



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 1st December 2024

First Sunday of Advent (C)

Sunday 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

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Parish Website 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

A week of congratulations and thanks!

Many thanks to everyone who did so much to prepare for the Bazaar; those who worked so hard on Friday night and throughout Saturday; those who donated, made and crafted items for all the stalls. It is all an amazing effort – thank you.

Amelia and friends from Sacred Heart of Mary School put immense effort into the preparation of a wonderful raffle and cakes to support the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Gaza a fortnight ago. They raised £600; thanks to parishioners for your great generosity and encouragement.

The Petals wreath making masterclass could be described as “a hen party where foliage took the place of alcohol.” It was a great deal of fun for all involved, and such a success that people are already asking about next year! In addition, £760 was raised towards paying off the debt on the new parish centre. Every pound helps.

The Champion School joins Sacred Heart in receiving **Outstanding** in a recent external inspection. For Champion the inspectors were focused on the Catholicity of the school, and the report glows with wonderful words about community, charity and lived faith. Read the full report on the school website. Particular mention to the Headteacher Mr Larner, the school chaplain Mr Rawcliffe, and the whole RE staff team. **Thanks** also to Chris and Danny from the school site team who helped put our Christmas decorations up in our hall this week – just in time for the Bazaar.

A GLORIOUS HOUR OF CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC
NEXT Saturday 7th December, 3.00pm

Join our magnificent choir (who usually sing on a Sunday at 11.30am) and enjoy an hour of wonderful Christmas music; a mix of choir pieces, and choral favourites for you to join in with. Hopefully this is an ideal time for those who may find it hard to get to evening events – DO INVITE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS, especially those who are alone. Also ideal for families. The concert will be followed by mince pies, tea, coffee and mulled wine in the parish centre. A truly lovely Advent moment.

“Gifts under the tree” – during the whole of Advent

This time last year we had a hoarding in the church! This year, with new buildings, our trees will look a bit different. But to get us started we will have a tiny tree throughout Advent, and encourage gifts of toys, chocolate and toiletries. This will mean we can get them to families who we know are in need, including via S.M.I.L.E. and to those at the women’s refuge, so they have them before Christmas Day.

Items given on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are still very welcome, of course, and these will be given where they are most needed in the New Year.

Please do not wrap gifts but simply leave them unwrapped, or in gift bags.

There remains an ongoing need for Foodbank Donations, Donations can be left in bags in the side chapel any time the church is open.

Home visits. Each Advent and Lent – and at any other time when there is emergency need – Fr Dominic visits housebound parishioners in their homes, or care homes within the parish. If you, or a friend or relative, would like a visit, please speak with Fr Dominic or contact Julia in the parish office. All through the year Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist can visit with Holy Communion. Visits can also be arranged from the SVP or Legion of Mary – just let us know, so that no-one is alone.

Can you help? Each weekend after 6.30pm and 11.30am Masses Fr Dominic locks all the buildings, sets the hall alarm, etc. The stewards and sacristans do a great job but it really would be a help to have a couple of people who could do the final “site lock up” on a Saturday evening and a Sunday lunchtime. If this could be you, please get in touch!

New Year’s Eve. If there was Mass at 11pm, followed by a little fizz, cake and fireworks from London on the big screen from 11.45pm – 12.15am, would you be interested? Please let Fr Dominic know; if there’s some interest, we will give it a try!

A Christmas message from the staff and trustees of Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society: We would like to wish everyone across Brentwood Diocese a very happy and blessed Christmas. As we come to the end of our 40th anniversary year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work by making a donation at one of the parish crib scenes across the Diocese over the years. This steadfast support has allowed us to give hope to thousands of children, young people and families by offering them the specialist care they need. Thank you all.

