

WELCOME!

A DAY TO COME BACK TO MASS, TO MEET
FRIENDS OLD AND NEW, AND TO ENJOY BEING
PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PARISH



WELCOME BACK SUNDAY!

5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR
CATHOLIC CHURCH, ROMFORD

9.30 & 11.30AM MASS

10.30AM - 1.30PM SAUSAGE AND BACON ROLLS
CAKES - TEA, COFFEE, JUICE - FACE PAINTING
BOUNCY CASTLE

Welcome – and welcome back

The “heart of hope” has guided us through the pandemic – and now as a flower bed (pictured on the front of the leaflet) it commemorates those who have worked with heart and soul throughout the pandemic. So many in this parish work at Queens and King George’s Hospitals, as well as in many other “front line” roles. As we welcome people back today, we do so with great thanks.

We pray, too, for those who grieve; as a parish we continue to grieve the loss of Fr Tom, and there are many who have lost family members and friends during the pandemic. In November there will be a Memorial Mass for all who have died.

Throughout the pandemic the parish has been here; bringing food to the hungry through support to individuals and families, and generous donations to the foodbank; anointing the sick, through ministry in the hospital; visiting the sick, either in person or through the brilliant telephone ministry of the SVP and Golden Club, keeping people in touch.

Throughout the pandemic we have celebrated the Sacraments. Whether on Livestream or in person, Mass has been said here every Sunday, and it has been a particular joy to celebrate First Holy Communion with over 90 children in the last year – some at Collier Row last autumn, and 50 here in the parish in July. We celebrated 20 Confirmations in May, and will celebrate a further 25 in November. We are Baptising 10-15 children every month. And there have even been weddings – four so far, with three more in the autumn.

THANK YOU to all those who have made all of this possible – and the rest of this leaflet gives many opportunities for **everyone to be involved** in the wide range of groups that are beginning again in the weeks ahead. Dive in! **We all need each other** – the pandemic showed us that, very clearly, and Jesus was teaching it 2,000 years ago. If you are not already involved in a group, activity, or act of service in the parish, let this be the moment when you sign up and join in.

Finally, from this week (Monday 6th) the church will be open every weekday, from about 8.30am – 4pm, so you can pop in for a quiet time of personal prayer.

With many blessings as the next chapter begins
Fr Dominic

Celebrating the Sacraments

For your child’s **Baptism** please get in touch via the parish office

First Holy Communion enrolment for children in Year 3 and above begins in early October; the programme runs from January to June 2022. Extra catechists welcome – speak with Nicola Roberts.

Confirmation for those in current Year 11 runs from January to June 2022; enrolment in November.

If you would like to be **Married** at St Edward’s, or if you live in the parish and are getting married abroad, please contact Fr Dominic at least six months before your wedding date.

The Sacrament of **Reconciliation** is available each Saturday, 5.45 – 6.10pm.

To be **Anointed** before an operation, or if you are ill, please contact Fr Dominic. If it is a hospital emergency, ask the ward staff to phone the on-call Catholic Priest.

If you are discerning a **vocation** as a Priest or Deacon, or contemplating entering Religious Life, do speak with Fr Dominic, who will help with contacts and other information.

Parish Groups – new members are very, very welcome

If you don't know the person named, simply phone 01708 740308, or send an email with your name and phone number to romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org, saying which group you would like to know more about, and we will link you with the right person. If you'd like to be part of something not listed, why not start it? Speak with Fr Dominic.

The Parish Social Committee is planning a wonderful range of events and trips for 2022 – to be involved in any way, please contact Anne Walsh. This includes the work of the **charities committee** – the Strawberry Teas, Lenten Lunches and Coffee Mornings should all be back in 2022!

The Golden Club is for those aged 55+, and meets each Wednesday, with Mass at 12.15 and the Golden Club from approx. 1pm – 3pm – a mix of entertainment and trips out. Restarting this week, 8th September. For more information, speak with Geraldine Ellis.

Knit'n'Natter Mondays, 2pm – 4pm. Inspired by Tom Daley's Olympic knitting? Never knitted before? Just want a natter? Try crochet or embroidery! Contact Mary Murnane or Mary Heneghan.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) meet on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm (starting this week). They help individuals and families with visits, practical advice, and items such as furniture or clothes. They welcome all offers of help, especially regular help: contact Joan Murphy or Geraldine Ellis.

