



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Sixteenth Sunday of the Year (Year B)

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Parish Livestream: <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-edward>  
Parish Facebook Page and Twitter account: RomfordRC

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**This weekend's Gospel** tells us "Jesus took pity on the crowd, for they were like sheep without a shepherd." The original word that is translated here as "pity" has much more force – it means something more like, "from his very guts, Jesus felt the pain of the crowd." This is our God – a God of compassion and love, a God who feels and understands both our pain and our joy. Take time, this week, to share your struggles and stresses, joys and hopes with the Lord; this is what prayer is, and we most certainly need it in these unpredictable days.

**Government decisions** are not normally something I write about, but there have been two decisions this week which will sadly and profoundly affect the poorest in our community and in the world. **21,000 people in Havering rely on Universal Credit (UC)**. About 40% of them have jobs, but these are so low paid UC is still needed. Others are ill, or have suffered from domestic abuse or other radically changed circumstances which means they needed to apply for benefit. **During the pandemic an extra £20/week was added to UC. The Government are now removing this; the effects are devastating.**

Also this week **Foreign Aid is being cut from 0.7% to 0.5% of what our country produces**. Across the world UK funding supports millions with critical health care, clean water and education; it is the worst possible time to cut such essential funding. It will be left to charities like Cafod to pick up the pieces – please support them if you can. And please write to our MP, Andrew Rosindell, to share concerns about these two decisions which will have such harmful effects for those in greatest need.

On a brighter note, **Havering Council are supporting families on Free School Meals** to be able to feed their children during the summer holiday. This is wonderful. **Jesus says, "Whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers, you do to me"** (Mt 25)

## **Save the Date! WELCOME BACK SUNDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

from 10am – 3pm. An opportunity to come together as a parish for (weather permitting) a BBQ, social and fun day around the morning Masses.

**Get involved!** If you would like to help in any way with planning and running please email the parish office or speak to Anne Walsh. We will have a little soiree **THIS Monday (19<sup>th</sup> July) from 6pm – 7.15pm** in the presbytery garden, to dream and plan parish socials for the autumn, and into 2022. Everyone is welcome.

## **COVID safety measures – What happens at St Edwards after 19<sup>th</sup> July?**

This weekend (17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> July) there is no change.

**The Guidance from the Government and the Bishops emphasises “local responsibility.”** We are advised to be mindful both of the size of our church, and rising case rates locally. For this reason, and guided by the Parish Council, we will take a “two step” approach. From **next weekend until 16<sup>th</sup> August** the following things will remain identical, or very similar, to the last 16 months:

- **We strongly encourage face coverings to be worn while in church.** We can no longer insist on this, but we are advised that this is the best way to minimise transmission of the virus, and ask everyone to play their part in that
- **Windows and doors will be open,** to ensure the greatest possible ventilation
- **Sanitiser** will be provided by the doors
- **Track and Trace** remains in operation
- **Stewards will clean “touch points”** (ends and tops of pews, door handles, etc., after each Mass)

The changes you will notice are:

- **We will return two pews, and remove the red crosses which guide seating,** so the pews can be filled. The 1metre+ space will remain in front of each pew.
- **Kneelers can once again be used.**
- **This arrangement will give a maximum of approx. 125** in the church, and we will consider this to be our usual Covid maximum.

**Please do not come to church (or leave your home) if you have Coronavirus symptoms – please get a test.**

**Please get the vaccine, if you have not already done so**

**The Livestream remains, with the new permanent link:** Sunday 9.30 am and all regular parish weekday Masses are available to watch and pray at home, via <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-edward>. This is to help all those who are unable to return to Mass, or who do not yet feel secure in doing so.

During August Fr Dominic will meet with those who lead music in the church, and we will hope to resume **congregational singing from 5<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Some of the practical arrangements for the celebration of Mass will be revised** – more details next week. Everything will then be reviewed again prior to 16<sup>th</sup> August.

**Next weekend** is the **World Day for Grandparents**. We will offer special reflections and prayers at each Mass for Grandparents, and encourage them to come to church, or watch and pray on the Livestream, as we recognise how precious Grandparents are in the lives of many families. We pray too for those who have suffered bereavements of Grandparents, especially in recent months.

