



Parish Newsletter

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Sunday 14th December 2025 Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Gaudete Sunday

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 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

Thank you to the many, many people who set up and ran stalls, donated, baked and crafted items, and helped in all sorts of ways at the Parish Bazaar last weekend. The current total is just over **£6,300** which is an absolutely magnificent amount, and a great boost to parish funds.

Particular thanks to Annette and Michael Bacon who do so much to co-ordinate the Bazaar.

A warm welcome to Br John Deeney, a De La Salle Brother who will be speaking at all Masses this weekend, as part of their Diocesan-wide Mission Appeal. On a weekend where the Gospel focuses on the prophetic and courageous voice of John the Baptist, it is fitting that we will hear about St Jean Baptist de la Salle, who was also courageous and prophetic in his vision for Catholic Education. You can read more about the work of the De La Salle Brothers at www.lasallianprojects.org

Our Parish Advent Journey continues with the wonderful Concert this Sunday afternoon, and with opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the days ahead. Full information inside the newsletter.

ADVENT CONCERT THIS SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER at 3pm. Everyone is very warmly welcome. The brilliant 11.30am choir offer a Sunday afternoon hour of Advent and Christmas music, 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 beautiful church. The timing is to especially help those who may find it hard to come out in the evenings. No cost; all donations given at the concert or for refreshments will support parish funds, as we continue to pay off the debt!

Advent Reconciliation Services

As part of preparation for Christmas, Advent is a perfect time to celebrate Reconciliation. If you have not been for ages, let this be the moment to reconnect. You will be met only with kindness, mercy, compassion and hope – as Pope Francis said, the confessional should not be a “torture chamber”! Fr Dominic and Fr Philip (from Collier Row) will be leading Reconciliation Services together over the next few days:

At St Edward the Confessor: Wednesday 10th December, 11.00am

At Corpus Christi, Collier Row: Tuesday 16th December, 7.00pm

Additionally, Reconciliation is available each Saturday evening from 5.45pm – 6.15pm here at St Edward the Confessor.

“Gifts under the tree” – during the whole of Advent

You may have noticed a tiny tree by the feet of St Edward the Confessor where gifts of toys, chocolate and toiletries can be left. This will mean we can get them to families who we know are in need, including via S.M.I.L.E. and to those at the women’s refuge, so they have them before Christmas Day.

Items given on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are still very welcome, of course, and these will be given where they are most needed in the New Year.

Please do not wrap gifts but simply leave them unwrapped, or in gift bags.

There remains an ongoing need for Foodbank Donations, Donations can be left in bags in the side chapel any time the church is open.

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

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.

Christmas can be a very tough time for those with an addiction to alcohol. Do you or anyone you know have a problem with Alcohol? Alcoholics Anonymous is every Thursday 7.30pm for an hour in the Lourdes room. You are welcome to turn up. Or contact Jim on 07760 143377. The group will meet on Christmas Day and New Year's Day; if you are struggling then don't be alone this Christmas.

Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Stewards

THANK YOU to the fifty parishioners who serve as Stewards, and a similar number who serve as Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

The Christmas Masses all require such support, and so please can existing Readers, Extraordinary Ministers, and Stewards sign up for any and all Masses for which you could be available, and Teresa will send rotas to you a few days before Christmas.

It would be also a very great help to have additional Stewards, especially for the 11.30am Mass. This is the busiest of the weekend Masses, yet with the fewest number of Stewards. Help to spread the load! It is just a once a month commitment, and we do need you. Volunteer for whichever Mass you usually attend: email romford@brcdt.org

We welcome enquiries about becoming a Reader at any of the Masses, or an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Please speak with Fr Dominic after Mass.

The days before Christmas - can you help?

Tuesday morning - Help with the Big Clean

Tuesday 23rd December, 10am – 12noon. Fuelled by festive snacks, become part of the parish cleaning team, so the church sparkles for Christmas Masses.

Tuesday afternoon – Rehearsal for Altar Servers

Tuesday 23rd December, 12pm – 1pm. For all our Altar Servers, a chance to brush up on skills, and learn some new aspects of serving. New servers welcome (aged 8+ and have made your First Holy Communion). For senior servers (Year 11+) there will be a brief extra rehearsal at 1pm, then lunch.

Wednesday afternoon – Join the Petals

Wednesday 24th December, 12noon – 3pm. Get in touch in advance with Julie Smith, via the parish office. Never arranged flowers before? Do not worry.

Come and help the Petals as they create their glorious garlands and festive phenomena!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Emeritus Bishop Thomas McMahon**. Bishop Thomas served as Bishop of Brentwood for over 30 years. His body will be brought into the Cathedral, with Vespers sung and prayed, on Monday 15th December at 5pm. The Requiem Mass will be at the Cathedral on Tuesday 16th December at 11.30am and will be **limited to two parishioners per parish**. Please let Fr Dominic know this week if you had a particular connection to Bishop Thomas and would like to attend. The funeral will be Livestreamed:
<https://www.shealolin.co.uk/bishop-thomas>

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Trevor Tanner**, who died recently. We pray for his children Rory, Caitlin and Orla and all his family and friends. His funeral will take place on Monday 15th December at 10.30am and then to Forest Park Crematorium.

Mass Times and Intentions

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
Wednesday 10th	12.15pm	Michael Scullion RIP (Murnane)
Thursday 11th	9.00am	William & Patrick Branney RIP (F)
Friday 12th	9.00am	Peter Gjoka RIP (Lindita)
Saturday 13th	6.30pm	Arthur & Mary Hart RIP (Johal)
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Cronan O'Donnell RIP (Maguire)
	11.30am	Roma Curtis RIP (Curtis)
Monday 15th	10.30am	Funeral – Trevor Tanner RIP
Wednesday 17th	12.15pm	Margaret Funchall RIP (Warminger)
Thursday 18th	9.00am	Johanna Elliott RIP(F)
Friday 19th	9.00am	Michael Scullion RIP (Knit & Natter)
Saturday 20th	6.30pm	Thomas Murnane RIP (Murnane)
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Lynn Robinson RIP (Donnelly)
	11.30am	Festus Sunday Onwuesbuzie (Ebhomien)

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 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.