



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

Parish Priest: **Fr Dominic Howarth**  
Parish Administrator: **Julia Pitkin**  
5 Park End Road, Romford,  
Essex RM1 4AT  
Telephone: **01708 740308**  
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Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**First Sunday of Lent (A)**  
**Second Sunday of Lent (A)**

Website **[www.stedwards-romford.org.uk](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk)**

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

Parish Facebook / Instagram: **@RomfordRC**

Parish Partnership Youth Co-Ordinator: **Onosé Egualeonan**

Email: **romforyouth@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](http://www.st-peters.havering.sch.uk)**

Facebook / Instagram: **@stpeters\_catholicprimaryschool**

Mass Times: **See back page**

Reconciliation: **Saturday 5.45 – 6.15pm**

**Lent has begun!** Four days in, how is it going?! Sometimes our Lenten promises and actions can look like New Year's Resolutions, but there is a different quality and depth to Lent. We are – like today's Gospel – in the desert for forty days, but we are not alone. Jesus walks the pathways before us. So whatever we are pledging to do – in prayer, fasting and charitable giving – remember that Jesus is right alongside us. If we fall over then he is there too – just as he fell three times on the way to Calvary. He understands falling over, and the strength to get up and carry on. Lean into such amazing grace, don't give up, and trust in the many blessings of Lent.

**Thank you** to the numerous parishioners who are helping to create and deliver such a wonderful programme of Lent opportunities. From some of our youngest parishioners – the beavers and cubs – through to those of all ages, many, many people are involved. I encourage everyone to take part in as much as you can; every different opportunity will bring a fresh encounter or insight, and all of it helps to shape a significant journey to Holy Week and Easter.

*With blessings for a fruitful and graced Lent, Fr Dominic*

**Parish phones – apologies.** Many apologies if you have tried to contact us at any time in the last three weeks. If you have left a message, sadly we are unlikely to have heard it. However from Thursday we think everything is now working. Please email if you are not sure your message has got through. We definitely haven't been ignoring anyone!

**Anniversary Year Parish Lourdes Pilgrimage.** Parishioners are warmly invited to join the Diocesan Group travelling to Lourdes from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Join the Bishop, clergy and parishioners from across the Diocese. Cost approx. £1200 for flights, accommodation, insurance and all meals. **You can now book – *please specify in your booking notes that you are with Romford parish.*** Bookings are direct with Tangney Tours: [www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood](http://www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood) The pilgrimage includes medical support – if you have any questions about whether you can travel please email Deidre Pembroke on [lourdes@brcdt.org](mailto:lourdes@brcdt.org)

**Parish Anniversary Pilgrimage to Ingatestone Hall. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April.** Lord Petre and family are pleased to welcome us to their home, full of history, including sheltering Martyrs and key links to our parish. Sadly there are many stairs – this is only for people with reasonable mobility and children over 12. Tours at 1pm and 2pm will last for 90 minutes, followed by coffee and biscuits. Meet at Ingatestone Hall. £15. Please email the parish office to register [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org)

#### **Lenten Lunches have begun!**

Lenten Lunches take place every Saturday during Lent, 12.00-2.00pm, in the Walsingham Hall of the Parish Centre. Please come along and enjoy a great value lunch and a chat with friends whilst raising money for good causes. Any donations for raffle prizes would be very welcome on the day. Why not treat your family or friends to lunch? We look forward to seeing you. See poster for more details.

**CAFOD's Fast Day is this Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.** There will be an appeal and envelopes given out at all Masses this weekend 21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> February. The envelopes can be returned at the Masses on 28<sup>th</sup> /29<sup>th</sup> and there is always the option of donating on line. Thank you for your generosity.

**Live Simply** The "Big Plastic Count" takes place from March 9th-15th. Thousands of people will take part in this investigation into household plastic waste, and all you need to do is count every piece of plastic packaging you throw away, and then report your result. You can find out more and sign up at [thebigplasticcount.com](http://thebigplasticcount.com)

Have you heard of Streetlink? This website can be used by anyone to send an alert about someone sleeping rough. Streetlink then alert the relevant outreach team and provide the necessary help. Find them at [streetlink.org.uk](http://streetlink.org.uk) or alternatively you can call them on 0300 500 0914.

**Fr John Hayes RIP** A Memorial Mass for Fr John will take place at **St Mary's Hornchurch** on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. This will replace our usual 6.30pm Tuesday Mass. Fr John was born in Romford in 1936, and as a priest of Brentwood Diocese he served for over a decade in Hornchurch. Mgr Kevin Hale will be celebrating the Mass and all are very welcome.

### Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent

**The Polish Community** warmly invites you to the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 10.30am. Through prayerful singing we will walk the Stations together, with reflections offered in Polish, Ukrainian, and English, bringing us together in shared prayer.

*Polish Community serdecznie zaprasza na Drogę Krzyżową w każdy piątek Wielkiego Postu o godz. 10.30. Śpiew pieśni wielkopostnych pomoże nam wspólnie przeżywać Mękę Pańską, a rozważania w językach: polskim, ukraińskim i angielskim potęcą nas we wspólnej modlitwie.*

**6.00pm – 6.40pm Stations of the Cross in English**, led by different parish groups:

Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Petals
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Live Simply Group
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Legion of Mary
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Confirmation Group
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

**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](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk/170)

**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.

### **Caritas Networking and Events**

**All are very welcome to the 2026 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day**, Sunday 7th March, 1–5pm, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, Wanstead (E11 2PR). Discover fifteen different charities. Hear from nationally acclaimed keynote speaker Jenny Sinclair, founder of *Together for the Common Good*. Come and **discover how our Catholic community is walking with those suffering from homelessness and the cost of living crisis, as well as how we are supporting refugees and responding to climate change.** Share and connect with parishioners and charities from across Essex and East London. Free to attend and register: [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network).

Copies of the Lenten Giving Calendar are available at the back of the church.

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood invites you to take part in a Lenten Photo Challenge. Details at the back of the church or visit [www.caritasbrentwood.org](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org)

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Anthony McHale** who died recently. He will be received into the Church on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm and his funeral will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 10am. We pray for all his family and friends.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Joe Bellotti** who died recently. Funeral details to follow. We pray for his wife Mary, and for all his family and friends.

### Mass Intentions

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	6.30pm	Margaret Ready RIP (Walsh)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	People of the Parrish
	11.30am	Tom McDaniel RIP (McDaniel)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<u>7.00pm</u>	<u>At St Mary's Hornchurch</u> Fr John Hayes RIP
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Joe Bellotti RIP (Micallef)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Maureen Symes RIP (Denapoli)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	<u>At St Peter's School</u> William Denis Hale RIP (Sherman)
	10.00am	<b>Funeral – Anthony McHale RIP</b>
	5pm–5.50pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Ints Katie Wollen (Ellis)
	11.30am	Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life (KSC Romford)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30pm	Sean O'Sullivan RIP (Shanahan)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Johnny Kerrigan RIP (SVP)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>With Year 6 at St Peter's School</u> Frank Hayden RIP (Heneghan)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<u>8.00am</u>	<u>At St Peter's School</u> Mary Harrington RIP (Heneghan)
	5pm–5.50pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Cornelius O'Sullivan RIP (Johal)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Ints Martin Nicholson (Scannell)
	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:**

*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 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.***

Diocese of Brentwood Registered Charity No. 234092.

Website: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)