



Parish Newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

**Sunday 9th November 2025 The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Remembrance Sunday**

**Sunday 16th November 2025 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
World Day of the Poor**

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

Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator: Onosé Egualeonan

Email romforyouth@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

Today is an interesting blend of Feast Day and Remembrance. Internationally the Church celebrates the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. As the Vatican is a separate country from Italy, the Pope – as Bishop of Rome – has a separate Cathedral in Rome; this is the church of St John Lateran, which is the focus of today's feast. Originally built in 324AD it is the oldest church in Rome still used for worship.

Very quickly, however, the readings and Gospel move us from bricks and mortar to people – and especially to Jesus. He is the temple that will be destroyed and rebuilt in three days. We are each temples of God's Holy Spirit. The Gospel is Jesus' only moment of anger: very significantly, he cleanses the temple of traders and corruption.

All of this encourages us to look at what we build and create in our lives – and what we destroy in anger, rage or war. For so many months our screens have been filled with images of rubble. Bombed and blitzed buildings symbolic of the destructive hatred that impels people to war. Not many decades ago large parts of our city, London, were similarly in smithereens. On this Remembrance Sunday we give thanks for all those who enabled peace and freedom to return by their courage in the wars of the last century. Such peace is a precious gift, to be cherished. Are we a person of peace, honouring the temple that is our body? Honouring God's presence in everyone we meet?

We are all invited to gather with faith and civic leaders for prayer at the **Havering War Memorial** (just beyond the Council offices, on Main Road) at **11am**. After the 11.30am Mass we will take the Parish wreath from the altar to the war memorial.

Next weekend is the **World Day of the Poor**. We will have a special focus on Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Dilexi Te* ("I have loved you"). This letter to the world was started by Pope Francis, and Pope Leo XIV has added his distinctive touch to it. The encyclical is a very powerful message about our practical care for the poorest in the world – those who are materially poor, those who suffer from poverty of mental or physical health, and those who suffer the poverty of being voiceless. I commend the encyclical to you as a short, punchy and accessible read. To discover more about how this is lived in our Diocese, have a look at www.caritasbrentwood.org There is also plenty to be involved with in the parish, especially the Live Simply group and parish St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). Just contact the parish office to be involved.

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

Raffle tickets will be available over the next few weeks. Superb prizes. £5/book.

Donations can be left at the church or presbytery any time from now.

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 will warmly welcome donations of cakes, biscuits, cup cakes, soda bread and other home baked items in the day or two before the Bazaar, and on the day. 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 will be a meeting on Thursday 13th November at 6.30pm in the Lourdes room for anyone wishing to help with planning.

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-6pm or clearing up on Saturday 2.00–4.00pm you will be very welcome.

Sacrament of Confirmation – Pentecost 2026

Any young person in school year 10 to 13 Is warmly invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation next May. There are forms at the back of the church with all the information. If you have any questions please email frdominic@brcdt.org The deadline is **NEXT SUNDAY, 16th November.**

Advent Wreath Making Saturday 6th December 2-4pm in the Parish Centre. Cost £40. To secure a place a deposit of £20 in an envelope clearly marked with your name and contact number to be handed directly to Margie Davids or in to the Parish Office.

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. Members of the parish Alpha Team will be available to chat and take sign-ups after Masses on 15th/16th November, or contact: romain.maillard@gmail.com

Parish Offertory Collection and Donations

Over the last few months our parish funds have not really held up. I imagine many people were away over the summer, and so income diminished. The card machines have also had some glitches, which we hope are now resolved. We continue to pay back our loan of over £380,000 on the building works. We would love to paint the church and we need to repair the organ. **If you think you might have missed some weeks of offertory**, and you could help by putting some of that in over the next couple of weeks, that would be wonderful. The best giving is by **Standing Order**; details on pink forms at the back of church. If you already have a Standing Order, could you increase it by the rate of inflation? Perhaps you have recently been **paid a bonus, won on premium bonds, or the lottery**?! If even a fraction of that is invested in your parish, it is such a gift. Or could you make a **legacy donation**? Please have a chat. *Fr Dominic*

The Live Simply group will be litter picking in Romford town centre on Tuesday November 18th, 12.30 pm. We will meet outside the South Street Marks and Spencer's entrance. Please come along help smarten up our town. Everyone welcome. Equipment will be provided.

World Youth Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King, 23rd November. 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 and follow @romfordyouth on Instagram for local opportunities from our youth co-ordinator, Onosé, who can also be contacted on romfordyouth@brcdt.org

New and existing Parish Stewards. This is a **key role** welcoming people into Mass, and be on hand in case of any questions or emergencies. There is training for all 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.

A special prayer request, please, for **Emeritus Bishop Thomas McMahon** and for **Fr Stephen Myers**, who are both rather 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 **Phil Martin RIP**. His funeral will take place on Friday 21st November at 12.30pm and then to Forest Park Crematorium. We pray for his wife Carol, his children Adrian and Darren and all his family and friends.

Please pray for the soul of **Fr Emile Nkumu** who was parish priest in Ongar until last autumn, and who died this week. Details of his funeral are being confirmed. Please remember Fr Emile, his family, and Ongar parishioners in your prayers.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 8th	6.30pm	Jenny Wilkinson RIP (Wilkinson)
Sunday 9th	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Veronica Gannon RIP (Gannon)
	3.00pm	Holy Souls (Murnane) with First Holy Communion children and Families
Wednesday 12th	12.15pm	Annie Marie Findlay RIP (Waites)
Thursday 13th	11.00am	Dec'd Clergy of Havering Deanery
Friday 14th	<u>9.30am*</u>	Florence Howett RIP (F) Year 4 & 5 Children
Saturday 15th	6.30pm	Raymond O'Donnell RIP (F)
Sunday 16th	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Danny Grannell RIP (Grannell)
	2.00pm	KSC Mass of Remembrance
Wednesday 19th	12.15pm	Dec'd Members of Reade Family (F)
Thursday 20th	9.00am	Dec'd Members of Gilan Family (F)
Friday 21st	9.00am	Sarah Carey RIP (F)
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)
*At the Mass on 14th November we will be joined by children from Year 4 & 5 at St Peter's school. Note that Mass is at 9.30am, and takes place in the church.		

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, Josè Lemos, Clara Mangoro, Matty, Harry McKinley, Brendan O'Connor, Monica O'Donnell, Agnes O'Sullivan,
Shamus Pierce, Mary Schroevers, 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.