



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 14th April 2024

Third Sunday of Easter (B)

Sunday 21st April 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Vocations Sunday) (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

Thank you to everyone who gave immense time and energy, prayer and talent to helping in so many ways in the wonderful celebrations of the Easter Triduum. Each Mass and service felt very blessed, with extraordinary numbers of people, and it was a tremendous journey through Holy Week and Easter.

We are in a point of change and development in parish life, and Easter has been a wonderful springboard from a time of building works, to consideration of how we can best use everything that we have to living the Parish Mission: **“Keeping Christ at the centre of all that we do, we exist to joyfully spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in Romford through our prayer, our charitable action, and our celebration of the Sacraments.”**

Please save the date of Saturday evening 8th June / Sunday 9th June; a time when each parish group will have a display in the Parish Centre, with a warm invitation to everyone to come and see what is on offer, meet those already part of groups, and consider how and where to take part. There will also be an open meeting at 2.30pm on the afternoon of Sunday 9th, for everyone to come and share your vision for parish life – how can we develop and improve? How can we reach more into the town we serve? **Please keep it all in your prayers.**

Thank you to everyone who came on Monday to clear out the land between our car park and the buses. Many hands indeed made light work – an amazing job, in just a couple of hours. Thanks also to everyone who supplied cake and coffee!

Blessings for the week ahead – and happy 80th to my mother! *Fr Dominic*

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

Help needed at each Mass. Please can you consider becoming one of our Stewards at weekend Masses? The role of the Steward is:

- To be a warm and welcoming face at the church doors
- To assist when people move around the church for Holy Communion
- To ensure emergency exits are clear, and to help in any emergency situation; this includes any emergency which involves evacuating the church
- To help at the end of Mass, including tidying the church and closing windows.

We need three Stewards at each Mass, so ideally 12 stewards from each congregation, so everyone is on the rota once a month. To help, you need to be:

- Age 18+
- Warm and welcoming
- Fully mobile, so as to assist others if needed

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church. There will be a training evening for existing and new Stewards from 6.30 – 8pm on 23rd May . This will specifically include fire safety training. It is vital for us to have Stewards, especially with our large congregations – please do step forward for this.

Parish Social Events

Thank you to everyone who came along on Friday evening to support the Quiz Night, helping to fund the 8 young people travelling to Lourdes this summer.

THE NEXT EVENT IS JUST A FORTNIGHT AWAY: the amazing Bingo with Fish & Chips, Friday 26th April from 7pm in the Walsingham Hall in the new parish centre. Adults (18+) only. Just £17 for the evening, including food, with chances for cash prizes up to £50! See poster for details and booking info – or contact the parish office.

Parent & Toddler Group for anyone interested in setting up this new parish group, we will have an initial meeting on Wednesday 1st May from 9am in the Walsingham Hall. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you then.

Pre-School From 22nd April the Shining Starz Pre-School for children ages 2-4 years old will open in the parish centre. The pre-school will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm. There will be funded places available for 2 and 3 year olds, for 15 hours and 30 hours. If you would like to register your child, please contact 07774886331 or shiningstarz24@outlook.com. The Shining Starz team look forward to working with you.

Please note: Following a question from a parishioner, just to clarify that the Shining Starz organisers readily understand that there may be a weekday where the hall is requested for a funeral reception, and absolutely agree to that. The new facilities are there for the good of all, and we want everyone's needs to be met, as far as is possible.

Charitable work and action

LIVE SIMPLY - At Masses this weekend you will hear about the parish application for the **Live Simply Award**. This is a national accreditation, and a group of parishioners are working hard on our behalf – but it needs us all to consider how we are living, and the resources we are using. Today you will hear more about what it all involves!

Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? You are invited to the 2024 **Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Saturday 27th April, 10am – 2.30pm**, which we are hosting here, in the new Parish Centre. This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (for free!) at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Easter Egg appeal. Our friends at SMILE are truly grateful. 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.

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.

Interested in becoming a Catholic? If you have not been Baptised, or were Baptised (as a Catholic or in a different Christian denomination) but have not ever received Communion or been Confirmed, then you would be very welcome to become a Catholic. It is a journey to be taken at your pace, and there is a lovely group of catechists to walk the journey with you. Please contact Fr Dominic if you are interested – frdominic@brcdt.org or phone the parish office.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Summer 2024 Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July). Book at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-brentwood/>. Bursary support is available for those in financial hardship. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please contact Kathryn Young: 07941 471503 kathrynyoung@mail.com

Youth 2000 London Retreat Day: Come and See. Youth 2000 are running a retreat day for young adults (16-35) on 11th May at Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon. It is jam-packed one day event, where people come together as a community of young adults in prayer and friendship. The retreat is an invitation to come as you are, and to come and see who Jesus is and what He can do in your life. The cost £25 and more information can be found at: <https://www.youth2000.org/events/london2024>

Donations to the parish building project. It is wonderful that the project has completed so well, and that we have already paid off over £1.75million (£1 Million from the land sale, £470,000 in grants, £100,000 in VAT reclaim and £180,000 already donated or pledged from parishioners). **Can you help us with the last £300,000? If 300 people or families could give £1,000 ... that's £20/week for the next year.** Could you do that? The sooner we pay off the debt, the less interest we have to pay. Full details, online donations, and standing order information is all at www.stedwards-romford.org.uk/faithinthefuture/donate

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 13 th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 14 th	9.30am	Dr Paul Lawson RIP (O'Moore)
	11.30am	Lar Fennessy RIP (Fant)
Monday 15 th	8.20am	John Buckley RIP (Ferguson) <i>In <u>Campion School</u></i>
Wednesday 17 th	12.15pm	James & Bridget Heneghan RIP (Heneghan)
Saturday 20 th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 21 st	9.30am	Patricia Church RIP (Conti)
	11.30am	Ints of Innocent Nwajah Family (Nwajah)
Monday 22 nd	8.20am	Martin Gillooly RIP (Gillooly) <i>In <u>Campion School</u></i>
Wednesday 24 th	12.15pm	Bernadette Taylor RIP (Scullion)
Thursday 25 th	9.00am	Jim Hiles RIP (Heneghan)
Friday 26 th	9.00am	Annie Hill RIP (Zincraft)
Saturday 27 th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 28 th	9.30am	Marietta Woody RIP (Kitty Tranter)
	11.30am	Ints Shayne Gray (18 th Birthday) (Gray)

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