



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 8th May 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday 15th May 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

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Parish Website www.stedwards-romford.org.uk

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

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St. Peter's Primary School

01708 745506

Head Teacher

Mrs Jenny Waterfield

Today, 8th May, is Vocations Sunday. Who is God calling you to be? Our prayers are especially asked for those discerning a vocation to priesthood or religious life. If you would ever like to chat about this, you are warmly welcome to speak with Fr Dominic.

Thank you for a wonderful Lent and Easter! The Holy Week liturgies were so beautiful, thanks to florists and singers, servers and cleaners, stewards and ministers. Easter Sunday morning was extraordinary. Over 800 people flowed through the doors of the church, and the joy and energy were palpable. **Truly, an Easter radiant with the light and love of the Risen Lord.**

This summer there will be more moments of hope and light; from May 27th – 29th the **Flower Festival** will take the theme **Peace, Hope and Resurrection**. On 26th June the **strawberry teas** are back! Sacramentally we will be busy and joyful too; on Pentecost Sunday (5th June) nine adults will receive **Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion**. Then on 11th and 18th June 60 children will celebrate **First Holy Communion**. In July Bishop Alan will celebrate **Confirmation** with 19 teenagers from the parish. Over these weeks there will also be more news and conversations about the **parish building works - #FaithInTheFuture**.

In the world, and in the community, there are some tough and heartbreaking circumstances. The war in Ukraine is a horrific tragedy; the cost of living and energy crisis is putting immense strains on many families, and exacerbating poverty across the world. **We hold it all in prayer; may our parish, in the light of the Risen Christ, continue to be a beacon of hope, joy, charitable kindness, and love – everyone is welcome here.**

During these two weeks we celebrate:

Thursday 12 th	St John Houghton
Friday 13 th	St Erconwald
Saturday 14 th	St Matthias
Sunday 15 th	Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)
Sunday 22 nd	Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 7 th	6.30pm	Mary Langan RIP (Langan)
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Adora Ocate RIP (Mercado)
Wednesday 11 th	12.15pm	Elizabeth McHale RIP (McHale)
Thursday 12 th	<u>No Mass today</u> - Fr Dominic away	
Friday 13 th	<u>No Mass today</u> – Fr Dominic away	
Saturday 14 th	6.30pm	Dec'd members of McNeela Family (F)
Sunday 15 th	9.30am	Annette Stokes RIP (Scullion)
	11.30am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 18 th	12.15pm	Yvonne Kieran RIP (SVP)
Thursday 19 th	9.00am	Frederick Elliott RIP (F)
Friday 20 th	9.00am	Ruth Coleman RIP (Zincraft)
Saturday 21 st	12noon	<i>Wedding – Jordan Kelly and Ali Fusi</i>
	6.30pm	Thomas Winters RIP (Walsh)
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Angela Fitzpatrick RIP (O'Donnell)
	11.30am	People of the Parish

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, Pauline Gillooly, Irene Girling, 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, Shamus Pierce, Terry Raftery, Samantha Rowe, Michael Scullion, Peggy Squires, Maureen Symes, Fr John Taylor, Andrew Todd, Danny Toye, Stephen Toye, Betty Walsh, Vince Willshere 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.

Diocese of Brentwood Registered Charity No. 234092.

Website: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net

SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED

(“Feed the hungry; clothe the naked; welcome the stranger”)

Sunday Coffee and Cakes begin every week at about 10.20am, until 11.20am – everyone is very welcome after 9.30am Mass, or before 11.30am Mass. This is an amazing gathering, with sensational cakes, FairTrade tea and coffee, and much chat and laughter. Donations support charities and parish activities: this Sunday, 8th May, donations will go to **Breast Cancer UK**. Next week, 15th May, we’ll be raising money for the **Flower Festival**. And on 22nd May donations are for the **Trussell Trust**; this is the charity which supports food banks locally and across the country – absolutely vital work, sadly, as so many families are struggling.

Foodbank Donations. 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. **Please only bring long life items – nothing that needs fridge storage, or has a short expiry date. THANK YOU for the continuing generosity** – every week the Foodbank organizers are immensely grateful for what is brought.

