



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR
Sunday 5th December 2021
Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)
Sunday 12th December 2021
Third Sunday of Advent (year C)
'Gaudete' Sunday

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St. Peter's Primary School 01708 745506
Head Teacher Mrs Jenny Waterfield

This weekend we focus on a very significant moment in the journey of the Church across the whole world. **Pope Francis invites us all to be part of a Synod, beginning now** and concluding in 2023. "What is a Synod?" you may well be asking! It means "Gathering" or "Assembly" and it is a crucial part of **the way the Church deepens and develops ideas** – right from the Council of Jerusalem about 48AD, just a few years after Jesus died, mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles.

This Synod is entitled a "**Synod on Synodality**" but don't give up on it just because of the title! What it means is that this is **a serious look about how we listen to and learn from each other, and how we journey together, as Church, and reaching to the margins.** Bishop Alan has written to us about this; his words will form part of this week's homily. The "first phase" of the Synod, lasting until the early spring, is all about listening to each other, focused on three areas, each with questions for us, as a parish:

Communion ("Journeying together"). In general, how well do we journey together as a parish? During the Pandemic, how well did we keep everything (and everyone) together? What were the strengths, and what did we not do so well?

Participation. Who is missing from our church? Why? What could we do to encourage them to be part of the parish community?

Mission. How well do we reach into the town we serve? How do we reach those on the edges, the margins? What else could we do?

In the weeks after Christmas we will find ways to discuss these questions together – this weekend is just to begin to get us thinking and praying about it. More info on the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/synod-2021-2023/>

COVID safety measures are detailed on the website. Please speak to a steward at the back of the church if you have any questions or suggestions.

During the next two weeks we celebrate:

Monday 6th St Nicholas
Tuesday 7th St Ambrose
Wednesday 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday 12th Third Sunday of Advent (C)
Monday 13th St Lucy
Tuesday 14th St John of the Cross
Sunday 19th Fourth Sunday of Advent (C) (Expectant Mothers)

Reconciliation Services

Wednesday 15th December, 11.00am, St Edward the Confessor, Romford
Monday 20th December, 7.00pm, Corpus Christi, Collier Row

Two weeks Mass Intentions

Saturday 4th	6.30pm	Elisabeth Tanner RIP (Savva)
Sunday 5th	9.30am	Those away from family (Gorman)
	11.30am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 8th	12.15pm	Angela Ganly RIP (Donnelly)
Thursday 9th	9.00am	Eleanor Piper RIP (Bacon)
Friday 10th	9.00am	Dec'd Members of McGowan Family (McGowan)
Saturday 11th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 12th	9.30am	Dwight Webb RIP (Johnson)
	11.30am	Carlos Simporios RIP (Short)
Tuesday 14th	10.30am	Funeral – Sean Donnelly RIP
Wednesday 15th	12.15pm	Bridgie Hennigan RIP (McHale)
Thursday 16th	9.00am	Fr Tom Jordan RIP (Gaillard)
Friday 17th	9.30am	William & Patrick Branney RIP (F)
Saturday 18th	6.30pm	Slim O'Callaghan RIP (Peggy)
Sunday 19th	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Dec'd Members of Legion of Mary (L of M)

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, Brenda Flaherty, Dympna Foxen, Pauline Gillooly, Margaret Harvey, Fr Liam Hayes, Evelyn Hughes, Benjamin Joseph, Paula Lam, Fr Jean-Laurent Marie, Bina McCarthy, Fr John McKeon, Brendan O'Connor, Eileen O'Connor, Jacqueline O'Neill, 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.
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.

Website: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net

We welcome Caitlin Tanner to all Masses this weekend; Caitlin, a parishioner, has travelled to Calais several times with the charity Calais Light, supporting the care for refugees who are living in desperate conditions along the coast of Northern France. After the tragedy in the channel ten days' ago, Caitlin will help us understand the conditions in Calais, and what we can do to help.

We welcome into the family of the Church, Lillian Amber Elizabeth Carter, Mei Rosamund Edwards, Fiadh Mary Edwards and Esmé Magri-Montoute who were baptised this weekend. We pray for them as they grow in knowledge and love of Christ.

Congratulations to Kyree Agbloe and Hudson Pollock who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Friday.

Rest in Peace

We pray for the Repose of the soul of **Sean Donnelly** who died recently and whose funeral will take place on Tuesday 14th December at 10.30am. We pray for his Mum Bridie, his wife Pat, his children Matthew and Jamie and all his family and friends.

