



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 23rd March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent (C)

Sunday 30th March 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

Laetare Sunday and Mothering Sunday

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

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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

Our prayers continue for the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

This week is an especially good week to search out some of the wonderful words he has spoken to young people over the last twelve years.

There is great inspiration to be found.

Please keep the Pope and the doctors treating him very much in your prayers.

Next weekend, 29th and 30th March, we welcome Bishop Alan who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 49 of our young people. The practical details are inside the newsletter. Most significantly, over the week ahead **please keep these young people in your prayers.** They are a magnificent group, full of talent, and a great credit to their families, schools and the parish.

Arthur, Ashley, Emily, Inez, Dylan, Jaeden, Samantha, Tyler, Reiss, Ruby, Amaechina, Chinedum, Fraser, Charles, Aldas, Dija, Faye, Daniel, Natalia, Allen, Jacob, Karolinka, Lois, Richard, Darren, Evie-Mae, Sophia, Isabelle, Michelle, Kyle, Ryan, Aaron, Betty, Maisie, Benedict, Imogen, Cassandra, Amelia, Nathan, Shekinah, Remlee, Alexander, Tenada, Antonina, Freya, Callum, Natasha, Jessica, Zoe.

Next weekend is also Mothers' Day; prayers and blessings for all mothers, grandmothers and mother figures. There will be a special gift for you at Mass.

And finally: do remember the clocks go forward an hour next Saturday evening!

VISIT BY BISHOP ALAN, with the celebration of Confirmation,
NEXT WEEKEND, 29th/30th March.

The Saturday 6.30pm Mass will be especially busy with
23 young people celebrating Confirmation.

On Sunday the Bishop will greet people at the end of the 9.30am Mass,
then *preside and preach* at the 11.30am Mass. Do come early!

At 2.30pm another 26 young people will celebrate Confirmation.

Please do pray for them all.

Lenten Lunches continue!

Lenten Lunches take place every Saturday during Lent from 12.00 -2.00pm, in the Walsingham Hall of the Parish Centre. Please come along and enjoy a great value, simple but tasty lunch (£5 adults, £2 for children under 12) and a chat with friends whilst raising money for good causes. Any donations for raffle prizes would be very welcome on the day. Why not treat your family or friends to lunch? We look forward to seeing you. See poster for more details.

LEPRA – the Parish Lenten Charity 2025. Today, 500 people will be diagnosed with leprosy. 28 of them are children. We may think of leprosy as a disease from hundreds of years ago. Sadly it is still raging in some parts of the world. Leprosy is curable, and Lepra works to diagnose, treat and cure.

This is hope in action and during Lent 2025 we aim to raise £1300 which will buy 200 pairs of specialist shoes. Why shoes? Those with leprosy feel no pain from their nerve endings, and one consequence is damaged feet, with ulcers. The specialist shoes help people walk and restore damaged feet.

Support the Lenten Lunches, donate after any Mass, or write “Lepra” on an envelope and hand into the parish office. One pair of shoes is £6.50. It may be that what we give up for Lent saves us money; what better way to use such money than in charity. It feels especially significant, beautiful and poignant to help people walk again in a year focused on Pilgrims of Hope. Find out more at www.lepra.org.uk

Live Simply Group

Walk in Raphael Park on Monday, 24th March, 1.30 pm. A gentle stroll to take in the wonders of God’s creation. Please meet by the gates in Main Road. The walk lasts about an hour, so there will be time to collect the children from school afterwards.

Essex Wildlife Trust, examples of many ways we can attract wildlife into our gardens, and gives advice on chemical free gardening, conserving water and using less plastic, as well as life style changes we can make to live more sustainably. <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/actions>

Stewards, Eucharistic Ministers and Readers. Please sign up to indicate your availability for Holy Week and Easter 2025. Please sign for all Masses where you could be available, and then a rota will be sent before Holy Week.

Job Opportunity: Caritas Development Officer. This new role within the Diocese will help develop our charitable action and ministry. Working alongside the Director of Caritas, the successful applicant will have excellent digital media, organisation and presentation skills, and a heart for Catholic Social Teaching, developing valuable work in schools and parishes, supporting existing volunteers. £24,000 - £27,000pa depending on experience. Full time, including some evenings and weekends. Closing date 31st March at noon. More information and application details: caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org

The Liturgy of the Word In the second talk in the series 'Proclaim the Word', entitled 'A richer table of God's word', Fr Adrian Graffy explains how after the Second Vatican Council readings from all parts of the Bible were arranged so that more abundant provision of Sacred Scripture is available to all at Mass. The talk will be at 7 pm (tea and coffee from 6.30 pm) on **Wednesday 2nd April** at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is also available via live stream www.whatgoodnews.org. No need to book this free event.

Easter Egg Appeal from SMILE "We deeply value the support you've provided over the years and would be immensely grateful if we could count on your support again this year to help provide Easter treats to those most in need within our community. With a goal of over 3,000 eggs, we're feeling the pressure to meet the needs of our community."

There are two ways to support:

Donate money via their website, so they can buy Easter Eggs:

<https://www.smilelondonsex.com/donate-funds>

Donate physical Easter Eggs. Please hand these in to the shop at 40 High Street, Romford. The deadline is **Friday, April 11, 2025**. If it is hard for you to get there, please bring to church and we will send them over.

The Parish Repository has a wide and wonderful selection of cards and gifts. We have Easter cards, Confirmation cards and gifts, First Holy Communion cards, invitations and gifts, Mass cards and sympathy cards and Rosaries to fit any budget. Also, Crucifixes and Station of the Cross booklets. Even Christmas cards if you are planning ahead! The Repository is open (at the entrance to the parish centre) after all weekend Masses. Come and have a browse – you may be amazed at what is on sale.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 22 nd	6.30pm	Euan Belcher RIP (Fahy)
Sunday 23 rd	9.30am	Samantha Donnelly RIP (Donnelly)
	11.30am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 25 th	8.20am	Theresa West RIP (Sherman) <u>At Campion School</u>
Wednesday 26 th	12.15pm	Peace in the World (Murnane)
Thursday 27 th	9.00am	Jorge Sobral RIP (Denapoli)
Friday 28 th	8.15am	Ints Jenny Card (Murnane) <u>At St Peter's School</u>
Saturday 29 th	6.30pm	<i>Confirmation Mass.</i> Theresa West RIP (Bacon)
Sunday 30 th	9.30am	Ints Eileen Newman (Brennan)
	11.30am	Pa Julius Charles Idon-Omole (Sutton-Imafidon)
	2.30pm	<i>Confirmation Mass.</i> People of the Parish
Tuesday 1 st	8.20am	Mary O'Connor RIP (Heneghan) <u>At Campion School</u>
Wednesday 2 nd	12.15pm	Fr John Taylor RIP (SVP)
Thursday 3 rd	9.00am	Eileen & Reg Wood RIP (F)
Friday 4 th	8.15am	Genevieve Mainguy RIP (Geary) <u>At St Peter's School</u>
Saturday 5 th	6.30pm	Alfredo Munoz RIP (Regina)
Sunday 6 th	9.30am	Ints of Ellis Family (SVP)
	11.30am	Thanksgiving (Usuanlele)
	3.00pm	<i>Mass with the First Holy Communion children and families, offered for the People of the Parish</i>

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, Rose Hayden, 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 Toy, Stephen Toy, 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