



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

5 Park End Road, Romford, Essex RM1 4AT

Telephone: 01708 740308

e-mail: [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org)

Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

Parish Website [www.stedwards-romford.org.uk](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk)

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

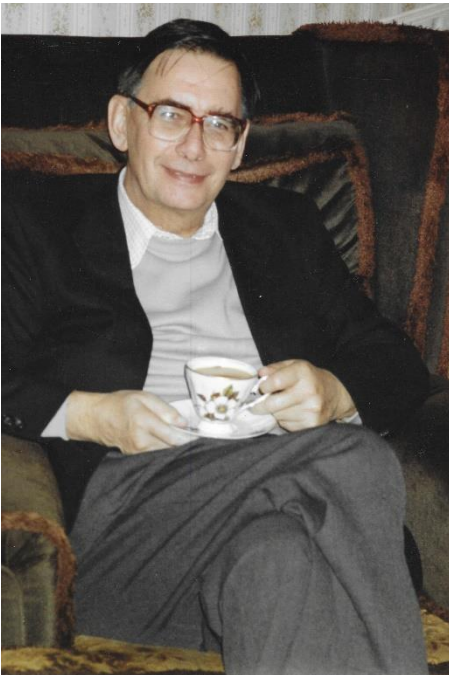
Parish Facebook Page: @RomfordRC

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



**We pray for the repose of the soul of Fr John Taylor, RIP.** Fr John died peacefully in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Fr John was parish priest here from 1979 – 1990, and he was greatly loved by parishioners. He offered an exceptional blend of kindness, calm, gentleness, wisdom and faith, and was especially known for his support to those in great need. He was a “Member of Honour” of the Knights of St Columba.

We pray for Fr John's family, and for the many parishioners here and from other parishes where he served – most notably St Joseph's, in Upminster, where he was parish priest from 1990-2011, and where he lived for several years after retirement. Fr John's funeral arrangements will be confirmed in the coming days.

**It is especially fitting that this weekend's Gospel is the Transfiguration;** a prefiguring of heaven. Jesus becomes “dazzlingly white” and a voice comes from heaven, “This is my Son the Beloved.” May Easter hope sustain us, just as it sustained Fr John.

I will be out of the parish for a few days this week; thanks to Fr Mariusz and Fr Kris from Rainham for covering Masses on Wednesday and next weekend.

Many blessings as the Lenten journey continues, *Fr Dominic*

## “Faith in the future”

**Jenny Selby** is the first point of contact for bookings and queries about using the Parish Centre. Jenny can be contacted by email [romfordhall@brcdt.org](mailto:romfordhall@brcdt.org)

**From February until July we are only 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.

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 31<sup>st</sup> May, 7pm.**

**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 Jenny, [romfordhall@brcdt.org](mailto:romfordhall@brcdt.org)

### Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunches continue every Saturday during Lent from 12.00 - 2.00pm, in the Walsingham Hall of the Parish Centre. Please come along and enjoy a great value lunch and a chat with friends whilst raising money for good causes. Any donations for raffle prizes would be very welcome on the day. Why not treat your family or friends to lunch? We look forward to seeing you. See poster for details.

**Help needed** Can you spare an hour every 4 – 5 weeks on a Thursday morning to help clean our beautiful church? Please contact the parish office [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org) or speak to Julia Pitkin or Judith Nichols.

**Parish Legion of Mary.** The Legion of Mary meet weekly on a Thursday at 5pm in the Lourdes Room. During the week they spend a couple of hours visiting parishioners who are on their own, or who have asked for prayers. It is a lovely group to be part of, and they warmly welcome new members. Just come on Thursday, or if you want to know more in advance contact Therese de Souza via the parish office.

**Easter Art exhibition** will be held from 25<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April. For more details and application information visit **facebook ‘Easter Art for Everyone 2024’** The theme of the Exhibition is: Life’s Journey – HOPE. The venue will be within Romford Town Centre. The deadline for applications is 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

**The Parish Repository** – with a wide selection of cards and gifts that it is hard to get on the High Street, marking Sacraments and other moments – is now open after all weekend Masses. If you are a repository volunteer, please check the rota! Thank you.

## **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. At the moment they are in particular need of Pasta sauce, Cereal, UHT milk, Squash/juice, Biscuits and Ketchup/condiments.

**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.

**Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is inviting you to take part in several activities during Lent.** There is a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent) or by emailing [sianthomas@brcdt.org](mailto:sianthomas@brcdt.org)

**Apprenticeships at Walsingham House:** Walsingham House are offering a two year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy, ideal for those finishing Year 13 in July, or for anyone up to age 21. Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more info email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or visit the website [www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/](http://www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/)

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Summer 2024** Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July). To book, please go online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours \(tangney-tours.com\)](http://Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com)) If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please contact Kathryn Young: 07941 471503 [kathrynyoung@mail.com](mailto:kathrynyoung@mail.com)

**Lectionary Readings for Lent** Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available free of charge on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'.

**Volunteer at the St John Bosco Children's Camp;** from 27<sup>th</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, and now is the time to apply. Details: [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk)

**Concert for St John Bosco Children's Camp:** Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024, under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The fundraising concert is on **Saturday 13th April 2024 - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Wine and refreshments included.** Performances include music from Jacques Allen, who has played the organ here in recent years; he is a brilliant young musician, currently studying for a Masters degree in music composition. Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings and more details: [www.boscocamp.co.uk/events](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk/events)

### Mass Times and Intentions

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Eileen O'Rourke RIP (O'Rourke)</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Ints Jim, Ghislaine &amp; family (Gillooly)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Patrick McNellis RIP (Gannon)</b>
	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>FHC Children &amp; Families - People of the Parish</b>
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Phonsie Bradley RIP (Scullion)</b>
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Michael Doe RIP (Doe)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Juan Ruiz Quintanilla RIP (Joyce)</b>
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Bina McCarthy RIP (SVP)</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Ints Mary Murnane (SVP)</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>7.45am</u></b>	<b>Marie McDonnell RIP (Rabbitte)</b>
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Jim Parkinson RIP (Mernin)</b>
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	<b>Michael Hines RIP (Ellis)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>

**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, Andrew Todd, Danny Toye, Stephen Toye, Betty Walsh, Theresa West, Joyce & Vince Willshere 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](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)**