Christmas Bazaar – AN AMAZING DAY! THANK YOU! The Bazaar raised the astonishing total of **£6283.91**. This money will sustain our parish, helping with all the resources we need to be able to run. The Bazaar was such a tremendous witness to the community in the generosity of donations, home-made crafts, knitting and cakes, and in the superb team of volunteers who worked so hard to arrange, set up and run the stalls. Annette was at the helm of it all, supported by the quietly heroic Michael, and so many stallholders and helpers. Special thanks also to **St Peter's School** – the Parents' Association, the many families who came to the bazaar, and the school staff. There's even a rumour that Father Christmas and the Elf may have twins teaching at the school!

Thank you all. Here's to 2022!

The Parish Christmas Card is at the back of the church. They are arranged by postcode – please could you deliver those near to you, to spread the word! Thank you

£702.16 was collected for the BCYS and Walsingham House on World Youth Sunday (21st November). Thank you to Ethan, Megan and Liam for speaking at Masses, and to everyone who donated, including those who gave additional donations online.

The Youth-led Quiz Night on 20th November raised a superb **£693**. This money will help young people from the parish travel to Lourdes next year. Thank you to all the young people who helped at the quiz, and to everyone who supported it – a great evening!

“Alternative Gifts” this Christmas. St Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.” Many charities now offer inventive and wonderful ways to support their work, as a gift to others – you can buy goats or bees, support Christians in places where it is very difficult to live as a Christian, help preserve sections of rainforest, and much more. To help in your search for such gifts our Diocesan Caritas has brought a range of charity details all together on one page, and you will find it at: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/christmas/>

Foodbank Families continue to need all the basics, all the staple foods – tinned items, toiletries, pasta, toilet rolls, sanitary products, tea, coffee, long life milk, cereals, etc., The Food Bank donations can be offered any time the church is open, in the side chapel.

Bishop Alan will be visiting the parish on **Wednesday 6th July 2022**. He will celebrate **Confirmations**, as well as visiting St Peter's school, and the Golden Club. For **young people currently in school Year 11 or above** there will be a Confirmation programme running from January to July 2022 (with a break in May/June as you take your GCSEs). To apply for the programme please email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org, and you'll receive the details of all the dates, etc. The programme will include a weekend retreat at Walsingham House, opportunity for a sponsored sleepout, and many ways to dive deep into faith as a young adult. **Deadline to apply is next Friday 10th December**.

"Gifts under the tree" – during the whole of Advent The main Christmas tree will go up in the week before Christmas, and we have a tiny tree to get us under way. Please bring gifts of toys, chocolate and toiletries throughout Advent. This will mean we can get them to families who we know are in need, including those at the women's refuge, and they will have them before Christmas Day. Items given on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are still very welcome. **No need to wrap gifts**, simply in a gift bag or leave unwrapped.

BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022: 23rd – 30th July 2022. Applications are **now open** for the summer pilgrimage to Lourdes for those in Years 11-13, with those who have left school aged 18+ invited to join us as young leaders. The week is spent assisting the elderly and frail to attend Masses and services in and around the precious Grotto and Sanctuary of Lourdes, as well as accompanying them as they visit shops and cafes within the town. The week also includes a retreat, reconciliation service, social events and a party. Please see www.bcys.net/events/sl22/ for more information and to apply.

Fathers' Group – Monday 6th December 7.45pm in St Edward's Church. Join other dads for a calm time of Advent prayer in church followed by an informal social with refreshments in the community centre! Come along if you are a new Dad or a battle-worn father of adolescents, or anywhere in between - you are most welcome. Any questions, please email Colin Smith, at colinandvictoria@virginmedia.com

Thresholds of Hope Questions A series of online Zoom meetings on Sundays, 4-5pm, reflecting on theological and spiritual issues. This week Fr Dominic offers the second part of his input on Catholic Social Teaching. For more information about *The Thresholds of Hope Questions* and how to join in, go to www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk

Certificate of Catholic Practice.

For those applying to Catholic Primary Schools your application should be supported by a Certificate of Catholic Practice. This indicates that you attend Mass regularly; if that applies to you please bring your child's Baptism Certificate to the appropriate weekend and Fr Dominic will have copies of the Certificate, to sign for you after Mass.

No appointment is needed.

For Parents applying to Catholic Primary School for admission in September 2022: after any of the weekend Masses THIS weekend, 4th/5th December or after Christmas on the weekend of 8th/9th January