Vacancies at St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Required from September 2025

We are deeply grateful to Mrs Waterfield for twenty years of service to St Peter's. By notifying us of her plans to retire next summer, she has very helpfully given as much time as possible to locate a new Headteacher – and the search has begun. **Please do spread the word!** Our school is magnificent, and we are looking for an inspiring leader with great attention to standards of teaching and learning, wonderful pastoral care for the children, and all wrapped in a strong Catholic ethos which infuses every aspect of school life.

All the details are on the Diocesan website:

https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-12-09_1200_St-Peters-Primary-School-Romford_Headteacher_Job-Advert.pdf

Visits are warmly encouraged, and the deadline for applications is **9th December**.

School Keeper Required from July 2025

24 hours per week worked over 3 Days. Split Shift Arrangement as follows: Monday to Wednesday 7-11am and 2.30-6.30pm 52 weeks per year. Salary: (FTE £29 346-£30 630; Pro Rata £19 564- £20 420). The Governors are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and self-motivated School keeper to ensure that our site is safe and secure for our pupils, staff and other users. Visits to the school are essential. Only candidates who have visited the school will be considered for shortlisting. Application form and Job Description available from the school office 01708 745506. **Closing Date: January 13th 2025**

BCYS A huge thank you to everyone who was able to support our World Youth Sunday appeal last weekend. Applications for next summer's Lourdes pilgrimage are now open, and the next Youth Mass will take place next Thursday 5th December. For more information please visit the website www.bcys.net and social media (@brentwoodcys).

Can you volunteer at the St John Bosco Children's Camp next summer?

Applications are now open for anyone aged 17+ to volunteer for a week at the end of July 2025. From helping in the kitchen to running sports and other activities, your skills will mean that 100 children have a wonderful holiday. For most of the children, it is their only summer holiday. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Brentwood. More information - including training date and DBS requirements, along with volunteering FAQs - can all be found at www.boscocamp.co.uk. Applications for children to come to Camp will open in the spring.

Christmas can be a very tough time for those with an addiction to alcohol. For yourself, or someone you know, there is help in the parish AA group. For more info you are warmly invited to call Jim on 07760 143377.

Save the date: Advent Reconciliation Services

At St Edward the Confessor: Wednesday 18th December, 11.00am

At Corpus Christi, Collier Row: Thursday 19th December, 7.00pm

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Mollie Pritchard RIP who died recently. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 10th December at 12.30pm. We pray for all her family and friends.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 30th	6.30pm	Thomas Murnane RIP (Murnane)
Sunday 1st	9.30am	Lynn Robinson RIP (Donnelly)
	11.30am	Martin Harrison RIP (O'Neill)
	5.20pm	<i>With Confirmation Group</i> For Peace (Murnane)
Tuesday 3rd	8.20am	Roland Selvini RIP (Campion) <i>In Campion School</i>
Wednesday 4th	12.15pm	Patricia Gilbert RIP (Ellis)
Thursday 5th	9.00am	Ints Corbett Family (Donnelly)
Friday 6th	9.00am	Janet Francis & Lynn Donnelly RIP (Bhogal)
Saturday 7th	6.30pm	Eugenio Domingo RIP (Domingo)
Sunday 8th	9.30am	John O'Shea RIP (O'Shea)
	11.30am	Maria Luz Diaz & Roderick Pagdanganan (Diaz)
	3.00pm	<i>With Communion children and families</i> People of the Parish
Tuesday 10th	8.20am	Michael Simmonds RIP (Brooker) <i>In Campion school</i>
	12.30am	Funeral – Mollie Pritchard RIP
Wednesday 11th	12.15pm	Eileen Grannell RIP (Golden Club)
Thursday 12th	9.00am	Thanksgiving for Parishioners (Donnelly)
Friday 13th	9.00am	Gwen Howe RIP (Murnane)
Saturday 14th	6.30pm	Ellen Scannell RIP (Nicholson)
Sunday 15th	9.30am	James (Jim) Gerety RIP (Burman)
	11.30am	Ints Nicholson Family (Nicholson)

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, Doreen Hewitt, 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