



Parish Newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 23rd November 2025 Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

World Youth Sunday

Sunday 30th November 2025 First Sunday of Advent (A)

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkin

5 Park End Road, Romford, Essex RM1 4AT

Telephone: 01708 740308 E-mail: romford@brcdt.org

Parish Website www.stedwards-romford.org.uk

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

Parish Facebook and Instagram @RomfordRC

Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator: Onosé Egualeonan

Email romfordyouth@brcdt.org Instagram @romford_youth

Mass Times: See back page Reconciliation: Saturday 5.45 – 6.15pm

Parish School: St Peter's Primary School, RM1 4JA. Phone: 01708 745506

Headteacher: Mrs H Craft Website: www.st-peters.havering.sch.uk

Facebook and Instagram @stpeters_catholicprimaryschool

Pope Leo XIV used a memorable and powerful phrase to describe young people when he was talking with teachers earlier this year. He said, **“Young people are a volcano of life, energy, feelings and ideas.”** Yes! A volcano is amazing and unpredictable. It can lie dormant for a very long time before suddenly erupting. The eruption is astonishing in its beauty and vibrance, and while it can be destructive it also has the potential to change landscapes in permanent and wonderful ways, to create new views and new pathways.

All of this applies to the Catholic faith of our young people. We are so blessed with their creative gifts – notably their musical talent – in this parish. We pray that they thrive, and we support them wherever we can so that they do. On this **Feast of Christ the King** we are reminded that the kind of leadership we hope the young people can both offer others, and experience in the adults around them, is the leadership of Christ the Good Shepherd and Servant King. A leadership that meets hatred with love; persecution with forgiveness; despair with hope.

As **Advent begins next week** we are invited to **journey with the Saints**; this is also a remarkable journey of faith and hope. There is more information on the dedicated Advent leaflet. Many blessings for the journey, *Fr Dominic*

Today is the Feast of Christ the King and World Youth Sunday We especially honour and celebrate the young people of our Church, and a young parishioner will speak at each Mass. There will be a **second collection** to support the work of the **Brentwood Catholic Youth Service**, helping young people grow in faith through retreats, pilgrimages, and leadership opportunities. More information at www.bcys.net

After the 9.30am Mass the coffee and cakes are being arranged by the young people; come to chat, mix and mingle. The money donated in the hall will go to parish youth funds, notably to support young people to travel to Lourdes in the summer to assist the frail and ill. The young people travel by coach but still the cost is £795. Young people in school year 10 and above interested in this opportunity should look at www.bcys.net/sl26 as soon as possible.

As a group of local parishes we are blessed with our Youth Co-ordinator, Onosé. He is now very present in our schools, and during 2026 there will be regular events and opportunities for the young people of the parish. To stay updated follow @romfordyouth on Instagram. If you have suggestions or ideas, or want to volunteer to help, contact Onosé on romfordyouth@brcdt.org

Partnership Youth Event: The Romford Parish Partnership invites all secondary school students in Years 9 to 13 to an evening of Bowling and Bumper Cars! We know many of you are in the midst of exams/revision, so take your mind off it with friends and fun. Join us on Friday, 5th December from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Namco Funscape in the Brewery. Cost £10. **Spaces are limited so register your interest:** scan the code on the flyers displayed at the back of the church or contact Onosé on Instagram @romford_youth or via email at romfordyouth@brcdt.org.

ADVENT CONCERT. The brilliant 11.30am choir offer a Sunday afternoon hour of Advent and Christmas music, at **3pm on Sunday 7th December**, followed by mince pies and treats in the Parish Centre. Ideal for families, and excellent as an event to invite non-Catholic friends to “come and see” our warm and beautiful church. The timing is to especially help those who may find it hard to come out in the evenings. All are very welcome. No cost, and all donations will support parish funds, as we continue to pay off the debt!

S.M.I.L.E. Christmas Appeal

Sponsor a box, and SMILE can purchase items required (Babies/Primary School Ages £20.00/ Senior £25.00 per box) - You can also donate funds for this appeal via the PayPal Charity Donation Platform. The online store can be found below and will be open all year round. Visit <https://www.smilelondonsex.com/christmas-appeal>

ALPHA 2026. Are you curious about life and Christian faith? Come and explore the Alpha programme: a globally-renowned series that tackles the big questions of life, faith and meaning through a welcoming meal, a short video, and honest conversation in a relaxed, friendly setting. Everyone is welcome. 10 Wednesday evenings, 7.15–9.00pm from 7 Jan to 18 Mar in the Parish Hall (Alpha day 14 Feb). Limited spaces - please sign up or contact: romain.maillard@gmail.com

PARISH BAZAAR

NEXT Saturday 29th November 10am – 2pm in the Parish Centre

Raffle tickets are still available at the back of the church. Superb prizes. £5/book.

