



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

Parish Priest: **Fr Dominic Howarth**  
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Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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 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.haverling.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters.haverling.sch.uk)**  
Facebook / Instagram: **@stpeters\_catholicprimaryschool**  
  
Mass Times: **See back page**  
Reconciliation: **Saturday 5.45 – 6.15pm**

**Today's Gospel is an affirmation and a challenge.** The affirmation that, as we live and spread God's word, we are "salt to the earth, light to the world." The challenge is clear: how are we living it? Are we a beacon of hope Do others see the light of Christ illuminating our words and actions?

**Ash Wednesday is 18<sup>th</sup> February**, so in the second week of this newsletter we will enter **Lent**.; next weekend there will be the usual Lenten leaflet full of opportunities and challenges to live the "three pillars" of Lent; prayer, fasting (in a variety of ways) and charitable giving.

**Lent can feel like a rather dark time, but it is not meant to be** and does not have to be. One of the Lenten Gospels is the Transfiguration. Most certainly during Lent the call remains to be a light to the world. The light of Christ. The light of peace, forgiveness, hope, joy and strength.

**The next ten days are a very good time to prepare for Lent.** 40 days is an ideal time to make a habit, or break a habit. What can you give up, take on, pray about, live differently, or offer time and energy to, all to be a light to the world?

*Fr Dominic*

**Parish phones – apologies.** The parish phone system has been playing up over the last week. We are resolving it, but do be patient. It is best to email if you are not sure your message has got through.

**Curious about the Camino?** Join Fr Dominic and two friends who have great Camino experience for an hour of information, memories and moments. **NEXT Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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. NEXT Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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. The Mass will include a collection for the **Diocesan Lourdes Fund** which supports the medical team travelling to Lourdes, as well as offering some bursary funding for pilgrims with limited means.

**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.** 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. Sign up sheets next Sunday.

### **Starting from Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February; Lenten Lunches**

Lenten Lunches will take place every Saturday during Lent, starting from 21<sup>st</sup> February 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.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1pm – 5pm, Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. Caritas Networking Day. Discover more about Catholic Charities, and our response to homelessness, support of refugees, and action to cherish God’s creation.** The day includes 15 charities to discover, plus keynote input from Jenny Sinclair, founder of Together for the Common Good. More information: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/events/>

**This week is National Marriage week.** Please pray for all married and engaged couples, and anyone with difficulties in marriage. If ever you need help, please reach out to Fr Dominic. You can also look at [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk). **We would love to celebrate more marriages!** Come and have a chat. We just need six months' notice, to be sure of available dates, as well as time for preparation and paperwork. **If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year**, please let Fr Dominic know so that you can be invited to the Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Saturday 11th July.

### **THANK YOU**

**Thank you** to everyone who donated to the second collection for **Pax Christi** helping to raise £535 in support of their work.

**Thank you** for the immense support given to **Enesi**, to whom you donated over £900 to help towards his rugby tour funding. In the autumn no doubt he will share some tour highlights with us.

**Thank you** to those who supported the recent **Youth led Quiz Night**, and to the young people who wrote rounds, donated raffle prizes, and helped out on the night. £600 was raised, helping towards the fares of young people travelling to Lourdes in the summer.

**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](mailto:romfordyouth@brcdt.org). Adult volunteers also needed just to be around and present; email Onosé if you could help, even just once a month.

**Half Term fun – Immersive Gamebox – for school year 9-13.** Join Onosé on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**. Meet at church at 12.20pm, then we'll get the bus to Lakeside, enjoy an hour in the Immersive Gamebox, have McDonalds and then head home, returning to Romford at about 5pm. Ideal to relieve some exam revision stress, and spend an afternoon in the company of friends. £20 for everything. You'll need to register – QR code at the back of the church, email [romfordyouth@brcdt.org](mailto:romfordyouth@brcdt.org) or follow @romford\_youth on Instagram.

**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.

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 **Catherine Friel (née McNeela)** who died recently. Her funeral will be at St Albans Catholic Church, Elm Park, at 12.45pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. We pray for all her family and friends.

### Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Kevin O'Brien RIP (Mary)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>John Conti RIP (Denapoli)</b>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Arthur and Mary Hart RIP (Johal)</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Private Intention (Finlay)</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>John Conti RIP (O'Dea)</b>
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Ints James &amp; Margaret Brady (Long)</b>
	<b>5pm – 6pm</b>	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish, especially the ill and housebound</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Jenny &amp; Joe Wilkinson RIP (Robinson)</b>
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Darren Maguire RIP (Zincraft)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Success in studies (Nwajah)</b>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>John Dawson RIP (Murphy)</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>9.30am</u></b>	<b>Tony Holmes RIP (Geary)</b>
	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Molly Pritchard RIP (SVP)</b>
	<b><u>7.00pm</u></b>	<b>Ints Naomi Philip (Thomas)</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Ints Martin &amp; Lorraine Gallagher (Rabbitte)</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>8.00am</u></b>	<b>Rose Hayden RIP (Heneghan)</b>
	<b>5pm–5.50pm</b>	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Reconciliation</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Margaret Ready RIP (Walsh)</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>People of the Parrish</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Tom McDaniel RIP (McDaniel)</b>

**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.***