



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR
Sunday 26th January 2025
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
(Sunday of the Word of God)
Sunday 2nd February 2025
The Presentation of the Lord (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

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

Today is the **Sunday of the Word of God**. You might well ask, isn't that every Sunday? Every day? Indeed it is, but naming one Sunday in the year like this does put a special focus on it, and today's Gospel, from Luke chapter 4, is a truly excellent place to start. As we read Luke's Gospel during this year in the Church, why not do the same at home? The first couple of chapters will be a reminder of the great events we celebrated in Advent and Christmas – and continue to celebrate. Then, in a key way, Jesus' adult ministry starts with what we read today – setting out themes which define his mission and vision.

Jesus quotes directly from the Old Testament, from Isaiah, and each line merits careful reading, as we search our hearts to see how we live this mission. **Good news to the poor; sight to the blind; liberty to captives; liberty to those who are oppressed.** These are very different messages from ones we hear in parts of the world right now. With radical inclusion, Jesus reaches to the edges, to the lost and forgotten. It chimes so well with the Second Reading where St Paul reminds us that our Divinely created human family is one body, with many parts. We each depend on each other – and on God. These Gospel truths are constantly highlighted by Luke; Jesus' words are a challenge for some and a deep consolation for others.

On this Sunday of the Word of God; today and every day – dive in! Immerse yourself in the Gospel. To help, you'll find some beautiful reflections, talks and commentaries from the member of the Pope's Biblical Commission who is in the very next door parish! Look at Fr Adrian's website www.whatgoodnews.org. What fresh insight and inspiration could you discover today?

Bring and Buy sale. Thank you to everyone who supported the Bring and Buy Sale. The fantastic sum of £470 was raised to support the Parish building fund.

This 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.

Next 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.

Opportunities for Young People:

For anyone aged 13-18 who would like to meet our new Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator, 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 - closing date **THIS FRIDAY, 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. Applications for children to come will open in spring. Volunteer applications **closing THIS FRIDAY, 31st January.**

Live Simply Group Updates

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

Safeguarding Refresher Training. Parish Volunteers on 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.

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.

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>

Peace Sunday. Thank you to everyone who supported last week’s appeal on Peace Sunday; a total of £320 was donated. At a time when peace in the Middle East seems attainable but so very fragile, please continue to pray for peace. Pax Christi are the only UK Catholic charity dedicated solely to promoting peace, and ending violence and war. They are open to people of all faiths and none, and work in Ecumenical and inter-faith partnerships across the world. Discover more at www.paxchristi.org.uk.

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.

Local Parish Bereavement Group Come along to find comfort, support and understanding at this welcoming and informal bereavement support group. You are very welcome as we navigate through grief together. The next meeting will be held **Wednesday 5th February**, at **2pm** in St. Anthony’s Hall at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Petersfield Ave, Harold Hill RM3 9RB. There will be subsequent meetings scheduled for the **1st Wednesday of every month. You’re not alone on this journey!** All are welcome. Tea/Coffee and Cake will be provided.

As we look towards the summer, do remember that Fr Dominic is on sabbatical from May 25th to October 7th. If you are getting married in 2025, here or abroad, and have not yet made contact, please do so this week. If you could help with opening and closing the church and parish centre after weekend Masses during this time, that would be an immense support; please let Fr Dominic know and then we can arrange a briefing and rota, etc. Wednesday and weekend Masses, as well as Baptisms and any funerals during this time will most usually be covered by Fr Gerry Gostling – his kindness in doing this is greatly appreciated, and do look after him: as you know he loves cake, coffee and chat!

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Maureen Symes RIP**. 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**. 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 **Frank John RIP**. His funeral Mass will take place on Thursday 6th February at 11.30am and then to South Essex Crematorium. We pray for Frank's children Michelle and Richard, and all his family and friends.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Mary Marks RIP**. Her funeral Mass will take place on Friday 7th February at 11.00am and then to South Essex Crematorium. We pray for Mary's daughter Veronica, her family and friends.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 25th	6.30pm	Ints Tadeusz & Andrzej Jeleniewicz (Abba)
Sunday 26th	9.30am	Tom O'Hora RIP (McNeil)
	11.30am	Martin Gillooly RIP (Gillooly)
Monday 27th	12.30pm	<i>Funeral – Maureen Symes RIP</i>
Tuesday 28th	8.20am	Terry Venables RIP (Brennan) At Campion School
Wednesday 29th	12.15pm	Ints Gene Pears (Pears)
Thursday 30th	9.00am	Agnes Carey RIP (F)
Friday 31st	8.15am	Ints Maureen Hiles & Family (Heneghan) At St Peter's School
	1.00pm	<i>Funeral – John Conti RIP</i>
Saturday 1st	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Mark Filipi RIP (Filipi)
	11.30am	Ints & Thanksgiving Moses Ibeh & family (Ibeh)
Tuesday 4th	8.20am	Angela Geraghty RIP (Shanahan) At Campion School
Wednesday 5th	12.15pm	Lynn Donnelly RIP (Donnelly)
Thursday 6th	11.30am	<i>Funeral – Frank John RIP</i>
Friday 7th	8.15am	Eileen Grannell RIP (Murnane) At St Peter's School
	11.00am	<i>Funeral – Mary Marks RIP</i>
Saturday 8th	3.30pm	Eileen Grannell RIP (Heneghan)
	6.30pm	Arthur & Mary Hart RIP (Johal)
Sunday 9th	9.30am	Teresa West RIP (SVP)
	11.30am	People of the Parish

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, 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.