 6.30pm. To register or find out more visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-and-the-vaccine-tickets

Rest in Peace

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Bernard Ling** who died recently. We pray for his sons Richard and Martin and all his family. His funeral will take place on Thursday 3rd June at 11am and then to Upminster Crematorium.

This week we celebrate:

Monday 24th Mary, Mother of the Church

Tuesday 25th St Bede the Venerable

Wednesday 26th St Philip Neri

Thursday 27th Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest

Next Sunday 30th The Most Holy Trinity (Year B)

Mass Intentions

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	<i>Celebration of Confirmation – Mass offered for the young people being Confirmed today</i>
Wednesday 26th	12.15pm	John Carey (F)
Saturday 29th	6.30pm	Ints of Mandi Hewitt (Murnane)
Sunday 30th	9.30am	The People of the Parish
	11.30am	Frank Rabitte RIP (Rabritte)

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-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, 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