



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 28th January 2024

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)
(Racial Justice Day)

Sunday 4th February 2024

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

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Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

Parish Website www.stedwards-romford.org.uk

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

Parish Facebook Page: @RomfordRC

Mass Times: see back page. Reconciliation: Saturday 5.45 – 6.15pm, or on request

St. Peter's Primary School 01708 745506

Head Teacher

Mrs Jenny Waterfield

This weekend we open the new Parish Centre for use after all Masses – the Walsingham Hall will be full of coffee and cakes, and all are very welcome. You will also be able to peek through the door of the Lourdes room – in use as an office by our builders for just a couple more weeks. The ground levels and drainage works are taking a tad longer than planned, partly because of some illness amongst the builders. They have been so brilliant, and we just need a few more days to get over the finishing line. We are hoping church parking will be available from the weekend of 10th/11th February. In the meantime, come and enjoy the new facilities. Please keep it all in prayer.

This weekend we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 30 of our young people. We pray for each one of them, their families, friends, and all who have accompanied them to today; we hope that they will be a wonderful part of the parish community for many years to come. **Congratulations and many blessings to them all:**

Ana-Maria, Maria, Leo, Joseph, Charley, Lewis, Juanita, Seren, Thomas, Edie, Archie, Olivia, James, Henry, Amy, Fred Paul, Leo, William, Daniel, Eryn, Joshua, Fabio, Tiffany, Michael, Emily, Ashlee, William, Lucy, Angelu, Corina, Constance and Daniela.

Thank you to the catechists who have accompanied them so generously and kindly: Liz, Harry, Annette, Helen, Megan, Ann and Angel. If anyone would like to serve as a Confirmation catechist, please speak with Fr Dominic.

“Faith in the future”

THIS WEEKEND

The Parish Centre will be fully open for the first time, with refreshments after every Mass. Do come and have a look around!

Car Parking is not yet available, but should be ready for 10th February.

The Council Car Park currently remains **free** on Sundays.

We are delighted that **Jenny Selby** has been appointed as the Hall Co-ordinator, and she will be the first point of contact for bookings and queries about hall usage. For now, please contact Jenny via the parish office.

From February until July we will only be taking regular (i.e. weekly or monthly) bookings, not one-off bookings for any parties or socials. This is to give us time to get used to everything, and to iron out any snags.

Please keep our builders, and all those who are continuing to work very hard at the project, in your prayers. They have done tremendous work, and are working with both pace and great diligence, to get everything finished.

If you are not already doing so, **please consider donating to pay for all the works;** we have about £300,000 that is not yet funded – which is very good for a £2million project, but still sizeable. All donations welcome – leaflets at the back of church or donate via the website. We are hoping to be debt free by 2026!

Save the date - the opening and blessing of the narthex and parish centre will be celebrated with Bishop Alan on Friday 31st May, 7pm.

Regular parish centre bookings will begin in the week of 5th February, all using the Walsingham Hall; the Lourdes Room will be available after 12th February. This includes the Uniform Groups, SVP, Knit ‘n’Natter, AA, Legion of Mary – and of course the long awaited **return of the Golden Club** on Wednesday 7th February.

Do you run a group that would like to use our new Parish Centre hall or meeting room? It could be charitable, a community group, or something commercial. There will be some evening slots available. Email Julia in the parish office, romford@brcdt.org

Parent and Toddler Group Would you like to help run a Parent and Toddler group on a Wednesday morning from 9 – 11am in our beautiful new parish centre? We already have two young mums interested so you would not be alone. If you would like to be part of the team, please email Julia in the parish office, romford@brcdt.org

A hundred years of Priesthood! Many blessings and congratulations to Fr Joe Farrell, formerly Parish Priest at English Martyrs Hornchurch, and now resident in Elm Park, and **Fr Adrian Graffy,** Parish Priest in our neighbouring parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, who each celebrate their **Golden Jubilee of Priesthood** in these weeks – Fr Joe last Friday, 19th January, and Fr Adrian on Friday 2nd February.

Sunday Coffee and Cakes will resume Sunday 4th February between the morning Masses - from about 10.20am until 11.20am. Everyone is very welcome. This is an amazing gathering, with sensational cakes, FairTrade tea and coffee, much chat and laughter and all whilst raising money for some amazing charities. If you would like to be part of the rota or nominate a charity please contact Julia in the parish office.

