



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
(Racial Justice Sunday)

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

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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

In today's Gospel Jesus encourages the fishermen to **“put out into the deep.”** They are experts, and have been fishing all night; now a stranger is telling them where to fish. They could have ignored him – but something in who he is, and how he speaks, inspires them to follow his advice. The result is a catch so large that it almost breaks their nets. As we reflect on this, we might ask ourselves where Jesus wants us to take a leap of faith, to put out into deep waters, take a risk of trust and hope in Him? For the fishermen – Peter, Andrew, James and John – the consequence of following Jesus' advice on the waters is that they become his first followers on land, the first disciples. They are tasked with being “fishers of people” – encouraging those they meet to discover Jesus' message, to follow him in love, service, hope and joy. It is Jesus' mission for us all.

**Thank you** to everyone who brought such tasty food last Sunday, and who dressed in national clothing. A great way to mix and meet people – and very relevant as next weekend is **Racial Justice Sunday**. Our world is wrecked by tensions between peoples based on skin colour, ethnicity and national divides. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, with its vital themes of forgiveness and freedom, we pray for peace, dialogue and respect between peoples. We pray that we may listen in order to understand rather than simply to respond. To discover more about the vital ministry and message of the Church in this area, have a look at the Catholic Association for Racial Justice: <https://www.carj.org.uk/> This is also a significant week to discover the powerful story of **St Josephine Bakhita**, Patron Saint of those working to combat human trafficking: <https://santamartagroup.org/>

**SVP latest news.** Hear from one of the parish St Vincent de Paul Society team at the end of all Masses this weekend, with an update on their work. Often hidden, and always vital, the parish SVP support individuals and families with visits and practical help. Do keep them all in your prayers.

**Happy Valentine's Day!** Prayers for all married and engaged couples and everyone in love, whether you are celebrating Valentine's Day for the first time or the 70<sup>th</sup> time! Just a thought as you buy flowers this week: **over 570 tonnes of roses will be imported over the next few days.** So why not do something different? Like a wildflower seed mix, where flowers will bloom later in the year. Or a Valentines card on seeded paper, that can be planted afterwards? Have a look at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/seasonal/sustainable-valentines-flowers> for more ideas. It is all part of living simply and sustainably.

**SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 7.30 for 8pm – the Youth Led Parish Quiz is back, and it will be better than ever! Support the 14 young people travelling from the parish to Lourdes this year ... and hear Onosé sing!** Onosé will join with our Youth Band in a live music round, and there will be the usual eclectic mix of rounds on topics you never thought you'd be asked about. £60 for a table of 8 – book your tables with young people after Mass from next weekend, 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>Feb. You can also book as an individual or couple for £8 per person. Bring your own refreshments on the night. Ideal for families too – children from age 11+ are very welcome.

**THIS THURSDAY, 6-8pm, Gathering for young people aged 13-18**

**Come and 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 13<sup>th</sup> February, 6-8pm.** The evening will include pizza, chat and dreaming about what the parish (and nearby parishes) could look like for you. Parents/ Grandparents – even if your teen has not been to church for a while, do encourage them to come along. Everyone age 13-18 is very welcome, and we would like to hear from as many young people as possible.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> March, 7-8.30pm.** Attendance is essential.

**Crime Prevention** Our local police will be available after 9.30 and 11.30am Masses on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February for advice on crime prevention.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> February**. After the film Mary will be available for a Q&A. £9.99 for the evening – use the code “Church” when you book, to get this discounted rate. Bookings: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sheerahnetwork/1481185>

**TODAY, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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. All are welcome, and you can book in at the last minute, or just come along: more details at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://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. St. Anthony’s Hall at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Petersfield Ave, Harold Hill RM3 9RB on 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 25<sup>th</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup>.** 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!

**Maureen Symes RIP** The Symes family would like to thank the community of St Edward’s for your kind words and support during our recent bereavement. We offer sincere thanks too to Fr Dominic for his kind and thoughtful support to us during this time. Our thanks go to all those who attended the Requiem Mass and Committal, for the Masses that are to be offered in Mum’s name, for the cards we received and the donations made in Mum’s memory to the chosen charities. We took great comfort from the many anecdotes of Mum and her life, and from the great affection and regard with which she is clearly remembered by so many people. Thank you, one and all.

**Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School**, Upminster are looking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher from September 2025. Please see the TES or the School website - [www.sacredheartofmary.net](http://www.sacredheartofmary.net) for details. Closing date: 25 February 2025.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Kathleen ("Kitty") Reid RIP**. Her funeral Mass will take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February and then to South Essex Crematorium. We pray for all her family and friends.

### Mass Times and Intentions

<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Arthur &amp; Mary Hart RIP (Johal)</b>
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Teresa West RIP (SVP)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.20am</b>	<b>Ints Jackie Connelly (Heneghan)</b> At Campion School
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>John Conti RIP (O'Dea)</b>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Ada Newby RIP (F)</b>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass today – Havering schools INSET day at Campion</b>	
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Michelle Stuart RIP (Pears)</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Thanksgiving for Mrs Waterfield</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Ints Monica O'Donnell (Heneghan)</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Fr John Taylor RIP (Donnelly)</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Funeral – Kathleen Reid RIP</b>
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Ints Donald &amp; Family (Slawek)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Vocations to Priesthood &amp; Religious Life (KSC Romford)</b>

**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, John and Genevieve Geary, Pauline Gillooly, Irene Girling, Jim Griffin, Frank and Rose Hayden, Doreen Hewitt, Evelyn Hughes, Benjamin Joseph, Michael Kelly, 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)**