



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

Parish Priest: **Fr Dominic Howarth**  
Parish Administrator: **Julia Pitkin**  
5 Park End Road, Romford,  
Essex RM1 4AT  
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Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

**Third Sunday of Lent (A)**  
*Laetare Sunday* **Fourth 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 Egualéon**

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 and Fridays in Lent, 5.00 – 5.50pm**

**Next Sunday is Mothers Day;** prayers for all mothers, grandmothers and mother figures. It is an especially lovely day to come to Mass as a family, and we will be celebrating mothers next weekend. I am also very mindful that there are parishioners for whom this is a tough day, because of bereavement or family troubles, and we tenderly pray for you. In a particular way we also remember the mothers of the Middle East at such a difficult and dangerous time.

**Next weekend Bishop Alan is 75;** we pray for him with great thanks for his pastoral gifts, kindness and faith that bring such warmth to so many encounters. His birthday is a marking moment not only for him but for the Diocese, as this is the day when he offers his resignation to the Papal Nuncio. Most usually it would take perhaps 6 months to a year for a new Bishop to be appointed; please do keep the Diocese very much in prayer during this time.

**This weekend I am in Newcastle,** speaking to young people who have completed the John Paul II award, putting their faith into action. **Fr Liam Hayes** will kindly celebrate the weekend Masses. He is a priest of the Diocese who is immersed in research for the Church, based at the Margaret Beaufort institute in Cambridge.

**Finally, a number of people have asked about the quote from last week's homily, from Dietrich Bonhoeffer.** It is a challenge for Lent, and for all the ways we express and live our faith. Dive into it deeply! **"Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God."**

*Fr Dominic*

**Final places remaining: 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. There are many stairs so sadly this is only for people with reasonable mobility and children over 12. Places remain on the 1pm tour which will last for 90 minutes followed by coffee and biscuits. £15. Meet at Ingatestone Hall. Register by emailing [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org)

### **Lenten Lunches continue!**

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.

### **Stations of the Cross continue 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 połączą nas we wspólnej modlitwie.*

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

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)

**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)

**Live Simply** The “Big Plastic Count” takes place **this week** 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.

**Superb Gap Year Opportunity, for anyone finishing Year 13 this summer, or age 18-23 from September: Be part of the Walsingham House Team 26/27.** Applications are now open! Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the Diocese, gain life skills, live in community and to share and deepen your faith. For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email [michaelkearns@brcdt.org](mailto:michaelkearns@brcdt.org).

**Celebrate after Easter with a Karaoke Night** Come along and enjoy a fun night of Karaoke and games on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April** from 7.30pm – 10.00pm in the Parish Centre. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets £5 (age 14+) available from Jingle on 07789963056 or contact the parish office. All money raised in support of the Parish Building Fund.

**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)

**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)

**Thank you** The family of Anthony McHale wish to thank you all for the overwhelming support, Cards, Mass cards and messages of sympathy following their recent loss. A Mass in thanksgiving will be offered for your intentions.

#### **Life in the Spirit Seminars at the Most Holy Redeemer, Billericay**

Starting on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, there will be an opportunity to encounter the Holy Spirit and share your faith together at a series of seminars running every Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9.15pm in the Canon Roche Pastoral Centre at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay, Essex. (Postcode: CM12 9LL) Speakers include Michelle Moran, Father Paschal Uche and Reverend Wayne Dulson. If you would like to take part in this please follow the link to register:

<https://mostholyredeemerchurch.churchsuite.com/events/6ehdypgb>

**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. Soon after Easter there should be some more information to share. For now, hopefully it helps to know we are not ignoring it.

**As we look ahead to Holy Week and Easter, please pray for all of those who give immense time and energy to help the Masses and services to be as significant and prayerful as possible.** If you want to be involved, just get in touch! Special prayers for the teenagers leading Stations of the Cross on 20<sup>th</sup> March, as they prepare for Confirmation, for the children who celebrate Reconciliation for the first time on 21<sup>st</sup> March, and for the five adults being Baptised and Confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Joe Bellotti** who died recently. His funeral will take place at 10.30am on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. We pray for his wife Mary, and for all his family and friends.

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **James (Jim) Curtis** who died recently. His funeral will take place at South Essex Crematorium at 1.40pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. We pray for all his family and friends.

### Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Cornelius O’Sullivan RIP (Johal)</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Ints Martin Nicholson (Scannell)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Julita Valencia Bendiola RIP (Bendiola)</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Dr Samira Halabia RIP (Safar)</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>At St Peter’s School with Year 4&amp;5 Private Intention (Reji)</b>
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>At St Peter’s School Michael &amp; Bridgid Power RIP (F)</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 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Theresa West RIP (Bacon)</b>
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Manuel Garces RIP (Garces)</b>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Eileen and Reg Wood RIP (F)</b>
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>James Peters RIP (Golden Club)</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Dec’d of Piper &amp; Tracy Families (F)</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>At St Peter’s School Joyce Rafferty RIP (Rafferty)</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Funeral – Joe Bellotti RIP</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>Joseph Wilkinson RIP (Wilkinson)</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Samantha Donnelly RIP (Donnelly)</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Winifred Margaretta Gardiner RIP (F)</b>
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<i>With Communion children and families</i> <b>People of the Parish</b>

**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 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.***