



**Catholic Parish of St Edward the Confessor, Romford**

# **Parish Leadership**

**May 2025**

Many, many people volunteer to support all aspects of parish life. Among them are those who serve on the Parish Council and Sub-Committees, sharing leadership of the parish, and enabling the great variety and vibrancy that helps to fulfil the parish mission:

**Keeping Christ at the centre of all that we do, we exist to joyfully share the Good News of Jesus Christ in Romford, through our prayer, our charitable action, and our celebration of the Sacraments**

## **The Parish Council**

**The Parish Council is now made up of representatives from each Sub Committee, covering the different aspects of parish leadership:**

Faith Development	Joan Murphy
Parish Caritas	Theresa McEwan
Parish Partnership Liaison	Gill Trainor
Sacraments and Liturgy	Emelie Matutina
Social Committee	Annette Bacon
Finance Committee	Mark O'Donoghue
Parish Youth Ministry	Onosé Egualeonan
St Peter's School	Jo Lyons
Parish Administrator	Julia Pitkin
Parish Priest (Chair)	Fr Dominic
Minutes Secretary	Anne Walsh

**We will soon have photos of each person, so everyone knows who they are!  
They can all be contacted by email, [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org)**

The aims of each Committee are on the inside pages, along with each of the Committee chairs, the different parish groups they represent, and many ways to be involved. If you can give just an hour or two a week, your skills and talents will be valued and needed – dive in!

## The aims of each Committee – and how you can be involved

### The Parish Council – Chaired by Fr Dominic

The Parish Council exists to continually revise and guide the parish strategy, shaped through annual parish AGMs, to help us to live the Mission. In particular:

- The Parish Council represents all parishioners, with membership drawn from the sub-committees that cover diverse areas of parish life. Each sub-committee nominates their representative to serve on the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council is a “critical friend” to the priest, affirming what is going well, and challenging and developing areas of parish life that need greater attention
- The Parish Council coordinates the parish diary, with input from each sub-committee
- The Parish Council has specific financial responsibilities, working with the Finance Committee to carefully steward the parish resources, and to use them to serve the mission of the parish.



### Faith Development Sub Committee – Chaired by Deirdre Bond

Each person is on a precious journey of faith, deepening their relationship with God. This journey can take many different pathways, often determined by individual circumstances; there is no one “right” way to do it.

That said, the wisdom of the Saints and Doctors of the Church do suggest pathways that bear fruit in many cases. Regular Communion and Eucharistic Adoration; immersion in Scripture; the development of a personal prayer life; studying the writings of the Saints and the documents of the Church; participating in groups which sustain prayer and faith together; journeys of pilgrimage; times of retreat. All of these are “tried and tested” ways of developing faith, and part of the role of any parish is to help each parishioner to discover such opportunities. The focus for this group is for those aged 21+ - the Youth Coordinator will focus on those aged up to 21.

The Parish Faith Development Group is intended to be a place where ideas in these areas can be considered, shaped and brought to life. This includes offering opportunities within the parish, as well as signposting people to Diocesan and National opportunities.

**You can be involved!** This group is open to anyone interested in this area of Parish life; speak with Deidre or email her on [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org). The group already includes representatives from Mothers Prayers, Legion of Mary, and the parish Alpha team.



### Parish Caritas Sub Committee – Chaired by Theresa McEwan

Living and sharing Catholic Social Teaching is an essential part of our faith; in the spirit of Matthew 25 we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and welcome the stranger. The Parish Caritas is intended primarily as a networking and co-ordinating group, for all those doing precisely this, through their work in charitable and social justice ministries across the parish.

When new initiatives are proposed, it is expected they will be referred to this group, so that wisdom can be shared, and duplication avoided.

**You can be involved!** This group is open to anyone interested in this area of Parish life; speak with Theresa or email her on [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org). The committee already includes representatives from SVP, Pax Christi, LiveSimply, Mary’s Meals, Legion of Mary, Golden Club, Cafod, and those who visit the ill and housebound.



## Parish Social Sub Committee – Chaired by Margie Davids

The Parish Social Committee exists to coordinate regular, accessible and varied social events, to inspire parishioners and the wider community in Romford to come together socially, and build networks and friendships.

The Committee pays particular attention to the different ethnic and cultural groups which make up the parish, as well as those of different ages (in conjunction with the Youth Committee), aiming to ensure that across a year's worth of events there is something for everyone.

**You can be involved!** This group is open to anyone interested in this area of Parish life; speak with Margie or email [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org). Different people take the lead in co-ordinating the Lenten Lunches, Strawberry Teas, Parish Bazaar, Christmas Wreath making, as well as the Golden Club, Teddies, Knit'n'Natter, and many social activities throughout the year.



