

# Catholic Parish of St Edward the Confessor, Romford



## Living Lent in the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025

### *Forgiveness and Freedom*

**In his letter to open the Jubilee Year Pope Francis highlighted the theme of forgiveness and freedom.** These are magnificent words and ideas to consider in Lent, and they are intertwined. Forgiveness liberates – whether we are the ones forgiving or being forgiven. Our Lenten journey allows us to dive deep into the life-giving, freeing, Resurrection love of Jesus Christ; such love is sometimes most radically discovered in the depths of Good Friday, the servant leadership of Holy Thursday, or the desolate 40 days in the desert.

This year, with a late Easter, the stirrings of spring will also become very evident as Lent continues. Here in the parish, on Laudate Sunday (the “joyful” Fourth Sunday of Lent) 49 young people will be Confirmed by Bishop Alan. By precious coincidence, a very significant Jubilee number! To discover more about the history of Jubilee and much more information have a look at the Vatican website: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025.html>

**This leaflet contains all sorts of opportunities, to help you throughout Lent. Do have a good look, and come to as much as you can, for a Lent full of forgiveness and freedom.**



## Deepening your personal faith

**Lent is a significant time to give extra attention to understanding our faith.** There are many, many ways to be able to do this, including spending extra time reading the Bible (this year a good focus would be Luke chapter 22 –24, covering Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Resurrection and Ascension – every line can be prayed over).

If you are “on the go” then there are many resources online. Here are a few examples:

**Cafod** offer a daily email throughout Lent, with a prayer and reflection straight to your inbox, helping to keep a global perspective in your prayer <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar>

**Pray as you go** is both an App and a website. It offers a guided reflection and prayer each day; a 15 minute meditation ideal for a daily commute, or at the start or end of the day: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

**The Jesuits** have a spiritual tradition developed by St Ignatius, and it comes to life on their website, with a fresh piece of Scripture, reflection and prayer each day: <https://jesuitprayer.org/>

## Brentwood Cathedral Wednesdays 7pm – Lenten Talks

**Another way to deepen our personal faith is to listen to excellent speakers. This year the Lenten talks at Brentwood Cathedral take the theme of *Those who believe, don't leave with a focus on the power of the Eucharist in our lives.* The speakers are:**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**                    **Brenden Thompson.** Brenden is originally from Barking, and is now the UK Director of the *Word on Fire Institute* working with Bishop Robert Barron.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**                    **Fr Philip Caldwell** is a gifted preacher who has taught in seminaries for a number of years. He is a priest of Salford Diocese.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**                    **Bishop Alan Williams, SM** surely needs no further introduction – our very own Bishop!

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**                    **Fr Stephen Morrison OPraem** is a Norbertine Priest and scholar who speaks several languages. Formerly in Chelmsford, now based in Peckham.

There is no need to register for these talks; just arrive at the Cathedral (28 Ingrave Rd, Brentwood CM15 8AT). Parking is limited, so you may find it easiest to get the train (the Cathedral is a 10 minute walk uphill from Brentwood Station) or bus 498 which is quite direct.

## Enjoy a Saturday Lenten Lunch – 12noon – 2.00pm

There's a long tradition in the parish of people gathering for lunch in Lent. A simple lunch, with a raffle! The tasty lunch – ploughman's and soup – costs £5/adult or £2 for a child under 12. All monies raised will support the parish Lenten charity, Lepra. The raffle supports a different charity each week: Samaritans; St Francis Hospice; BCYS; Alzheimers Society; Save the Children and Water Aid. It is a lovely opportunity to relax with other parishioners who you may not have met before; it is a wonderful lunch to invite friends and neighbours as a way to see the parish in action; and all of it as an excellent way to raise vital funds for charity.

## Practical action and giving throughout Lent

In addition to the parish charitable giving, Lent is a good time to look wider, and perhaps find a charity to support for the rest of the year. Commit to a daily “good deed.” Or discover fresh information about the work of charities you have not come across before. It is spring time – why not dive in to something that sustains the world God has given us. Our Diocesan Caritas has – as ever – done a great job of collating different ideas and resources:

<https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent/>

Part of the Caritas resources is the creation of the Lenten calendar, responding to needs highlighted by the S.M.I.L.E. charity at 40 High Street. Collect one item each day of Lent, and bring to the church on Palm Sunday weekend. There are copies of the calendar at the back of the church, or in the Lent section of the parish website.

### Pastoral Visit by Bishop Alan: 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> March

On **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March the 6.30pm Mass will be especially busy** as 23 of our teenagers are Confirmed by Bishop Alan. On **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March Bishop Alan will join us at the end of the 9.30am Mass and for the 11.30am Mass**, and will then Confirm 26 teenagers at a **special Mass at 2.30pm**. We are very grateful to the Bishop for his encouragement and help; the weekend is also Mothers’ Day. What a wonderful gift to see their teenager Confirmed! The young people are a magnificent group; please do keep them all in your prayers.

### The Easter Triduum

*The “three days” that are the most sacred in the Church Year. Come each day, if you can.*

***This year, we are delighted that six adults in the parish are on the journey to become Confirmed members of the Catholic Church; please pray for Analyn, Dayna, Derek, Leona, Naomi, and Patricia, and join them in celebrating during the Easter Vigil.***

### Holy Thursday

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April      \*7pm      Mass of the Lord’s Supper  
*Followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm*

### Good Friday

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April      10am      Discovering Holy Week for primary school age children  
11.30am      Prayer with town centre churches, Market Place  
\*3pm      Service of the Passion of the Lord  
7pm – 8pm      Church open for private prayer by the cross

### Easter

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April      7.30pm-10pm      Easter Vigil, with music led by the choir

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April      8am      Dawn Mass for Easter – quiet, joyful and prayerful  
\*9.30am      Family Mass, with music led by young adults  
11.30am      Mass with music led by the choir

**\*Livestream:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday 3pm and Easter Sunday 9.30am