



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

'Gaudete' Sunday

Sunday 22nd December 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

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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

Ten days to Christmas! Are we ready? In one sense, we can never be truly ready for the awe and wonder, joy, innocence, radiance and hope that the birth of Jesus is for each one of us. But do all that you can, in these final ten days, to have your hearts as prepared as possible. Come to Reconciliation (services at 11am Wednesday 18th here, and 7pm Thursday 19th at Corpus Christi, Collier Row, or any Saturday evening 5.45 – 6.15pm). Take time in prayer – on your own and with family members, if you can. Think about the gifts and treats you are buying; could some of it be a charitable gift, or a donation to the food bank? Today's Gospel has a particular focus on fairness and justice as the crowds, including soldiers and tax collectors, ask John the Baptist, "What should we do?" Take time to notice his direct answers, inspiring simple but significant charity (Luke 3:10-18). All of this deepens the cry from John the Baptist throughout Advent: **"Prepare a way for the Lord."**

Thank you to the Choir and everyone who came to listen to the brilliant hour of Advent and Christmas music last Saturday. Our own Livestream had a few crackles on the sound, so you will now find a special recording of the afternoon on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0plOef0Fi0M> You can also see **the choir live in Romford Market next Sunday, 22nd December, 1.30pm – 2.15pm**, as part of an afternoon of music animated by local churches.

Thank you to the many, many people who helped with and supported the Bazaar; the total is now touching £7,000, and it was a truly amazing event. Thank you.

“Gifts under the tree”

Thank you to those who have already given toys, chocolate and toiletries during Advent. These have been passed on to families 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 this weekend, and 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.

New Year’s Eve, 10.45pm Mass. The Mass will be followed by a little fizz, cake and fireworks from London on the big screen from 11.45pm – 12.15am. A lovely way to give thanks for the last year (or to leave it behind!) and to see in the New Year. There will also be Mass at 10am on New Year’s Day.

The new Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator Onosé, will speak at each of the Masses on the weekend of 5th and 6th Jan, with plenty on offer for young people in the weeks and months ahead. In the meantime, here are two great opportunities:

If you are in school Year 10 – 13, come to Lourdes in July. You’ll travel with 150 young people, for a week where you serve the elderly, discover Lourdes, dive deeper into faith and have a lot of fun along the way. There’s financial support from the parish if you need it, but you must apply soon; full information at www.bcys.net/SL25

Volunteer at the St John Bosco Children’s Camp. Applications 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 100 children have a wonderful holiday. For most of the children, it is their only summer holiday. More information - including training date and DBS requirements - can all be found at www.boscocamp.co.uk. Applications for children to come will open in spring.

Live Simply Group Updates: **Thank you** to the 150 parishioner who supported our Petition to Asda to reduce single use plastic. This has been sent to Asda; we’ll let you know when we receive a response. We would also like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. Please keep in mind the three Live Simply principles; living simply, living sustainably with creation and living in solidarity with the poor. You will find some very significant insights about green giving from the World Wildlife Fund at <https://www.wwf.org.uk/top-tips-sustainable-christmas> as well as excellent ideas and resources from our Diocesan Caritas at www.caritasbrentwood.org/advent.

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.

The Days before Christmas 2024

Sunday 22nd December, 1.30 – 2.15pm **Our choir sing in Romford Market**
Come and support local businesses and traders in the Market, while our choir sing Christmas favourites.

Monday 23rd December, 10am – 12noon **Help with the Big Clean**
Fuelled by festive snacks, become part of the parish cleaning team, so the church is sparkling for the Christmas Masses.

Monday 23rd December, 2pm – 3pm. **Rehearsal for Altar Servers**
For **all** our Altar Servers, a chance to brush up on skills, and learn new aspects of serving. New servers welcome (aged 8+ who have made First Holy Communion).

Tuesday 24th December, 12noon – 3pm. **Join the Petals!**
Get in touch in advance with Julie Smith, via the parish office. Never arranged flowers before? Do not worry. Come and help the Petals as they create their phenomenal festive flora, plus plenty of coffee and cake.

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will be from Friday 18 July – Friday 25 July 2025. It is so easy to travel; flights will be Southend to Lourdes. The pilgrimage includes medical support, and is ideal for every parishioner. Details, including how to book, will follow in the New Year – save the dates.

Islam Study Day. Sidra Naeem, distinguished teacher and chair of Havering Interfaith will speak about Islam on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 11.00am in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The talk will also be available by livestream at www.whatgoodnews.org.

Mrs Waterfield – 20 years at St Peter’s. To mark this exceptional service, there will be a week of celebration in school in January. If you have memories or stories to share from your time as a pupil or staff member at the school please do email them in: office@st-peters.havering.sch.uk

Save the date. An inspiring film about a pioneering black female leader: **“On a bet and a prayer.”** Mary Stretch is the founder of the refugee support charity Calais Light. Prior to that she was a highly successful CEO, and along the way she has battled cancer. Now a film has been made about her life and it will be shown here on **Friday 28th February**. After the film Mary herself will be available for a Q&A. Earlybird price (until 4th Jan) is £7.99: use discount code “Church” on the booking website: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sheerahnetwork/1481185>

St Peter’s - School Keeper Required from July 2025

24 hours per week worked over 3 Days. Monday to Wednesday 7-11am and 2.30-6.30pm 52 weeks per year. Salary: £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. Application pack available from the school office 01708 745506. **Closing Date: January 13th 2025**

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 **Roma Curtis RIP**. Her funeral Mass is on Thursday 9th January at 12noon. We pray for her husband Jim, and all the family.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 14th	6.30pm	Ellen Scannell RIP (Nicholson)
Sunday 15th	9.30am	James (Jim) Gerety RIP (Burman)
	11.30am	Ints Nicholson Family (Nicholson)
Tuesday 17th	8.20am	Patrick Lobo RIP (Lobo) <i>In Campion School</i>
Wednesday 18th	12.15pm	Danny McCarthy RIP (Golden Club)
Thursday 19th	9.00am	Pauline Burgess RIP (Murnane)
Friday 20th	9.00am	Fr Tom Jordan RIP (Lobo)
Saturday 21st	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 22nd	9.30am	Pjeter Gjoka RIP (Prendi)
	11.30am	Patrick Donaghy RIP (Gannon)

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December

5.00pm Mass especially for young children (Primary School age) and families.

7.00pm Mass for all – an additional Mass for Christmas Eve

10.00pm (9.30pm Carols) Mass for all, in the beautiful stillness of Christmas Eve

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December

9.30am Mass for all in the radiant joy of Christmas morning

11.30am Mass for all in the radiant joy of Christmas morning

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, 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