



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 28th April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

Sunday 5th May 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter (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

What is our parish for? What message do we want to give to the community we serve?

Over the last few weeks many people have commented on how much more visible our church is now, to those passing by on St Edward's Way on foot, in their cars, on their bikes and on the buses. This also gives us **an amazing opportunity for evangelisation** – to share Jesus' message with the town. We are currently working on signs for the car park, etc., which will include a large sign facing St Edward's way. Which leads to the question: **what should be on the sign?** The parish Mission statement on the website is:

**“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.”**

On the sign could be perhaps a line from there – **“Joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in Romford – everyone is welcome here.”** Or maybe there is a Bible quote, or quote from a Saint, that is your personal “go to” quote, and would work well to summarise the heart of what we want to share with the community, as they drive past. Perhaps encouraging them to stop, and come in for a bit – as Jesus would say, **“Come and see!”** Over the next fortnight your thoughts and ideas for the sign would be really welcome; please have a chat after Mass, or send me an email (frdominic@brcdt.org). The Parish Council will discuss it on 9th May.

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.

THANK YOU to the 30 people who have signed up to be new Stewards for weekend Masses. A great response! 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 all Stewards to attend, please.

Thank you to everyone who came along on Friday evening to support the Bingo with Fish & Chips in support of the parish building fund.

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

St Peter's School – Pentecost Fire Pit! At the 9.30am Mass today (28th April) children from St Peter's will talk about the fire pit they hope to have in the school, and donations at the cakes and coffee after Mass will go to fund the fire pit – a great focus for learning in the school – about the Holy Spirit and about fire!

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.**

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.

Pre-School The Shining Starz Pre-School for children ages 2-4 years is now open in the parish centre. The pre-school is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm, in term time. There are 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.

Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year? Join Bishop Alan for the annual Mass for Marriage and Family Life at Brentwood Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday 13th July. Fr Dominic has the invites for the Mass – please let him know your names, and Anniversary date of marriage. The invitation is also warmly extended to engaged couples.

Charitable work and action

Live Simply Our Live Simply group took part in the recent Greenpeace National Plastic Count. We were surprised by the amount of plastic we threw away; our average weekly plastic use was 68 pieces per household, as compared to the national average of 60 pieces per week. After the count, Greenpeace calculated that a huge 1.7 billion pieces of plastic are being disposed by UK households every week! This count has made us much more aware of the need to cut down on disposable plastic items. **We encourage parishioners to count the number of plastic items thrown away over a week. It's a very eye opening experience.**

Teenage Cancer Trust. The annual "hit the road" walk in memory of former Campion School pupil Jack Chester takes place next weekend, Saturday 4th May, with over 570 registered walkers. The 20 mile route is from Wembley to Tower Bridge – and Fr Dominic is walking, along with several parishioners including current and former pupils and parents. If you would like to donate, cash in an envelope with "TCT walk" is fine, or online at: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/hittheroad2024>

S.M.I.L.E. Charity update Thank you to everyone who has donated or sent messages of support to S.M.I.L.E. Amazingly they have now raised over **£24,000**, boosted by match funding, the £1300 raised by the Sleepout at Campion just before Easter, £500 raised from the BTEC students cake sale on Monday, and over £1,000 raised by our parishioner Matthew Shaw's "20K for 20K" run, which he is completing today. Please keep the charity in your prayers; there is great hope they can relocate to new premises. Discover more, and donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-to-relocate-much-loved-charity>

CAFOD Cafod would like to thank all the Parishioners of St Edward's for their generous donations to the Cafod Lenten Appeal. The amount raised at church was £685, with many further donations online. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

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.

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

We pray for the repose of the soul of Theresa West who died recently. She will be received into Church on Monday 29th April at 4pm and her funeral will take place on Tuesday 30th April at 11.30am and then to Forest Park Crematorium. We pray for her daughters Annette and Mandy and all her family and friends.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Florence Maureen Redgewell who died recently. Her funeral will take place on Friday 17th May at 1.30pm and then to Romford Cemetery. We pray for her children David and Mandy, and all her family and friends.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 27th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Marietta Woody RIP (Kitty Tranter)
	11.30am	Ints Shayne Gray (18th Birthday) (Gray)
Monday 29th	8.20am	Sheila Jones RIP (Mobbs) <i>In Campion School</i>
Tuesday 30th	11.30am	<i>Funeral – Theresa West RIP</i>
Wednesday 1st	12.15pm	<i>Service of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Friday 3rd	9.00am	Thomas Murnane RIP (Murnane)
Saturday 4th	6.30pm	Ints Lucinda Heneghan (Heneghan)
Sunday 5th	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Fr Rhoel Gallardo RIP (Matutina)
Wednesday 8th	12.15pm	Elizabeth McHale RIP (McHale)
		The Ascension of the Lord (B)
Thursday 9th	9.30am	Wally McNeela RIP (Heneghan) <i>In St Peter's School</i>
	12.15pm	Gillooly & Donnelly Families (Gillooly)
	7.00pm	Antonio & Maria Dias RIP (Lenos)
Friday 10th	9.00am	Ints Mary Murnane (Heneghan)
Saturday 11th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 12th	9.30am	Bina McCarthy RIP (SVP)
	11.30am	Building a new Home (Joshy)

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, Joyce & Vince Willshere, Trudy Wijeyeratnam and Mark Woolsey*

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