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| Diagram  Description automatically generated | ***Parish newsletter***  **CATHOLIC PARISH OF**  **ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR**  **Sunday 12th January 2025**  **The Baptism of the Lord**  **Sunday 19th January 2025**  **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)** |

**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**](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**

**Thank you** to everyone who was involved in any way with the Christmas and New Year Masses; what a truly beautiful, prayerful, joyful and radiant time it all was! The many visitors to the parish were effusive in their delight at being here. Thank you also for the generosity of the Christmas collection and your many kind words.

**Many blessings** to the Filipino Community in the parish and beyond who this weekend celebrate the Feast of **Santo Niño.** In a particular way the 11.30am Mass will be dedicated to this celebration, and all are very welcome to stay for refreshments afterwards.

**If your New Year’s Resolution was to get more involved in parish life then there are two excellent and fresh opportunities to do that.**

1. Last weekend you heard Onosé speaking about **the hope to set up a warm, safe study space for 13 – 18 year olds on Wednesdays** from 3.30 – 6pm, starting after half term. We need a couple of volunteers each week – could you help fortnightly or monthly? Email Onosé: [**romfordyouth@brcdt.org**](mailto:romfordyouth@brcdt.org)
2. We have begun a partnership with Ahava (formerly Hope for Havering) to **use the hall as a night shelter once a week, on a Tuesday evening**. They will willingly train and support volunteers who would like to be involved with this – chat with me to discover more.

With many blessings on this **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.** A good moment to remember our own Baptism, as well as the immense witness and courage of John the Baptist. *Fr Dominic*

**Opportunities for Young People:**

**For anyone aged 13-18 who would like to meet Onosé**, and share ideas and possibilities for people of your age in the parish, you are warmly invited to come together on **Thursday 13th February, 6-8pm.** The evening will include pizza, chat and dreaming about what the parish (and nearby parishes) could look like for you.

**FINAL CHANCE: 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. Apply soon: full information at [www.bcys.net/SL25](http://www.bcys.net/SL25) - **closing date 31st January.**

**FINAL CHANCE: 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](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk). Applications for children to come will open in spring. Volunteer applications **closing 31st January.**

**Live Simply Group Updates**

The Live Simply group invite parishioners to join in a **Reflective Prayer walk, on Monday January 20th, 1.30 pm**. We’ll meet at the Raphael Park gates in Main Road. Come along and praise God for the early signs of spring. The walk should last just over an hour, so will finish in time for the school pick up.

**Have you calculated your carbon footprint?** Thought of ways to reduce it? It is all about care for God’s creation, and reducing the impact of climate change, currently affecting people in many parts of the world and most notably the poorest who cannot flee floods or fires. Calculate your carbon footprint here:

[www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx)

Do consider taking part in **Veganuary** - a 30 day challenge to eat only plant based foods in January. Or the **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch** 24th-26th January: [rspb.org.uk](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2frspb.org.uk&c=E,1,b1cJW6NqvhHX3TqUSeaPW9i6F4Atmk13SBdhlW3Bww5bFEZkPpmHdpHSl9cO845-r9jLd4zMDwP6HXFn9Xmcaq3uYTjw9N8FHdMXvEmnRIGnGMcQ&typo=1)

**Safeguarding Refresher Training.** Parish Volunteerson First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes, as well as Children’s Liturgy, SVP and any other **groups working with children or vulnerable adults** please **save the date of Thursday 6th March, 7-8.30pm.** Attendance is essential.

**BOOK NOW! “On a bet and a prayer”** **is an inspiring film** about Mary Stretch, a pioneering black female leader; it will be shown here at 7pm on **Friday 28th February.** After the film Mary will be available for a Q&A. £9.99 for the evening. Bookings: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sheerahnetwork/1481185>

**6th Romford Scout Groups: New Year re-start.** Beavers, Cubs & Scouts resume on Tuesday 14 January in The Parish Centre at 5pm, 6:15pm, 7:30pm respectively. New faces welcome. Email: [6thromfordscouts@gmail.com](mailto:6thromfordscouts@gmail.com) for info or pop in.

**Next Saturday 18th January – Bring and Buy sale,** 11am - 2pm in the Parish Hall. *Bring* your unwanted Christmas gifts and *Buy* your Christmas gifts for next year. Ploughman’s lunch and Bingo. All very welcome.

**Sunday 26th January** – Covid and Flu Vaccinations **right here!** The local NHS Vaccination outreach team will be in the Parish Centre from 9am – 1pm on 26th, and can give you a vaccination. They welcome: all over 65 years old; Health & social care workers, irrespective of age; Patients over 12 years old in a clinical risk group or who are vulnerable. Pop into the Lourdes Room before or after Mass.

