



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year (B)

(World Mission Sunday)

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year (B)

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

5 Park End Road, Romford, Essex RM1 4AT

Telephone: 01708 740308

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

Parish Website

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

Parish Livestream

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

Parish Facebook and Instagram @RomfordRC

Mass Times

See back page.

Reconciliation

Saturday 5.45 – 6.15pm, or on request

St Peter's Primary School

Telephone 01708 745506

Head Teacher

Mrs J Waterfield

**"Anyone who wants to be great among you must be your servant."** This line in today's Gospel is the heart of Christian living. It is the way Jesus shows us how to live when he washes the feet of the disciples – those same disciples who today jostle for the highest places in heaven. In a world that can be obsessed with power and status, there is a vital antidote here. Almost everyone is in leadership in one way or another: as parents, friends, carers, managers, sports captains and even as a sibling. Jesus reminds us today – as so often – that the most significant leadership of all is servant leadership. Think about who you lead, and how you can serve them, this week.

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**To sit with a friend or relative as they die** can bring all sorts of emotions: grief; heartache; agonizing sorrow; anger; relief that suffering is ended; thanksgiving for a beautiful life; trust in Jesus' promise that death is life changed but not ended. This week as the Assisted Dying Bill was introduced in the House of Commons, we hold firm to the constant truth that **our life is Divinely given, and to be cherished from conception to natural death**. This does not mean keeping people alive in a prolonged and artificial way – the Church teaches that "ordinary and proportionate" care is to be offered. What cherishing life does mean is that no-one sees themselves as a cost, or a burden, and everything is done, in wonderful palliative care settings, to alleviate suffering. Cardinal Vincent has written eloquently: <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/homilies/pastoral-letter-on-assisted-suicide/> We are urged to write to our local MP, asking him to oppose the Bill: [andrew.rosindell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.rosindell.mp@parliament.uk). There is more information, and template letters, at [www.livesworthliving.org.uk](http://www.livesworthliving.org.uk). Please keep it all in your prayers.

## Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator Appointed

We are beginning to work together with local parishes in Collier Row, Gidea Park, and Harold Hill as a Parish Partnership, in line with the Bishop's Vision for the Diocese. Recently we successfully applied for funding to cover most of a three year full time position of Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator. At Masses last week it was wonderful to announce that we have appointed Onose Egualeonan. He is 27 years old, from Dagenham, and if you are a fan of *The Voice* then you will know him from the early rounds of the current series. He is an immensely gifted musician, with youth work experience both in a local charity, and in his parish church. He also has a First Class degree in Computer Science, which is a help both in meeting the questions of young people, and in creating content for Social Media. The interview process included time with ten students at The Champion School; they were inspired and engaged by the way Onose presented to them.

Onose writes: *"I am so excited to begin working as your Parish Partnership Youth Coordinator. I am eager to serve, but equally eager to learn from you all. I've been looking for a way to find a career that allows me the opportunity to grow my Catholic faith while sharing it with others, and I'm very grateful to this answered prayer. I hope you will all bear with me as my enthusiasm can sometimes blur into idealism, but I promise that my heart is in the right place, and I hope that we can work together to create a bright future for our young people. I look forward to the amazing journey ahead, and I can't wait to meet you all."* Onose will begin to get to know the Partnership after half term, and will be at Sunday Masses here one weekend in January.

### Update from the Live Simply Group:

The Live Simply Group celebrated the season of creation with two reflective prayer walks in nature. Six hardy people braved the rain to walk around Raphael Park and were rewarded by the wonders of God's creation including beautiful autumn colours, lots of shiny conkers, amazing old oak trees and a family of Egyptian geese with several tiny goslings enjoying a stroll by the lake. The following week there was a walk with some year 6 pupils at St Peter's school. They proudly showed us around the school grounds and the prayer garden; and pointed out the many ways in which the school are encouraging wildlife. We saw log piles, bird boxes and wild areas in the grounds, as well as the lake and the variety of plants and trees growing around the school.

**Petition to ASDA:** please support our petition requesting Asda supermarkets to get rid of plastic packaging. We will be collecting signatures after each Mass on the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> November so please add your name, and make sure our petition gets noticed.

**October is the Month of the Rosary** – do feel welcome to take a rosary from the basket at the front of the church, or add a Rosary to it, to be prayed with by others.

**Harvest Fast Day.** Many thanks to parishioners for your generosity following the recent CAFOD appeal. In excess of £700 was raised.