Fuel Bank Foundation - helping families in the energy crisis. We are mindful of those in the parish community who, as large fuel bills hit, will be choosing between heating and eating. We have been given information about the Fuel Bank Foundation who give families **help, advice and breathing space to try to alleviate fuel poverty** – if you are in fuel crisis then look at <https://www.fuelbankfoundation.org/>

Sleepout final total – the young people, catechists and parishioners who slept outside raised an astonishing £3690. This week £1845 has been sent to Caritas Anchor House, and to Caritas Ukraine. Such an amount will make a huge impact. Every bit of this – the sleepout, the fundraising, the generosity – is our Catholic faith, lived.

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

A picture of the icon of Our Lady of Kiev-Bratsk, a prayer for Ukraine, and a candle, is in front of the altar for every Mass, as a focus for prayers for peace.

We know of four families who have offered to host refugees, and two more where family members have already arrived from Ukraine. So far they are well supported, and very thankful for the welcome and care offered.

To help get aid to those still in war zones in Ukraine, Caritas Ukraine is the most local Catholic agency. Cafod are their partner charity in the UK, and they have a dedicated page for donations to support those in great need in Ukraine as well as refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries and who do not yet have stable accommodation. The direct link is: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis>

Special Marriage Anniversary this year? The Bishop is celebrating Mass for Marriage and Family Life on Saturday 16th July, 3pm, at the Cathedral. It is invite-only! For an invite please ask Fr Dominic – email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Flower Festival – Friday 27th – Sunday 29th May – invite your friends!

We have such a beautiful country church, in the midst of our town. What better way to encourage and invite people to come and see, than to fill it with wonderful spring flowers! Our flower arrangers (the “petals” – as they call themselves!) are already planning colours, scents and styles for 18 different arrangements within the church, on the theme of **Peace, Hope and Resurrection**. You are warmly invited. Please spread the word! The church will be open to enjoy the flowers at these times:

Friday 27th May	10am – 4pm, with refreshments in the hall
Saturday 28th May	10am – 4pm, with refreshments in the hall, then at 5.30pm, with Mass at 6.30pm.
Sunday 29th May	for the morning Masses, and then until 4pm, with refreshments in the hall

To donate to support the purchase of flowers, please come to the coffee and cakes next Sunday, 15th May, 10.20am – 11.20am (after 9.30am and before 11.30am Mass). There will also be the chance to give the name of a loved one who you would like to be remembered; these names will be written by one of the “Resurrection” displays. Contact Julie Smith – 01708 964416 – for more information.

Easter Offering – thank you. Thank you for your generosity at Easter, through the collection on Easter weekend, and especially through the words and messages you put into Easter cards, and share at the church door. You are all very kind. *Fr Dominic*

Rainbows (for girls age 5-7) and **Brownies** (for girls age 7-10) **are restarting tomorrow, Monday 9th May, 4.15pm – 5.15pm.** Fun games, challenges, activities and badges! Two adult leaders also needed. For more information call Helen Francis 07789 886549.

For both boys and girls there is also the opportunity to join **Scouts** (age 10.5 - 14) Mondays 6:30 - 8pm; **Beavers** (age 6-8) Tuesdays 5:00 - 6:15pm and **Cubs** (age 8 - 10.5) Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:45pm. Email John: 6thromfordscouts@gmail.com. There is also a possible new **Squirrels** section for those aged 4 and 5 – email if you are interested in this for your son or daughter. It is all great fun, along with developing new skills.

The Champion School have a new chaplain, Harry Rawcliffe, former Assistant Manager at Walsingham House. He is lodging in the spare room in the presbytery for a little while, so if you see him around, do say hello!

Fr Adrian Graffy – Biblical insights. The Parish Priest of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park - our neighbouring parish – is an internationally acclaimed Biblical scholar. He releases podcasts that help explain parts of the Bible. For the time between Easter and Pentecost, when we read from the **Acts of the Apostles**, Fr Adrian focuses on this story of the development and challenges of the early church. www.whatgoodnews.org

Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage, 24th – 29th July. Places still available: more details from Cathy O’Connor. 01206 735623, or book online: www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood

Walsingham House Team 2022/23: Gap Year opportunity starting September 2022, for those in current year 13, up to age 22. Details on www.bcys.net or contact Joseph Beattie – phone 01277 373959 or email josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org