**Sunday 2nd February: International Food Day** Everyone is invited to celebrate our rich ethnic and cultural backgrounds and bring a dish to share on Sunday 2nd February after the 9.30 and 11.30am Masses. Children and families are also invited to wear national sporting shirts or colours from their cultural backgrounds.

**The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Saturday 8th February at 3.30pm – Special Mass with Anointing, followed by coffee and cakes.** This Mass is open to anyone, and marks the World Day of the Sick, and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Mass will include the Sacrament of Anointing, and it is timed so as many of our ill and housebound parishioners as possible can attend – do get in touch if you need a lift. Mass will be followed by coffee, cake and a chance to chat.

**Saturday 18th January, 11am – 2pm, Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. Study Day on Islam.** Sidra Naeem, distinguished teacher and chair of Havering Interfaith will present and answer questions. The talk will also be available by livestream at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org/).

**Saturday 18January, 10:30am-midday, online. A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with CAFOD.** Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD’s Simon Giarchi chat with Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop’s Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD’s Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD’s Head of Africa).Register here for free: [www.cafod.org.uk/jubilee](http://www.cafod.org.uk/jubilee)

**Sunday 19th January is Peace Sunday**. Geraldine Ellis will speak at each Mass on behalf of Pax Christi. The theme of Pope Francis’ message for the World Day of Peace is Forgiveness; a striking contrast to the revenge and hatred which is sparking wars in so many parts of the world. [www.paxchristi.org](http://www.paxchristi.org)

**Wednesday 22nd January, “Why do people no longer come to church?”** A talk by Rev Dr Liam Hayes at New Hall School, Boreham (Near Chelmsford), 7pm – refreshments from 6.30pm. Free to attend but please register online: [https://canonesses.co.uk/event/why-do-people-no-longer-go-to-church-wed-22-jan-2025/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fcanonesses.co.uk%2fevent%2fwhy-do-people-no-longer-go-to-church-wed-22-jan-2025%2f&c=E,1,qO-JXkRvXdkaeUFp3eqw-Zn009lw2VFyWyo9y468vULOpylczVbbg47lCSYNF43beJD9nPWuGXfPexBbxfHw7OBN15xuTNQV2Y5UbrG8eIhcJi2aDl11JZ4,&typo=1&ancr_add=1)

**Sunday 9th February, 2-6pm, Caritas Networking Day.** We are pleased to be hosting Bishop Alan and representatives from 10 different charities here in Romford, on behalf of the Diocese. An opportunity to explore the Catholic response to pressing issues such as homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, supporting those affected by the Cost of Living Crisis, and addressing climate change. Registration is free - find more details at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network).

**Thank you** Mary’s Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their generosity in response to our Foreign Currency initiative.  It raised a terrific £1080.64 which means Mary’s Meals will be able to feed 56 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support.  Please continue to pray for the work of Mary’s Meals. God bless you all.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Maureen Symes RIP** who died recently. Her funeral Mass will take place on Monday 27th January at 12.30pm and then to South Essex Crematorium. We pray for all her family and friends.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **John Conti RIP** who died recently. His funeral Mass is on Friday 31st January at 1pm then to Upminster Cemetery. We pray for John’s wife Maureen, his sons Matt and Paul, and all his family and friends.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Mary Marks RIP** who died recently. Her funeral Mass will take place on Friday 7th February at 12.30pm and then to South Essex Crematorium. We pray for Mary’s daughter Veronica, her family and friends.

**Mass Times and Intentions**

**Saturday 11th 6.30pm Margie Coleman RIP**

**Sunday 12th 9.30am John Scanlon RIP (SVP)**

**11.30am People of the Parish**

**Tuesday 14th 8.20am Euan Belcher RIP (Campion)** At Campion School

**Wednesday 15th 12.15pm Ryan Musy RIP (Musy)**

**Saturday 18th 6.30pm Peter Schroeyers RIP (Schroeyers)**

**Sunday 19th 9.30am People of the Parish**

**11.30am Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life (KSC Romford)**

**Tuesday 21st 8.20am Terry Venables RIP (Brennan)** At Campion School

**Wednesday 22nd 12.15pm Eileen Grannell RIP (Ellis)**

**Saturday 25th 6.30pm Ints Tadeusz & Andrzej Jeleniewicz (Abba)**

**Sunday 26th 9.30am Tom O’Hora RIP (McNeil)**

**11.30am Martin Gillooly RIP (Gillooly)**

**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,*

*Monica O’Donnell, Daniel O’Mahoney, Agnes O’Sullivan, Shamus Pierce, Peggy Squires,*

*Claire Tilyard, Andrew Todd, Danny Toye, Stephen Toye, Betty Walsh, Vince Willshere,*

*Trudy Wijeyeratnam & 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)