



**ST. EDWARD
THE CONFESSOR**
CATHOLIC PARISH, ROMFORD

Parish Priest: **Fr Dominic Howarth**
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Sunday 25th January
Sunday 1st February

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Website **www.stedwards-romford.org.uk**
Livestream **<https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-edward>**
Parish Facebook / Instagram: **@RomfordRC**
Parish Partnership Youth Co-Ordinator: **Onosé Egualéon**
Email: **romfordyouth@brcdt.org** Instagram: **@romford_youth**
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 / Instagram: **@stpeters_catholicprimaryschool**

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

This weekend's readings and Gospel focus us on light, harmony, inclusion, and responding to God's call. At a time when the world appears ever more fragmented, these themes are so vital. God shines light where there is darkness, offers peace where there is division, and calls us to use our God given talents, graces and strengths for the good of every person.

We might look at the International political situation and wonder, "What can I do?" Part of the answer is always **prayer**; raise the cries of our heart to the Lord, trusting that he hears us. Another part of the answer is **living as God calls us to live**; if we live peacefully in what we say, how we act, and what we write in emails and on Social Media, then we are helping to bring harmony to our corner of Romford. Like water poured on dry soil such **peaceful action** brings fresh life and hope. In the Gospel Jesus goes to Zebulun and Naphtali. This is significant, as he is fulfilling the prophecy we hear in the First Reading. These places are within "the land of the Gentiles" – those who are not Jewish. It is a definitive sign that **Jesus is for all people, at all times**. In the second reading St Paul is very clear that factions and divisions are not from God.

Today is also the **Sunday of the Word of God**. It is a day when we are encouraged to dive ever more deeply into the Bible. Have a look at **www.Godwhospeaks.uk** for resources and ideas to help as you read the Bible. I pray your week is full of peace and light. *Fr Dominic*

Today, Sunday 25th January, is World Leprosy Day, which aims to raise awareness of a disease that many people think no longer exists. Each year 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy and there are millions more living with the damaging consequences of delayed leprosy treatment because of the stigma that still surrounds the disease. St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG) is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity; discover more at www.stfrancisleprosy.org.

Wednesday Warm and Safe Study Room for young people (School Years 9-13) continues every Wednesday in term time from 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM in the Parish Centre next to the church. More info on the Instagram bio @romford_youth or contact Onosé, our youth coordinator, at romfordyouth@brcdt.org. Adult volunteers also needed just to be around and present; email Onosé if you could help, even just once a month.

Can you support Enesi to travel to Australia and New Zealand this summer, with the Champion Rugby Tour. Three years ago he had never heard of rugby; now he is playing for Essex and for Champion First XV. He also sings in the Youth Band! Enesi will speak at the end of each Mass this weekend, and welcomes any support you can offer.

The Parish Anniversary Year continues; 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

Young people lead our Anniversary Quiz NEXT 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.

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 with the Sacrament of Anointing, close to the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Saturday 14th February, 2.30pm. This special Mass is now an annual event; everyone is very warmly welcome. If you know someone who needs a lift, please get in touch with the parish office. The Mass will be followed by refreshments, and it is a lovely moment to meet and chat with parishioners from across the generations.

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; full details soon.

Do keep the heat inside the church! On cold days, please be sure to shut the door behind you as you enter, otherwise it gets very chilly at the back of the church.

Decorating the inside of the church. There is much to consider – plastering, windows, floor, kneelers and pews, as well as the organ. By early March there should be some more information to share. For now, hopefully it helps to know we are not ignoring it.

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.

**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. **FINAL CHANCE: Applications close 31st January.**

Mary's Meals This weekend and next (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.

Save the date: Anniversary Pilgrimage to Ingatestone Hall – Saturday 11th April. 90 minute tours at 1pm and 2pm, followed by refreshments. Suitable for those aged 13+ and reasonable mobility. Pre-booking will be essential. Ingatestone Hall has a fascinating history and some direct links with our parish! More details in early February.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Catherine Friel (née McNeela)** who died recently. Her family were a strong part of the parish for years. Her funeral will take place at St Alban's, Elm Park; details to follow. We pray for her family and friends.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Eileen Hopwood** who died recently. Her funeral Mass will take place on Thursday 29th January at 11am. We pray for her daughter Colleen, son Tony and all her family and friends.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Amy Tam** who died recently. Her funeral Mass will take place on Friday 30th January at 1pm. We pray for David, Sandra and Jessica and all her family and friends.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Muriel ("Babs") Brown** who died recently. She often prayed here in Romford in decades past. Her funeral will take place on Monday 2nd February at Bentley Cemetery. We pray for all her family and friends.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 24th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 25th	9.30am	Eamonn Shanahan RIP (Brennan)
	11.30am	James Foran RIP (Corbett)
Tuesday 27th	6.30pm	Ints Andre Irtelli (Bacon)
Wednesday 28th	12.15pm	Ints Hanz & Nina (25th Wedding Anniversary)
Thursday 29th	11.00am	Funeral - Eileen Hopwood RIP
Friday 30th	1.00pm	Funeral – Amy Tam RIP
	5pm – 6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 31st	6.30pm	Bill Murnane RIP (Mernin)
Sunday 1st	9.30am	Frank Hayden RIP (Brennan)
	11.30am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 3rd	No Mass today – Fr Dominic away	
Wednesday 4th	12.15pm	Patsy Wilson RIP (Golden Club)
Thursday 5th	No Mass today – Fr Dominic away	
Friday 6th	No Mass Today – Fr Dominic away	
	5pm – 6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 7th	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 8th	9.30am	Kevin O'Brien RIP (Mary)
	11.30am	John Conti RIP (Denapoli)

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 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.