



## *Parish newsletter*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

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

First Sunday of Lent (C)

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

Second Sunday of Lent (C)

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

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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

**Our prayers continue for the Holy Father, Pope Francis,** as he battles with infections in both lungs. He has served as Pope for over a decade, writing Encyclicals which are beautiful and challenging, visiting many parts of the world, and inspiring people with a fresh vision of lived Catholic faith. Please keep the Pope and the doctors treating him very much in your prayers.

On Ash Wednesday I shared the following reflection, and a few people asked me for it afterwards. In 2021 Pope Francis said he was **“fasting, but not in a way that makes you hungry! I will not speak ill of others, I will not gossip, and all of us can do that,”** he said, advising people instead to look for the truest of words by reading a verse of the Bible each day. Someone else developed that idea and amplified it into this beautiful and powerful reflection; try it for Lent 2025 (and beyond!)

Fast from judging others; feast on Christ dwelling in them  
Fast from words that pollute; feast on speech that purifies  
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude  
Fast from anger; feast on patience  
Fast from pessimism; feast on hope  
Fast from negatives; feast on encouragement  
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness  
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth  
Fast from problems; feast on prayer  
Fast from anxiety; feast on faith

**Youth Led Parish Quiz. THANK YOU** for your wonderful and generous support for the young people, during a very enjoyable evening last Saturday. They raised approximately £1,000 which will help towards the fares (each over £700) of the 14 young people from the parish travelling to help the ill and elderly in Lourdes this summer, as part of the Diocesan pilgrimage.

### **Lenten Lunches have begun!**

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](http://www.lepra.org.uk)

**CAFOD’s Family Fast Day is on Friday 14th March.** There will be an appeal and envelopes given out at all Masses this weekend 8/9 March. The envelopes can be returned at the Masses on 15th/16th March and there is always the option of donating on line. Thank you for your generosity.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> March at noon. More information and application details: [caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**VISIT BY BISHOP ALAN, with the celebration of Confirmation, on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>**

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

**We continue the search for a new Headteacher for St Peter's Catholic Primary School.** As you know, this summer our current Head, Mrs Waterfield, is retiring after 20 years. The Governors are seeking to appoint a Headteacher to begin in September to continue the excellent work at our caring, friendly and diverse two form entry primary school. Visits from prospective applicants are warmly encouraged, and can be arranged at a time to suit you. Full details: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>. Closing date for applications: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**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.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org). No need to book this free event.

**The Parish Repository** – with a wide selection of cards and gifts. We have St Patrick's day cards, rosettes and ribbons, 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. Now open (at the entrance to the parish centre) after all weekend Masses. Thank you.

**A Live Simply Lenten recipe:** Lent is a wonderful time to aim for more plant based meals. Try this delicious recipe for Banana Bread. Dairy free - and a great way to use up over ripe bananas.

150g self raising flour    3 ripe bananas    75mls olive oil/sunflower oil  
50g of light brown sugar.

***It is so easy! Just combine all the ingredients, pour into a loaf tin and bake at 180 degrees for 25 minutes. Enjoy.***

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Frank Hayden RIP**. He will be received into Church on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm and his funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 12.15pm and then to South Essex Crematorium. We pray for Rose and all his family and friends.

## Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Thanksgiving for the Parish (Conti)
	11.30am	M M Joseph RIP (Sanish)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.20am	Ints John Tolan (Heneghan) <u>At Campion School</u>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Marica Attard RIP (Paul)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Patrick Lobo RIP (Lobo)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass Today – Fr Dominic at Flame	
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Vygandas Gudzevicius RIP (Smith)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Ben Hume RIP (Francis)
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	8.20am	Carmel Nairn RIP (Shanahan) <u>At Campion School</u>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	<i>Funeral – Frank Hayden RIP</i>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Dec'd Members of Piper & Tracy Families (F)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.15am	Joseph Wilkinson RIP (Wilkinson) <u>At St Peter's School</u>
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30pm	Euan Belcher RIP (Fahy)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Samantha Donnelly RIP (Donnelly)
	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, 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 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)**