Mothers' Prayer Group meets weekly – sometimes online, sometimes at a mother's house. This powerhouse of prayer has been part of parish life for almost 20 years; contact Vikki Smith to join.

Young Adult Leaders are forming within the parish, with great energy and hope for the future. You'll hear more from them soon; for now, if you are aged 17-27 and want to help shape parish life for your age group, please contact Fr Dominic.

The Legion of Mary pray for and visit people across the parish, with a great deal of pastoral care. They will be resuming their work later this month – for more information contact Carmel Osefoh.

CAFOD is regularly supported by the parish, helping the poorest in the world. For more information, or to serve as a Parish representative, please contact Joan Murphy.

The Foodbank we support is part of the Trussell Trust, based in Collier Row and supporting families in Harold Hill and Romford. Food donations can be left whenever the church is open; to give more help please contact Judith Nichols.

Laudato Si' is the parish group for all things environmental. We have fitted cycle racks, "wilded" some areas of the grounds, and we are an accredited FairTrade parish. For more information, or to join the group, please contact Fr Dominic

The Fathers' Group begins in September, to bring fathers together for conversation and prayer. Run jointly with Collier Row parish. For more information please contact Colin Smith.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are restarting in September, for girls aged 6-14. A wide range of activities, including many skills, as well as trips away. Contact Annette Bacon for Guides; Helen Francis and Sandra Tam for Rainbows and Brownies.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been running throughout the pandemic, and offer lots of interesting and exciting opportunities for boys and girls aged 6-14. Contact John Hartie.

The Knights of St Columba are active across the Deanery, with practical service, prayerful support and charitable fundraising. For more information contact Oliver Chime.

Children's Liturgy will restart next week, 12th September, at 9.30am Mass. For children aged 4-7 years old, this is the chance to hear the week's readings explained in simple ways, with an activity to support the theme of the reading. Helpers are always needed – contact Claire Clist for more information.

Choirs and Music Leadership are restarting, with monthly music at 9.30am Mass – contact Jordan Kelly and Ali Fusi – and fortnightly at 11.30am Mass – contact Emilie Matutina. It would be wonderful to begin a **children's choir**, monthly at the 9.30am Mass – if you have the skills to lead this, please contact Fr Dominic.

The Petals are the wonderful flower arrangers, providing beautiful floral displays on the altar, with highlights at Christmas and Easter. If you have never arranged a flower in your life, but would like to try, you are very welcome. Contact Julie Smith.

The Parish Repository is a treasure trove of cards, rosaries and other religious items and gifts. It opens after each of the weekend Masses; to help run the repository, or if you are looking for a particular item, please contact Annette Bacon.

Church Cleaners are always needed; you would be on a rota so you clean approx. once a month, usually on a Thursday morning. A hidden but essential service to the parish. Contact Judith Nichols.

Altar Servers are needed at each Mass; we have a good team of senior servers who help to train young servers; anyone who has made their First Holy Communion can begin to serve, and there is a training session for new & returning servers this Friday, 10th September, 4.30 – 5.30pm.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are ministries which need special care and training; if you would like to serve in this way, please contact Fr Dominic.

Stewards and Welcomers have been so vital in the pandemic; as the Covid arrangements change, we will be refreshing these roles in the autumn. If you would like to be a welcomer at a weekend Mass, please contact Julia Pitkin via the parish office.

The **Livestream** continues, for those who are unable to attend Mass due to illness, frailty or shielding. There are some dedicated volunteers who ensure this can happen; if you have good IT skills, especially video skills, please contact Jason Richards.

If you would like to know more about your Catholic faith, there will be some evenings exploring different aspects of faith, during 2022. Look out for more information in the newsletter.

If you have read all of this, and are thinking, "I'd like to be a Catholic" then you are very, very welcome. We have an RCIA ("Journey in Faith") group, and we will make a gradual start in the autumn. Everyone's journey is personal; please contact Fr Dominic if you would be interested in exploring more about becoming a Catholic, wherever you are starting from.

There is lots more information on the parish website

www.stedwards-romford.org.uk

We are on Facebook and Twitter @RomfordRC

Email romford@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Phone 01708 740308