There have been EXCELLENT donations so far – thank you.

Donations can be still left at the church or presbytery any time this week.

Please – please – only bring what is on this list:

→ New (or very nearly new), boxed toys

→ Bottles for the festive delight and mayhem that is the bottle stall. Bottles containing any fluid that can be drunk, alcoholic or soft. But not any already opened!

→ Gift items – either new, or things that suit a “white elephant stall”, with novelty value. Nothing chipped or cracked, please.

→ Toiletry sets – again, something that might make a lovely gift

→ PLUS we warmly welcome donations of cakes, biscuits, cup cakes, soda bread and other home baked items – hand in on Friday all day or on Saturday morning. Contact Julia in the parish office to arrange drop off.

The Bazaar will run from 10am to 2pm, with the raffles drawn at 1.30pm. There will be loads of stalls, including Advent wreaths and floral decorations, knitted cribs, games for children run by scouts and cubs, plus – of course – Father Christmas on a little warm-up outing, as he gets ready for Christmas Eve. Come and enjoy the festivities and fun, pick up some Christmas gift bargains, and help raise money to support our wonderful parish!

There is a superb team of volunteers looking after each stall, and getting everything ready. If you can help out – especially setting up on Friday 4pm-8pm or clearing up on Saturday 2.00–4.00pm you will be very welcome.

YOUR HELP NEEDED! Become a Parish Steward. This is a key role welcoming people into Mass, and be on hand in case of any questions or emergencies. There is training for new and existing Stewards on **Tuesday 2nd December, 7-8pm in church.** To get involved please email Julia – romford@brcdt.org. The welcome we give is vital, and we also have Health and Safety policies to follow, to help everyone in the church. **Please volunteer if you can – you just need to be 18+ and reasonably mobile.** You would be needed about once every 4-6 weeks, for about 30 minutes before Mass, and 15 minutes after Mass. There is an active WhatsApp group to arrange swaps, and it is a wonderful way to help parish life to flourish, to meet parishioners, and to welcome those who may be coming in to a church for the very first time, or returning after some years.

ANNIVERSARY YEAR Parish Pilgrimage. Parishioners are warmly invited to join the Diocesan Group travelling to Lourdes from Friday 17th - Friday 24th July 2026. Cost approx. £1200 for flights, accommodation, insurance and all meals. Bookings will be direct with Tangney Tours and full details will be available in the new year.

ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHETS. Fr Adrian Graffy, member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be giving a short talk at **7pm on Wednesday 3rd December** at the Catholic parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The topic is the Prophets. You may attend in person free of charge, or watch livestream at www.whatgoodnews.org The talk will be available subsequently on the same website.

A special prayer request, please, for **Emeritus Bishop Thomas McMahon**, who is unwell. Bishop Thomas served as Bishop of Brentwood for over 30 years. Thank you for your prayers.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr Emile Nkumu, RIP**. He was parish priest in Ongar until quite recently, and served in the Diocese for many years. His funeral is at St Peter and Paul, Ilford, this Friday 28th November at 11.30am.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 22nd	6.30pm	Andy & Nancy Sullivan RIP (Bray)
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Antonio Crivello RIP (Crivello)
	11.30am	Dec'd Members Legion of Mary (L of M)
Wednesday 26th	12.15pm	Holy Souls (Conti)
Thursday 27th	9.00am	Sarah Carey RIP (F)
Friday 28th	9.00am	Mary Catt RIP (F)
Saturday 29th	6.30pm	Bernard Crowe RIP (Harris)
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Sean Donnelly RIP (Donnelly)
	11.30am	Barbara Kieran RIP (Kieran)
Wednesday 3rd	12.15pm	John Bolton RIP (Wong)
Thursday 4th	9.00am	Patrick Lobo RIP (Lobo)
Friday 5th	9.00am	Darren Maguire RIP (Sherman)
Saturday 6th	6.30pm	Dan & Elizabeth O'Callaghan RIP (Peggy)
Sunday 7th	9.30am	John O'Shea RIP (O'Shea)
	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:

*Joe Bellotti, Mgr Arthur Barrow, Judy Burgess, Jacey Cooke, Mark Dalton,
Dyllis Dangerfield, Agnes Danielka, Margaret Ellis, Pat Fagan, John and Genevieve Geary,
Pauline Gillooly, Irene Girling, Jim Griffin, Evelyn Hughes, Benjamin Joseph, Paula Lam, José Lemos,
Clara Mangoro, Matty, Harry McKinley, Brendan O'Connor, Monica O'Donnell, Agnes O'Sullivan,
Shamus Pierce, Mary Schroeyers, 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