Year 12 Retreat 'Life to the full': Walsingham House are running a retreat for students in Yr12 on the weekend of the 16th-18th February. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other young people from across the diocese, to make new friends and to take time out from their busy lives to reflect and pray. The cost of the retreat is £35. For more information and to apply please see the website <https://bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/>

Alcoholics Anonymous will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Thursdays from 7.30 – 8.30pm beginning on 8th February. Contact James: 07760 143377

Is God calling you to be a Priest? There is a monthly vocations group to help those who would like to find out more about a possible vocation to the priesthood. The first session takes place at Brentwood Cathedral on Tuesday 6th February. To find out more contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@brcdt.org

Needs and support within our community

There remains an ongoing and serious need for Foodbank Donations, which can be offered any time the church is open; please leave items in bags in the side chapel.

Our parish St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) offers discreet support to families facing especially hard times; please get in touch via the parish office.

Help with Cost of Living Tips and hints from Havering Council, including a variety of ways to save money, and/or to check energy, family, or other benefits that may help to see you and your family through the winter months:

<https://www.havering.gov.uk/costofliving>

If there is anything else we can do – or any other local sources of support you come across which we can share with parishioners – please let us know. Just email or call.

SAVE THE DATE! The day before the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Saturday 10th February – 2pm – Special Mass with Anointing, followed by coffee and cakes. This Mass is open to anyone, and marks the World Day of the Sick, and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Mass will include the Sacrament of Anointing, and it is timed so as many of our ill and housebound parishioners as possible can attend – do get in touch if you need a lift. Mass will be followed by coffee, cake and a chance to chat. If you can help with refreshments please let Julia know.

“A fire in my heart”. On Saturday 3rd February from 11 am until 2 pm (coffee at 10.30 am), at the church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy, will be in conversation with professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and Carlos Castillo Mattasoglio, archbishop of Lima, Peru. Please book your place at gideapark@brcdt.org

We pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Michael Butler who died recently. His funeral will take place at 11.30am on Friday 9th February at Holy Cross Church, Harlow.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Fr John McKeon who died recently. His funeral will take place at 11.30am at Holy Family, Dagenham, on Tuesday 13th February.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 27th	6.30pm	Ints Grimes Family (Grimes)
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Elizabeth & Dan O'Callaghan RIP (Peggy)
	11.30am	Restituta Munoz RIP (Munoz)
	2.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation – for the intentions of the Confirmandi and their families
Monday 29th	8.20am	Jose De Abreu RIP (Peggy) <i>In Campion School</i>
Wednesday 31st	12.15pm	Jim O'Sullivan RIP (O'Sullivan)
Thursday 1st	9.00am	No Mass today - Fr Dominic away
Friday 2nd	9.00am	No Mass today - Fr Dominic away
Saturday 3rd	6.30pm	Laurda O'Leary RIP (Long)
Sunday 4th	9.30am	K K Philip RIP (Philip)
	11.30am	People of the Parish
Monday 5th	8.20am	No Mass today - Fr Dominic away
Wednesday 7th	12.15pm	Bob Edkins RIP (Edkins)
Thursday 8th	9.00am	Peter Nicholls RIP (Murnane)
Friday 9th	9.00am	No Mass today – Fr Michael Butler Funeral
Saturday 10th	2.00pm	Ints Eileen O'Connor (Margaret)
	6.30pm	Ints Mary Murnane (Heneghan)
Sunday 11th	9.30am	Elliot Moore RIP (Brennan)
	11.30am	People of the Parish

Please pray for all who are sick in hospital, our nursing homes and at home.

Especially we pray for:

Margaret Alake, Joe Bellotti, Mgr Arthur Barrow, Mark Dalton, Dyllis Dangerfield, Agnes Danielka, Genevieve Geary, Pauline Gillooly, Irene Girling, Jim Griffin, Evelyn Hughes, Joseph, Benjamin Joseph, Paula Lam, Matty, Harry McKinley, Brendan O'Connor, Eileen O'Connor, Jacqueline O'Neill, Agnes O'Sullivan, Shamus Pierce, Michael Scullion, Peggy Squires, Maureen Symes, Fr John Taylor, Andrew Todd, Danny Toye, Stephen Toye, Betty Walsh, Theresa West, Joyce & Vince Willshire and Trudy Wijeyeratnam

To ask for prayers for someone who is ill, please check they would like to be named in the newsletter, and then email or call the parish office.

Diocese of Brentwood Registered Charity No. 234092.

Website: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net