



ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

CATHOLIC PARISH, ROMFORD

Sunday 11th January **The Baptism of the Lord**
Sunday 18th January **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Howarth

Parish Administrator: Julia Pitkämäki

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

Website www.stedwards-romford.org.uk

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

Facebook and Instagram @RomfordRC

Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator: Onosé Egualeonam

Email romfordyouth@brcdt.org Instagram [@romford_youth/](https://www.instagram.com/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

Acting Headteacher: Mrs L Tisi Website: www.st-peters.havering.sch.uk

Facebook and Instagram @stpeters_catholicprimaryschool

Thank you for an absolutely beautiful Christmas, New Year and Epiphany. Celebrations that were joyful and peaceful, as well as being packed with parishioners old and new. So many people helped in very many ways; to you all, thank you.

Thank you for your great generosity to me personally through the Christmas offering; you are very kind. Thank you for the thoughtful messages and generous gifts in Christmas cards, and especially for the donations to charities that you made as Christmas gifts – that is very precious. Thank you also for the bottles, chocolate and cakes – they have all found good homes.

The Parish Anniversary Year has begun; it is wonderful to be able to wrap it all in prayer through the Living Rosary, Tuesday Evening Mass and Friday Evening Adoration, along with the many events and opportunities all year. Keep up to date on the dedicated webpage: www.stedwards-romford.org.uk/170 - or scan the QR code on the banner on St Edward's Way: you can even scan it from the bus!

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord; the Gospel offers us a rare glimpse of the Trinity – God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – all in the same scene. Just as they were at your Baptism. It is a moment to reflect on where it all began for you, and if you are not yet Baptised, it is a good day to think about it. Just come and have a chat.

Today we also celebrate Santo Niño, a national feast day in the Philippines. We pray with great thanks for our Filipino Community. If you are part of another national community and would like to be more involved, just let me know. *Fr Dominic*

Happy Birthday Rosemary!

Very happy birthday to Rosemary Mason, our oldest parishioner; 105 years old on January 14th. Congratulations and love from all your friends at St Edward's.

Young people lead our Anniversary Quiz on Saturday 31st January; **everyone is very welcome to participate in an evening full of fun.** Doors open 7.30pm, with table rounds; the quiz starts at 8pm. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. £7 per person to enter, or form a team of 8 and pay £45 for the table. Reserve spaces at Masses on 17/18 or 24/25 January. The quiz features a live music round from Onosé, and money raised supports young people's activities this year, including travel to Lourdes.

Live Simply Please take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, scheduled for January 23rd-25th 2026. Help to monitor bird populations by spending just one hour counting how many birds land in your garden, or in a local park. Then report your sightings to the RSPB, even if you don't see any birds, that's valuable information. www.rspb.org.uk

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.

Good news! Our **Wednesday Warm and Safe Study Room for young people** (School Years 9-13) resumes on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026, from 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM in the Parish Centre next to the church. This space offers a warm, quiet, and safe environment for studying, complete with free Wi-Fi and very affordable snacks and drinks. All returning and new students must re-register using the form linked in the Instagram bio @romford_youth (requiring both student and parent/guardian signatures). Additionally, we are actively seeking more adult volunteers; please contact Onosé, our youth coordinator, via email at romfordyouth@brcdt.org if you are able to commit a few hours to support this vital youth ministry initiative.

Thank you. Carol Martin and family would like to thank parishioners for their Mass cards and words of sympathy following the loss of her husband Phil. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

Golden Club look forward to welcoming members back next Wednesday 14th January.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Fr John Hayes who died in Co Wicklow, Ireland, on Wednesday 7th January. Fr John was born in Romford in 1936, and Ordained for the Diocese of Brentwood in 1963. He served as Parish Priest at St Mary's Hornchurch from 1994 – 2011, where he was much loved. His funeral has already taken place in Ireland (on Saturday 10th January).

Can you help? A free-standing projector screen is needed for training sessions with local midwives. If you have a spare one, please contact the parish office.

Opportunities for Young People with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and our Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator, Onosé

Monthly Youth Mass - First Thursday of the month Come along to catch up with friends old and new over pizza and refreshments, hear all about our upcoming events and the plans for 2026! The next Masses are on **5th February** and **5th March**. To help you take part (anyone in Year 9+) Onosé will be on an Elizabeth Line train from Romford, via Gidea Park and Harold Wood to Brentwood; exact timings in the next newsletter, but likely to leave Romford about 5.30pm, return about 9.30pm.

Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage (18-25 Jul 2026). Open to anyone in **Year 10 and above**. You can find all information and the link to apply at www.bcys.net/events/sl26 As always, there is funding available – please speak with Fr Dominic if you would love to go but money is stopping you.

Mary's Meals During the weekends of 25th January and 1st February there will be a **Mary's Meals Recycling** sack at church for you to put the following unwanted items into. Please only donate what's on this list - anything else may incur a charge.

Jewellery & watches: In any material even if damaged or broken

Electronics* Mobiles /iPads/Tablets/Sat-Navs/MP3s/Games consoles

Cameras: Old film/Digital/Video

Mary's Meals feeds over 2.6 million young children one good meal every day in their school. Donating your old items helps feed the next hungry child.

* **Please remove all sim cards/data from mobiles/ipads.** All recycled items will be picked up by *Recycling for Good Causes* who will ensure all data is wiped.

Friends of the Holy Land – Volunteers needed. Could you give appeals in parishes or schools, sharing the vital work of FoHL at such a fragile time in the land where Jesus lived, taught and prayed? For a detailed role description please telephone 01926 512980, or contact Edmund Adamus, Advocacy and Engagement Manager on Edmund.adamus@friendsoftheholyland.org.uk

Curious about the Camino? Join Fr Dominic and two friends who have great Camino experience for an hour of information, memories and moments. **Friday 13th February, 7-8pm.** Ideal if you are a Camino walker who wants to reminisce, or if you are thinking of walking the Camino in the future. Plenty of tips and hints.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 10 th	6.30pm	James Robinson RIP (Robinson)
Sunday 11 th	9.30am	Darren Maguire RIP (Sherman)
	11.30am	Eileen Grannell RIP (Grannell)
	3.00pm	<i>With Communion children and families</i> People of the Parish
Tuesday 13 th	6.30pm	Agnes Carey RIP (F)
Wednesday 14 th	12.15pm	Ints Rosemary Mason on her 105 th Birthday (SVP)
Thursday 15 th	9.00am	Margaret Austin and Mary Healy RIP (F)
Friday 16 th	11.30am	Funeral – Kieran Kelly RIP
	5pm – 6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 17 th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 18 th	9.30am	Martin Gillooly RIP (Gillooly)
	11.30am	Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life (KSC Romford)
Tuesday 20th	6.30pm	Ada Elizabeth Newby RIP (F)
Wednesday 21 st	12.15pm	Joanne Rodrigues RIP (O'Gorman)
Thursday 22 nd		No Mass today
Friday 23 rd	9.00am	Bridget Ginty RIP
	5pm – 6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 24 th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 25 th	9.30am	Eamonn Shanahan RIP (Brennan)
	11.30am	James Foran RIP (Corbett)

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.***