



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 6th June 2021

The Body and Blood of Christ (Year B)

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Today is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ. The Gospel tells us of the Last Supper, the first Eucharist, and we are reminded that **Jesus gave his very self for us, as a definitive act of pure love that opened the pathway to eternal life. At every Mass we re-present the Last Supper. The **ordinary gifts of bread and wine are consecrated into the extraordinary gift of Jesus himself.****

Sometimes that understanding may leave us thinking we are unworthy of Holy Communion. Pope Francis' very first letter to the world (Encyclical) was called *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), and he drew from St Ambrose, writing, "**The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak**" (EG 47). We all need such nourishment, and it is a grace and gift to be able to receive it at Mass. I am very mindful of those who have shielded for many months, unable to receive Communion, and look forward to welcoming more and more people back, as restrictions ease. In the meantime, **how wonderful that 50 children in the parish are preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time**, just three weeks from now. We pray for them, and their families.

We hold in prayer the people of Gaza, Palestine and Israel, praying that the ceasefire will hold, and fresh peace and understanding will be possible. We pray for **all those who continue to be devastated by Coronavirus**, and all who are working to treat those who are ill, to accompany those who grieve, to encourage and support those who remain fearful of venturing into the world, and to rebuild shattered lives and hearts.

Repository As restrictions are lifted, we hope to re-open the repository after weekend Masses in early July. If you were previously on the rota and are happy to remain, or you would like to join the rota please contact Annette Bacon or the parish office.

This week we celebrate:

Wednesday 9th St Ephrem
Friday 11th The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday 12th The Immaculate Heart of Mary
Next Sunday 13th Eleventh Sunday of the Year (Year B)

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5th	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 6th	9.30am	Danny Wild RIP (Grimes)
	11.30am	Ints of Eileen Farrell (Grannell)
Wednesday 9th	12.15pm	Eleanor Piper RIP (SVP)
Thursday 10th	9.00am	Winifred Gardiner RIP (F)
Friday 11th	9.00am	Ints of Miriam Lobo (Lobo)
Saturday 12th	6.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday 13th	9.30am	Peter Schroeyers RIP (Schroeyers)
	11.30am	Arthur Coligan RIP (F)

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

Easing out of lockdown, with great care.

Some arrangements for places of worship have changed, 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:

There are now **weekday Masses** 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 have resumed **Baptisms** – with 6 Baptisms on the Bank Holiday weekend, and over 60 children celebrating Baptism in the weeks ahead. 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.”

This idea, for your home, was in last week’s newsletter, but we have kept it in as it is perfect for this Corpus Christi weekend; it is as old as the Last Supper, as old as the Passover meal. Say grace before you eat any food, or have a drink. At Mass we are reminded of Jesus giving thanks before blessing the bread and wine. Saying grace reminds us **that everything we eat and drink is a gift – God’s gift.** This changes our relationship with food and drink – try it and see! And it is a great habit for families to get into. Look up simple graces online. To say grace before meals costs nothing and changes everything.

Thanks to the cubs and scouts, as well as our wonderful gardener, Jayne; the heart shaped flowerbed is taking shape, as you can see, and the cubs and scouts will complete some final bee and butterfly friendly planting on Monday!

Cycle racks will be installed soon.

Behind the hoarding, and in the presbytery garden, part of the land is being left wild, for natural diversity. 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

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. **More people are welcome to join the group, to share ideas,** and we hope this will be a wonderful feature of parish life.

Parish Finances and Building Project. Next weekend at Masses, as well as on the website, the information from the financial year 2020/21 will be shared. There will also be an update about the building project. As with most things in life, there is some good news, and some challenges. For now, thank you for your generosity to the parish, and your kindness and encouragement as plans progress.

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.

We welcome into the family of the Church Francis Chidubem Agazue, Cian Bradley Thomas Leach and Sofia and Sadie Willis who were baptised this weekend. We pray for them and their families as they grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.

Mary's Meals offers a simple solution to world hunger. Their vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things. A digital copy of their new magazine is available at: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/magazine>. You will find all the latest news and uplifting stories about the children they feed, inspiring news about our volunteers and supporters and details about their new Pray in May campaign. If you would like a physical copy of the magazine or more information on how to become involved in supporting Marys Meals, please contact Theresa on 07845 084493 or email: info@marysmeals.org.

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).