



Parish newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 17th August 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sunday 24th August 2025

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sunday 31st August 2025

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

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Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator: Onosé Egualeonan

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Parish School: St Peter's Primary School, Dorset Avenue RM1 4JA

Headteacher: Mrs J Waterfield

Phone: 01708 745506

Website: www.st-peters.havering.sch.uk

Parish Website

www.stedwards-romford.org.uk

Parish Livestream

<https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-edward>

Parish Facebook and Instagram [@RomfordRC](https://www.facebook.com/RomfordRC)

Mass Times

See back page

Reconciliation

Saturday 5.45 – 6.15pm

How is it possible to believe that Jesus has come to bring not peace, but conflict? The prophet Jesus uses blunt and challenging language. His words convey a profound truth, for the consequence of his preaching will be division, even within families. His uncompromising preaching about God and human life produces opposition and division, which both Jesus and his followers have to face. Fire is nevertheless a disturbing image. It is used in the Jewish Scriptures to symbolise punishment and destruction. Jesus is using the strong language common among his contemporaries to speak of the judgement of God in stark terms. In Christian baptism we undergo a kind of dying in order to reach new life. Baptism for Jesus is the baptism of the cross, his death leading to resurrection. Jesus is anxious to continue his journey to Jerusalem and to complete his mission. Jesus explicitly says he has not come to bring peace. These words speak of the inevitable consequence of his message. Divisions are foreseen, and divisions and conflicts have been a constant reality because the Christian gospel makes great demands. The challenge is to continue to speak the truth with love in spite of opposition.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and FIRST RECONCILIATION 2026

For children who will be in Year 3 or above in September 2025. The application forms are available online at [First Holy Communion Application Form](#)

If you are unable to access the form online please email romford@brcdt.org

All applications, payments and if applicable copy birth certificates must be returned by **Sunday 28th September 2025**

The parents' evening will be **Tuesday 14th October**, and the celebration of Communion will be in May 2026.

Secondary School Admissions – Certificate of Catholic Practice

For those with children in Year 6 applying to **Catholic Secondary Schools for admission in September 2026** your application should be supported by a Certificate of Catholic Practice. This is **only** needed for The Champion School and Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School and indicates that you attend Mass regularly; if that applies to you, please bring your child's Baptism Certificate and Fr Dominic will have copies of the Certificate to sign for you **after any of the weekend Masses on 18th /19th October**. No appointment is needed. Applications to the Brentwood Ursuline do not need a certificate, and nor do Catholic primary school applications in Havering.

Golden Club

The Golden Club have had a busy year and are now taking a rest during August. We will return on **Wednesday 3rd September** and look forward to seeing you all then. Geraldine, Rosemary and Pat.

Parish Centre

The Parish Centre will be closed for cleaning and re-painting from 14th – 31st August. The toilets will be still be available at Mass times.

Walsingham Hall Kitchen We have accumulated a number of Cake Tins and Tupperware containers. Please arrange to collect them if they are yours. Thank you.

From September 2025 there are several evening and daytime slots available for hire in the Walsingham Hall and Lourdes room. All at competitive rates. If you know of anyone who may be interested please email romforhall@brcdt.org

Breast Cancer Now - Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this Coffee Morning. The wonderful sum of £1405 was raised.

Carer Companion Needed for Elderly Parishioner A compassionate and reliable person is sought to assist with paperwork, for scheduling and accompanying to appointments, light household duties, local walks, monitoring health and well-being, companionship and social engagement. The hours are flexible and the rate of pay is £15 per hour. Please call Jane on 07929 063004 if you are interested.

A new Headteacher for St Peter's – please spread the word as we continue the search for a replacement. We will have an Interim Headteacher from September. The Governors have undertaken several rounds of recruitment, but our search continues! Perhaps you know a good Deputy, or Head of a smaller school who would like to come to Romford. Please spread the word. Visits to the school are very warmly welcome; the application deadline is midday on 29th September 2025, and the Job Description and all other information is at:

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

Health and Safety

It is essential that all exit routes are kept clear and free from obstruction during all Masses, especially the two Sunday Masses, in case of fire or other emergency. Please be guided by the stewards and if you are asked to move, it is simply in the interests of everyone's safety.

Also, please remember, 6 people can be seated in each pew, sometimes 7 if there are children so please try and move along when possible. Maximising the seating will reduce numbers standing at the back. Thank you.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are holding the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 27th September 9:30am – 12:00pm in the Parish Centre. Come along for a relaxing morning of coffee, cake, and a chat — all while supporting Macmillan Cancer Support. We're always grateful for donations of cakes or raffle prizes. These can be given to Annette Bacon, or brought to the hall the night before or on the morning of the event. Save the date and pop in for a cuppa – everyone's welcome, and it's all for a great cause!

Pre-School The Shining Starz Pre-School for children ages 2-4 years is open in the parish centre on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm, in term time. There are funded places available for 2 and 3 year olds, for 15 hours and 30 hours. If you would like to register your child, please contact 07774886331 or shiningstarz24@outlook.com.

Synodality Zoom course - dates are: 8, 15, & 22 October, 2-4pm. These are run by: <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/> A few UK dioceses & the Jesuits have put these resources together, plus further developments will be forthcoming. Synodality involves process, as well as content. There are other resources online about synodality, running meetings, Pastoral Councils, etc, (<https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/our-resources/final-document-book-club-2025>).

S.M.I.L.E. are flourishing, and in need of donations. Donations can be given directly to 40 High Street Romford – or leave them by Our Lady in the side chapel, and a parishioner takes them once a week.

Our parish St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) offers discreet support to families facing especially hard times; please get in touch via the parish office.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 16th	6.30pm	Private Intention (Joshy)
Sunday 17th	9.30am	Ged Liam Corbett RIP (Corbett)
	11.30am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 20th	12.15pm	Frank Rabbitte RIP (Rabbitte)
Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	Ints Mr & Mrs Arthur & Mary Hart (Johal)
Sunday 24th	9.30am	Faustino Almendral & Feliza Bolivar RIP (Matutina)
	11.30am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 27th	12.15pm	Danny Toye RIP (Toye)
Saturday 30th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 31st	9.30am	Ints Margie Davids (Pitkin)
	11.30am	Rebecca Brown RIP (Mobbs)
Wednesday 3rd	12.15pm	Mary Harrington RIP (Golden Club)
Saturday 6th	6.30pm	Jenny Wilkinson RIP (Robinson)
Sunday 7th	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Thanksgiving (Matutina)

**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, Paula Lam,
Josè Lemos, Matty, Harry McKinley, Brendan O'Connor, Monica O'Donnell, Agnes O'Sullivan,
Shamus Pierce, Peggy Squires, Claire Tilyard, Andrew Todd, Stephen Toye, Betty Walsh,
Vince Willshire, 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**