## Parish Youth Ministry Team – Co-ordinated by Onosé

In the words of Pope St John Paul II, "In the Church of today, young people are the hope of tomorrow." Pope Francis regularly encouraged young people: "You have great gifts. Dare to dream of great things." His Encyclical Letter *Christus Vivit* – Christ is Alive – is a masterclass in accompanying and engaging with young people.

The shape and remit of this group is still developing; Onosé works across the five parishes in the Partnership, and is gradually "talent spotting" Ambassadors who can regularly update young people, parents and grandparents. There's an Instagram Account to follow (@romford\_youth). In time, the Youth Ministry Team within the parish will include representatives from our Cubs and Scouts, Altar Servers, Confirmation Team, and young adult leaders in new activities as they develop.

**You can be involved!** If you are an interested young person, young adult, parent or grandparent, email Onosé at [romforyouth@brcdt.org](mailto:romforyouth@brcdt.org) - your thoughts and ideas will be warmly welcome as we continue to shape this vital area of parish life. Anyone age 18+ working with children or young people is required to have a DBS check and Safeguarding training.



## Sacraments and Liturgy Group – Informally Chaired

The Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our Catholic faith. Celebration of the Sacraments is at the heart of how we live faith, and a touchstone for our relationship with Jesus Christ. For parishioners and visitors our celebration of each of the Sacraments is an expression of our faith, and a witness to it.

There are numerous Church documents to guide us in celebrating the Sacraments – and notably the Sunday Masses – reverently and joyfully.

There are practical considerations too, most especially how we can best use the gifts and talents of everyone in the parish, at the service of the parish liturgies. The Parish Sacraments and Liturgy Planning Group is intended primarily as a networking and co-ordinating group, for all those doing precisely this, through their work as Catechists, Musicians, Flower Arrangers, Cleaners, Stewards, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Children's Liturgy Leaders and Altar Servers. **You can be involved** in different aspects of parish liturgy – please speak with Julia or Fr Dominic to be linked with the right person. Ministries such as Reader or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist require specific training. Some roles also require a DBS check, and Safeguarding training.



## Finance Sub Committee – Chaired by Mark O’Donoghue

We are called to be good stewards of all the resources entrusted to us. The Parish Finance Committee exists to ensure this is the case in relation to the monies raised and spent in the parish. The Parish Finance Committee achieve this by:

- Regularly scrutinising the parish income and expenditure
- Setting an annual budget, and monitor income and expenditure against the budget
- Ensuring transparency, with an annual report to all parishioners
- Considering and formally approving any major item of parish expenditure, before it is undertaken. This applies to all expenditure between £2,000 and £10,000 [expenditure above £10,000 on a single item must be referred to the Diocesan Trustees, using Diocesan protocols]. Requests for approval will usually come from the Parish Council, with the support of the Parish Priest, in the light of the pastoral, spiritual and practical development of parish life. The Parish Finance Committee will therefore be expected to evaluate such requests purely in the light of the parish financial position. In the event that a request is declined, it is expected that alternative suggestions are offered. This may include fundraising, or a longer timeline to spread costs.
- Act as a “critical friend” to the parish priest, who in Canon and Civil Law retains ultimate responsibility for parish finances.
- Serve as a point of reference for the Parish Council, when any sub-Committee proposes a major item of expenditure.

Membership of this Committee is for those with professional skills in this area, and we currently seek one additional member. Please speak with Fr Dominic or Mark.

### Parish Partnership.

As part of Diocesan Vision and Strategy we are working more closely together with neighbouring parishes; St Dominic’s and Most Holy Redeemer, Harold Hill; Corpus Christi, Collier Row; Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. Parishioners liaising with the neighbouring parishes are Gill Trainor, Deirdre Bond and Romain Maillard; do speak with them for more information.

### St Peter’s School

Since 1889 the school – originally called St Edward’s – has been a vital part of parish life. Prospective parents are very welcome to contact the school, and enquire about places. Jo Lyons helps lead the Parents Association, who raise funds for the school to provide extra opportunities for pupils. There is an excellent link between parish and school – many families have long links with the school. [www.st-peters.havering.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters.havering.sch.uk)

### Safeguarding

We do everything we can to ensure children and vulnerable adults are safe, nurtured, welcomed and encouraged in many different activities. If you ever have a Safeguarding concern or allegation please speak with our parish Safeguarding Representative, Hannah Richards, or with Fr Dominic, or speak directly with the Diocesan Team. Details at the back of church or at [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/safeguarding](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/safeguarding)

## THANK YOU

**The parish volunteers do immense work, and new volunteers are always welcome. Hopefully you have spotted one or two things that you would like to be involved with. Please get in touch with the named person, and together our God-given gifts and skills will help to shape even more dynamism and joy in all aspects of parish life – joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in Romford!**