**Fr Dominic** thanks you for your prayers and kind support after his recent operation. As announced last weekend, he will be taking a short sabbatical next year, after nearly 25 years as a priest. He will be away from the end of May to the start of October, and thanks Fr Gerald Gostling for kindly covering during this time.

**Confirmation** applications are now open for any young person **currently in Year 10 or Year 11** (or sixth form), with sessions beginning in December, and concluding with Bishop Alan's visit on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Full details on the green forms at the back of the church; **applications closing soon!** Deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Are you an adult who would like to become a Catholic?** Perhaps you have never been Baptised, or Baptised but never received Holy Communion or Confirmation? There is a wonderful Journey in Faith (RCIA) group for adults starting **this Wednesday (23<sup>rd</sup>)**, with the chance for excellent conversation, asking questions, and – if you wish – preparing for Sacraments, celebrated at Easter 2025. If you are interested, or would like to know more, simply email [frdominic@brcdt.org](mailto:frdominic@brcdt.org)

### **Secondary School Admissions – Certificate of Catholic Practice**

For those with children in Year 6 applying to **Catholic Secondary Schools for admission in September 2025** your application should be supported by a Certificate of Catholic Practice. This is **only** needed for The Champion School and Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School and indicates that you attend Mass regularly; if that applies to you, please bring your child's Baptism Certificate and Fr Dominic will have copies of the Certificate to sign for you **THIS WEEKEND after any of the Masses**. No appointment is needed. Applications to the Brentwood Ursuline do not need a certificate, and nor do Catholic primary school applications in Havering.

### **St Peter's Catholic Primary School**

There are currently some vacancies for school places. If you are seeking a place for your child please contact the school office on 01708 745506. For September 2025 intake, details of Prospective Parents Tours are available on school website <https://st-peters.havering.sch.uk/havering/primary/st-peters>

**Youth Gather, Essex Outdoors, East Mersea, 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October.** A small number of last minute places remain for anyone in year 9 and above: a weekend of speakers, workshops, prayer, the chance to try archery or climbing, socialise with friends old and new, and all while sharing in and celebrating our Catholic faith. More information: [www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/](http://www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/)

**Mass of Remembrance, 2pm Saturday 2nd November (All Souls Day).** Mass will be offered especially **for all who have died in the last year within the parish community, and from the community at St Peter's school**. Please hand names of those you wish to be remembered into the parish office **by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October**: candles will be lit for them during Mass.

**Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Eileen O'Connor RIP** who died recently, and for her children Mary, David and Eamonn. Eileen was a member of the parish SVP for over thirty years. Her funeral will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 12.15pm.

**Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Marianne Leonard RIP** who died recently, and for her children Bobbie, Nicki and John. Her family have had a long connection to this parish and her funeral will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am.

### Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Ints Lucy Bacon (18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday) (Bacon)
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Bridgie O'Brien RIP (Savva)
	11.30am	Ladda Carter RIP (Carter)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.20am	John Doyle RIP (Edward) <i>In Campion School</i>
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	12.15pm	Joyce Willshere RIP
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Florence Howett RIP (F)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass –	Fr Dominic in Rome with Campion Students
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Ints Heneghan Family (Murnane)
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Sheila McCarthy RIP (Donnelly)
	11.30am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Funeral Mass for Eileen O'Connor RIP
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am	Ints Rita Doyle & Family (Heneghan)
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>		All Saints
	9.30am	Sarah Carey RIP (F)
	12.15pm	People of the Parish
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		All Souls
	2.00pm	Mass of Remembrance: Parishioners who have died
		Thirty-First Sunday of the Year
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30pm	Andy & Nancy Sullivan RIP (Bray)
	9.30am	Ints Margie Davids (Gillooly)
	11.30am	James Hiles RIP (Hiles)

**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, Jacey Cooke, Mark Dalton, Dyllis Dangerfield, Agnes Danielka, Margaret Ellis, Pat Fagan, Genevieve Geary, Pauline Gillooly, Irene Girling, Jim Griffin, Evelyn Hughes, Joseph, Benjamin Joseph, Paula Lam, Matty, Harry McKinley, Brendan O'Connor, Daniel O'Mahoney, Agnes O'Sullivan, Shamus Pierce, Michael Scullion, Peggy Squires, Maureen Symes, Claire Tilyard, Andrew Todd, Danny Toye, Stephen Toye, Betty Walsh, 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](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)**