

Catholic Parish of St Edward the Confessor, Romford



Living Lent 2024

Lent offers us an extraordinary opportunity; a time to step into the desert. Into stillness and prayer. Into something different from our usual routines. Into service of others in fresh ways.

We will hear about the desert in the first Sunday of Lent; it is where Jesus spent the first Lent – in the wilderness. It was a time of prayer, a time of discernment, and a time of challenge. From the wilderness Jesus immediately heads into Galilee, to share the Good News. Hopefully that is where our Lent impels us, as well – into Easter hope, full of Good News.

In the parish, we are so blessed with our new facilities; we will be learning how best to use them during Lent, but they will certainly be a wonderful setting for the Lenten lunches, and for a little breakfast after the Lenten morning Masses.

We are also blessed with some amazing talks being held at Brentwood Cathedral, just 20 minutes away. More details inside.

What will you discover in the desert of Lent 2024? What oasis of prayer and hope, service and love will sustain you on the journey to the amazing events of Holy Week and Easter? Dive in deeply!

Fr Dominic

Lenten opportunities 2024

For more information have a look at the dedicated website page:

<https://stedwards-romford.org.uk/lent-and-easter/> - live from Ash Wednesday

Brentwood Cathedral – Lenten Talks

The Cathedral have gathered four speakers with excellent insights into the Synod; the journey of the church over recent years, listening to Catholics from across the world to offer directions for the future, and help us evangelise in our times. These speakers have immense wisdom to offer. **Each talk begins at 7.30pm, in the Cathedral:**

Wednesday 21st February **Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP.** Fr Tim preached for Pope Francis, lay people, Cardinals and Bishops as they prepared for the Synod.

Wednesday 28th February **Fr Jan Nawotnik.** Fr Jan is Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, and was present throughout the Synod.

Wednesday 6th March **Mr Austen Ivereigh.** Austen was part of the team who began *Catholic Voices*; he is a biographer of Pope Francis, and a respected Catholic journalist.

Wednesday 13th March **Bishop Nicholas Hudson.** Bishop Nicholas is an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, and one of the Bishops who represented the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as a participant at the Synod.

There is no need to register for these talks; just arrive at the Cathedral (28 Ingrave Rd, Brentwood CM15 8AT). Parking is limited, so you may find it easiest to get the train (the Cathedral is a 10 minute walk uphill from Brentwood Station) or bus 498 which is quite direct.

Fresh Resources for Lent

Caritas Brentwood have collated a set of excellent links to further deepen your Lenten journey. They include spending time in nature – God's creation – and using your phone camera to capture a moment of beauty to share with the Diocese. A chance to uplift everyone in times which are difficult for the world and for some families and individuals in the parish. Enjoy discovering creation with fresh eyes! Plus a mix of suggestions for prayer, resources for children & families, ideas for giving, and much else.

<https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent/>

**“Early morning” Mass each Friday from 17th February, 7.45am–8.10am
(with the exception of Friday 1st March)**

On your way to St Peter's school? Working from home? This is for you! Once a week, find a different rhythm by coming to Mass for a little oasis of peace and prayer. Mass will be followed by coffee/juice and a croissant, as you head into the rest of the day.

Reconciliation Services

Lent is an ideal moment to celebrate Reconciliation, which offers great joy, liberation, and fresh beginnings. There will be two Reconciliation Services later in Lent – see the newsletter for more details, nearer the time.

In addition, any Saturday evening throughout the year, 5.45pm – 6.15pm, Fr Dominic is available to celebrate Reconciliation.

Please pray for the children preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time, as they celebrate Reconciliation in a special service on 16th March.

Enjoy a Saturday Lenten Lunch – 12.30pm – 2.00pm

There's a long tradition in the parish of people gathering for lunch in Lent. A simple lunch, with a raffle! The lunch costs £4, and all monies raised will support Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) currently doing life-saving work in Gaza and other war zones across the world (more info at www.msf.org.uk). The weekly raffle will support the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society in their work providing counselling and therapeutic help to children and families across the Diocese. (www.bccs.org.uk)

Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 6.30pm

Gather to pray the Stations of the Cross in the church; a simple reading, reflection and prayer at each station, remembering Jesus' journey to Calvary. The Stations of the Cross are led by different groups in the parish. The Stations reflect the work of those groups, with different reflections each week. How wonderful if everyone from the parish came to at least one of these short services reflecting on the Stations of the Cross! Prayerfully supporting those leading them, and entering more fully into Jesus' final journey before his death.

Friday 16th February	Stations led by Parish Legion of Mary
Friday 23rd February	Stations led by Parish young people, using World Youth Day Stations
Friday 1st March	Stations led by Parish St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)
Friday 8th March	Stations led by Parish Petals – Flower Display Arrangers
Friday 15th March	Stations led by Parish Mothers' Prayer Group
Friday 22nd March	Stations led by Parish Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers & Rainbows.

Everyone is welcome. The church is also usually open Monday-Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm, and throughout Lent there will be booklets at the back of the church to help you to pray the Stations individually, if you would like to.

The Sponsored Sleepout, raising money for local homeless charities, will take place at The Champion School on **Friday 22nd March 9pm – Saturday 23rd March 7am**. The Confirmation group will receive information directly; any other young adults (minimum age 15+) interested in taking part, please speak with Fr Dominic.

Donate to the local Foodbank – Lenten Calendar

If you are giving up something for Lent, that would normally cost you money, then what better way to give that money to those who need it than by buying some really useful and urgent items required by local foodbanks. With advice from the Trussell Trust, Caritas Brentwood have again put together an excellent calendar listing an item per day, to collect in Lent and then bring to church in the week before Holy Week. The link to these calendars is on the Lent and Easter section of the parish website, or find printed copies at the back of the church. We will give any donations to the S.M.I.L.E. charity, on North Street.

The Easter Triduum

*The “three days” that are the most sacred in the Church Year.
Please come each day, if you can.*

This year, we are delighted that eight adults in the parish are on the journey to become members of the Catholic Church; please pray for Marlon, Rachael, Kim, Racheal, Sally, James, Candice and Mickey. Join them in celebrating during the Easter Vigil.

Holy Thursday

Thursday 28th March *7pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm

Good Friday

Friday 29th March 10am Discovering Holy Week for primary school age children
11am Prayer with town centre churches, Market Place
*3pm Service of the Passion of the Lord
7pm – 8pm Church open for private prayer by the cross

Easter

Saturday 30th March 7.30pm-10pm Easter Vigil, with music led by the choir

Sunday 31st March 8am Dawn Mass for Easter – quiet, joyful and prayerful
*9.30am Family Mass, with music led by young adults
11.30am Mass with music led by the choir

****Livestream: Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday 3pm and Easter Sunday 9.30am***