**St Peters Summer Raffle** A list of all the winners is displayed at the back of the church. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle, which raised the marvellous sum of £2,496.11, and this will fully fund a defibrillator. Congratulations to all the winners.

**Thank you,** Margie Davids would like to thank all her parish friends for their kindness, love, support and prayers over the past few weeks which have played a huge part in her speedy recovery. Thank you too to Fr Dominic for the shout out on the livestream. A Mass will be offered for your intentions.

**“Lourdes at your local.”** Join Bishop Alan for Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11am on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. The Mass includes Anointing of the Sick, and is part of a full week of Lourdes Masses across the Diocese, open to all – more details [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)

**Golden Club outing** On Thursday, 21 members of the Golden Club enjoyed a long awaited reunion for afternoon tea and Bingo at the Cranleigh in Hornchurch. The sound of so many happy voices and so many smiling faces was a joy to see. It was also a time to remember members that had passed away and those who could not attend due to family commitments, appointments or illness. During lockdown members had been keeping in touch by telephone each week and also by the Parish newsletter and the livestreaming of Mass. During lockdown members sent us their thoughts and we were so pleased with the response we produced a booklet. Thanks must go to Pat Crafter for all her work and Julia Pitkin and Father Dominic for their help and continued support. Golden Club members received the booklet at the Cranleigh and copies are available at the back of the church. We look forward to meeting up on Sept 8<sup>th</sup>. Geraldine Ellis

**Legion of Mary.** Active and auxiliary Legion of Mary members are invited to a Centenary Mass at St George's Cathedral Southwark, Saturday 25th September 2021 with the Opening Prayers and Rosary at 12 Noon, followed by the Mass. For catering, if you are attending, please email Carmel Osefoh: [carmelcmo@yahoo.com](mailto:carmelcmo@yahoo.com)

**Grab your jab now!** There are a number of additional drop in sessions available for younger people and also for older people to have their second vaccination. Details of drop in centre's can be found at [www.havering.gov.uk/covid19](http://www.havering.gov.uk/covid19)

#### **MEMORIAL MASS – Fr Tom's first anniversary**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August** marks one year since the sad death of Fr Tom. There will be a Memorial Mass at **6.30pm**, together with Fr Tom's family, and this will be followed by refreshments. We will use the hymns and readings from Fr Tom's funeral Mass, and Fr Philip Denton, who was friends with Fr Tom over many years, has kindly agreed to preach. All are welcome.

**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 week’s idea:** find a local park and spend fifteen minutes in some stillness, simply immersed in the wonder of God’s creation. Look at the detail of a leaf or a flower, and wonder at the beauty and glory of what is Divine. Ask yourself if there is something you could do to better appreciate God’s creation.

Also don’t forget to have a look at the **new page on our parish website** full of wonderful links and information, as well as great pictures of the creation of our heart shaped flower bed, now blossoming beautifully: <https://stedwards-romford.org.uk/laudatosi/>

**This week we celebrate:**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> St Apollinaris**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> St Lawrence of Brindisi**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> St Mary Magdalene**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> St Bridget of Sweden, Patron Saint of Europe**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> St Sharbel Makhluf**

**Next Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Seventeenth Sunday of the Year (Year B) – Grandparents’ Day**

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Veronica Oddi RIP (Oddi)</b>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Dec’d Members of Glynn Family (Paradine)</b>
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Ints of Mark Willoughby (Bailey)</b>
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Jose Tomas Fontecha Valderrama RIP (Diamond)</b>
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Dec’d members of Murphy Family (F)</b>
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Martin Gillooly &amp; Ann Wartnaby RIP (Gillooly)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Antonio &amp; Maria Dias (Garces)</b>

**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, Mark Dalton, Dyllis Dangerfield, Fr Kieran Dodd, Angela Fitzpatrick (Moss), Dympna Foxen, 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 and we are part of the Romford Parishes Partnership within the Havering Deanery.*

*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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