

Parish Building Work Begins!

After many years of waiting and planning, give thanks to God for the beginning of the building works, on the Tuesday after Easter, 11th April 2023.



We have been waiting for final heritage and planning approvals, and there have been many delays, but in the meantime, we appointed a contractor (after a competitive tender), ordered materials, and got ready on the starting blocks! It is a delight to finally be starting. Please keep it all in your prayers.

Headlines

- The work will take approx. 8 months; scheduled to finish on December 18th 2023.
- The costs have gone up £300,000 (13% - like many things in the country) to £2.09 million. But – in wonderful news – we have been awarded a £200,000 grant from a charitable trust. We can also reclaim approx. £80,000 in VAT on the works of the church. So the parish fundraising target remains £500,000 over four years.
- The church will remain open at weekends, and for most weekdays. Occasionally the weekday Mass schedule will change; we will give as much notice as possible.
- The church car park will be completely out of use from 11th April and for the whole period of the building works.
- The church hall will remain open in the same way as now, until mid-October, so all our parish groups can continue. We will be without a hall for about eight weeks later in the year, from mid-October to 18th December.
- At weekends there will be a walkway from the church to the hall; on weekdays this will not be possible, and pedestrian access to the hall will be from Church Lane.
- The lower section of the back wall of the church will only be opened after the First Holy Communion Masses, the week of 12th June. Until then the interior of the church will be unaffected.
- The Parish Bazaar 2023 will be at St Peter's School (2nd December – save the date).
- To refresh yourself about the work that is planned, please look on the parish website, or have a look at the large-scale drawings in the hall.
- The contractor is Forest Gate Construction, which has heritage and church experience, within and far beyond the Diocese.

Navigating the year ahead



The key to the success of the next eight months is patience and kindness. There will inevitably be disruption to some aspects of parish life. Building work is messy, noisy and dusty!

Throughout the year, we will do our best to keep updating everyone about the latest progress, and any changes. Please also feel welcome to ask any questions, at any time.

Although the project has been delayed, there is a blessing in it falling between Easter and Christmas. Let us all keep looking for silver linings! Please keep it all in your prayers.

Costs and Fundraising



The project cost is now £2.09 million, including VAT and all fees

The land sale generated £1,025,000

We have been awarded a grant of £200,000 by the Albert Gubay Foundation

We can reclaim VAT as a Grade 2 listed church; this reclaim is on the church element of the project (i.e. not on the parish centre), so we can reclaim approx. £80,000.

We are seeking further grants, aiming for another £200,000

Therefore as a parish, we need to raise £500,000. This sounds like a huge task; in fact, it is £1,000 for each family or individual regularly at Mass. This still seems immense, and we know there are some families really struggling. Please do not give what you cannot afford.

But for those who can, to give £1,000 is the same as giving £5/week, or £21/month, for the next four years. Less than a subscription to Sky. Less than a couple of coffees a week at Costa for example.

Or it may be that you could leave the parish a legacy gift in your will. Please speak with your Solicitor. It could be a lump sum or a percentage of what you have. Even 1% or 5% could be a significant help to the next generation of parishioners – just as we have relied on the generosity of those who came before us.

There will also be plenty of fundraising events – like the recent Quiz Night, and once a month the coffee and cake after 9.30am Mass is in aid of the building project. Please support these events and opportunities as generously as possible. Is there an event you could organise and run to raise funds for the project? Speak to Anne Walsh, via the parish office.

Parish Fundraising began in June 2022 and has already generated £32,467. As much of this is by Standing Order with Gift Aid, by 2026 this will be £120,000. An excellent beginning!

It may be that you have been waiting to see the walls rising from the ground before committing any funds to this project. Now is the time, please, to contribute some money, if you possibly can. The information to do this is on the next two pages. Together we can build for the future, with generosity and hope. #faithinthefuture.

Building project bank details



The Bank Details are separate from the parish main account. This is to help us fully account for everything donated and spent.

Account Name: Romford Future

Account Number: 92108860

Sort Code: 40-13-22

The best way to support the project



The very best way to support the project is with regular donations. Please only give what you can afford.

Use online banking to set up regular payments – modest amounts, given each week or month, will make all the difference. If 500 individuals or families give £5/week or £21/month, from now until 2026, we'll reach the target!

Of course, gifts of any size, at any time, are welcome too!

You can change or cancel a Standing Order at any time

Cheques can be made payable to “Romford Future” and posted to the parish, put through the letterbox, or handed to Fr Dominic.

Your online banking will also allow you to make a Bank Transfer, of any amount, at any time, using the bank details above.

If you'd like to leave a legacy to the parish in your will, please speak with your solicitor. You are also welcome to speak with Fr Dominic about this.

Please remember to Gift Aid donations if you can. Thank you.

To set up a Standing Order



1. Use your online banking, with account details (as above) This is separate from the main parish account to help us fully account for everything donated and spent.

2. Or use the simple form on the back of this sheet, which you can take or post to your branch, or hand into the parish office. You should see your standing order within 2-3 weeks of giving us the form; if you do not notice it on your Bank Statement, please contact your bank. Thank you.

And – if you are a taxpayer (including a pensioner who pays tax) don't forget to Gift Aid – for every pound, you give the fundraising appeal gets £1.25.

Ask for a Gift Aid form if you need one – it takes minutes to set up.

Data Protection:

We will not store or retain, in any form, any data on this Standing Order Form. It will be sent directly to your bank, which will contact you if there is any query.

Standing Order Mandate for ROMFORD FUTURE

St Edward the Confessor parish building project

Please complete everything in BLOCK CAPITALS. Thank you.

Your details

Your name _____

Name of your bank _____

The branch where your account is held Romford / Other* (delete as appropriate)

*If not in Romford, please give the full address of the branch:

Your bank sort code -- - - - -

Your bank account number - - - - -

Instruction to your bank

Please pay the sum of £ _____ every week / month (delete as appropriate)
to the following account held at HSBC, High Street, Brentwood:

Account: Catholic Church Romford St Edward - Romford Future

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Number: 92108860

Special Instructions to your bank

Please use the reference _____

(Please use your initial and surname as your reference, or alternatively, please use your parish Gift Aid number, without your name)

If you would like the Standing Order to leave your account on a particular date in the month, please indicate here: _____ of each month.

Signature

Your signature _____

If a joint account that needs two signatures, second signature _____

Date _____ / _____ / _____