



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Seventeenth Sunday of the Year (Year B)

*World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly*

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Eighteenth Sunday of the year (Year B)

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Parish Livestream: <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-edward>

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**This weekend we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly.**

**Why this weekend?** Well, Monday is the Feast of St Anne and St Joachim – parents of Mary, and so, in a human sense, the Grandparents of Jesus.

In his 2019 letter to young people and those who accompany them, *Christus Vivit* ("Christ is alive") Pope Francis reminds us that young people need the wisdom of the older generations, just as those who are older need the energy and fresh perspective of the young. It is very precious to find and create as many moments as possible where those of different generations can discover what each other has to offer.

Pope Francis' has also written a special message for today: you will find it, together with many other excellent resources, at <http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/>

During the pandemic, Grandparents have felt the ache of isolation, especially the ache of separation from Grandchildren; and Grandchildren have felt it too. For some families the bereavement of Grandparents has been made even more difficult because they could not be visited for months prior to their death, and because funeral numbers were restricted. We hold those who grieve very firmly in prayer today. At each Mass we will offer reflections and prayers for Grandparents, with great thanks for their wonderful place in the lives of many families.

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**Congratulations and blessings to Rev Damien Wade** who was Ordained a Deacon for the Diocese last weekend, and to **Rev Tony Grant** who will be Ordained Priest on Friday.

## **COVID safety measures – Changes from this weekend**

**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 are taking a “two step” approach. From **this 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** will be requested. We have been advised by the NHS that if 2 people who have been to Mass test positive we will receive a “venue alert”; this asks others who have been in the church to take a test, but does not mean people need to self-isolate (unless their test is positive).
- **Stewards will clean “touch points”** (ends and tops of pews, door handles, etc., after each Mass)

**The changes you will notice are:**

- **We have returned two pews, and removed the red crosses which guide seating,** so the pews can be filled. The 1metre+ space will remain in front of each pew. If you would prefer that no-one sits immediately next to you, then take a “please leave this space free” card, and place it next to you on the 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.

**The practical arrangements for the celebration of Mass are:**

- At Communion, you will be guided by a Steward, one half of the church at a time, to keep minimal “brush past” contact going up and down the aisle. Communion will be distributed at the altar step, and at the font. Communion will be distributed under one kind, i.e. just the host, and not the chalice. We ask that you continue to receive the host into your hand, and not on the tongue.
- Recognising the discomfort of wearing a mask for a long period, we will continue to omit the Gloria, Creed, Intercessions and one of the readings. This will mean the celebration of weekend Masses will last for approximately 35-40 minutes.

**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: <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.

Everything will be reviewed prior to 16<sup>th</sup> August. During August Fr Dominic will meet with altar servers, and with those who lead music in the church. We hope to resume **congregational singing from 5<sup>th</sup> September.**

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

from 10am – 1.30pm. An opportunity to come together as a parish for (weather permitting) bacon and sausage baps, and a fun day around the morning Masses. **Thank you to the more than 20 parishioners** who came on Monday to help plan this, and share ideas about other social events through 2021/22 – it was a great gathering and there will be more information in the next newsletter and during the autumn.

**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.

**We welcome into the family of the Church** Joanna Louise Monteiro, Leo Kwesi Pham and Aliana Cara Soriano who were baptised this weekend. We pray for them and their families as they grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.

**Foodbank donations.** The foodbank continues to be as busy as ever, and your donations are helping to feed families every week. **Thank you** for any donations - donations can be left whenever the church is open for Mass, and can also be left at the presbytery.

**"Lourdes at your local."** Join Bishop Alan for Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11am THIS Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July. 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), including the **online programme** for those who cannot make Mass in person, and a **special event for those aged 18-28, at Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 12-4pm.**

**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, 12 Noon. 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 centres can be found at [www.havering.gov.uk/covid19](http://www.havering.gov.uk/covid19)

**Havering Council** – ward boundary changes. The Council plans are up for consultation. The church would be in a new "St Edward's Ward." Where would your ward be? Who would be your Councilor? Look & comment: <https://www.havering.gov.uk/elections>

**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: Cycle to Mass ...** if you can, making use of our wonderful new cycle racks. Also don't forget to have a look at the **new page on our parish website** full of 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/>

During the next two weeks we celebrate:

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> St Martha  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> St Peter Chrysologus  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> St Ignatius of Loyola  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Eighteenth Sunday of the Year (Year B)  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> St John Mary Vianney  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Transfiguration of the Lord (B)  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Nineteenth Sunday of the Year (Year B)

### Two Week's Mass Intentions

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Martin Gillooly & Ann Wartnaby RIP (Gillooly)
	11.30am	Antonio & Maria Dias (Garces)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Ints of Margie Davids (Donnelly)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	("Lourdes" Mass in Wanstead, 11am)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	("Lourdes" Mass at the Cathedral, 11am)
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	6.30pm	Mr & Mrs Dias RIP (Dias)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Manuel Garces RIP (Garces)
	1.30pm	Wedding – Laura Griffin & Matt Tisi
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Helen Ging RIP (Golden Club)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Auguste Plom RIP (F)
	6.30pm	Fr Tom Jordan RIP
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Margaret Coligan RIP (F)
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Leslie Moore RIP (Walsh)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Carlos Simporios (Short)

**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.*

*Diocese of Brentwood Registered Charity No. 234092. Web site: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)*