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“ God’s love is forever ”

PSALM 100

*A very warm welcome to the
Catholic Parish of
St Edward the Confessor, Romford*

In this leaflet you will find information about parish groups and activities,
Sacramental programmes and Mass times.

For the most up to date information visit the parish website

www.stedwards-romford.org

To ask any questions, and to let us know your details – so you can receive
regular newsletters from the parish – please email romford@brcdt.org

Welcome to the parish!

You are very warmly welcome here. If you have just moved into the area, welcome. If you have not been to church for a while, welcome. If you are not a Catholic and just want to discover a bit more of what it is all about, welcome. **Everybody is welcome here.**

Within this leaflet, hopefully you will find a group or activity that you would like to be part of, a place to meet people, and to become immersed in the life of this warm and friendly community. If there is something you would like that is not mentioned here, please let us know – you might even be the one to start it!

This year we are blessed to celebrate the 170th Anniversary of the Consecration of the church. We give thanks for the generations of parishioners who have gone before us; as we weave our stories with theirs, we pray for every parishioner, and the next generation.

Once again, welcome – I hope your time in the parish is very blessed, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is any way in which I, or anyone in the parish, can help you,

Fr Dominic

Parish Mass Times

Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 9.30am and 11.30 am

Tea, coffee and cakes are available between the Sunday 9.30am & 11.30am Masses

Tuesday 6.30pm, Wednesday 12.15pm; Thursday 9.00am; Friday 9.00am

The church is open Mon – Fri approx. 8.30am – 4pm, for personal prayer

Celebrating the Sacraments

For your child's **Baptism** please contact the parish office – romford@brcdt.org / 01708 740308

First Holy Communion enrolment for children in Year 3 and above begins in early July; the programme runs from October to May. Extra catechists welcome – speak with Nicola Roberts.

Confirmation is for those in current Year 10 or above; enrolment in September.

If you would like to be **Married** at St Edward's, or if you live in the parish and are getting married abroad, please contact Fr Dominic at least six months before your wedding date.

The Sacrament of **Reconciliation** is available each Saturday, 5.45 – 6.10pm.

To be **Anointed** before an operation, or if you are ill, please contact Fr Dominic. If it is a hospital emergency, ask the ward staff to phone the on-call Catholic Priest.

If you are discerning a **vocation** as a Priest or Deacon, or contemplating entering Religious Life, do speak with Fr Dominic, who will help with contacts and other information.

Our Local Catholic Schools all offer “Good” or “Outstanding” provision

St Peter's Primary School is less than half a mile from the church. 01708 745506

The Champion School, Hornchurch is a secondary school for boys (mixed Sixth Form). 01708 452332

Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School Upminster is a secondary school with Sixth Form. 01708 222660

Other Catholic Secondary Schools nearby are **The Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School** (for girls, with a mixed Sixth Form) and **All Saints Catholic School**, Dagenham (mixed throughout)

Parish Groups – new members are very, very welcome

If you don't know the person named, simply phone 01708 740308, or send an email with your name and phone number to romford@brcdt.org, saying which group you would like to know more about, and we will link you with the right person. If you'd like to be part of something not listed, why not start it? Speak with Fr Dominic.

The Parish Social Committee arranges a wonderful range of events and trips – to be involved in any way, please contact Margie Davids. This includes Strawberry Teas, Lenten Lunches, Sunday Coffee, Quiz Nights, Race Nights and much more ...!

The Golden Club is for those aged 55+, and meets each Wednesday, with Mass at 12.15 and the Golden Club from approx. 1pm – 3pm – a mix of entertainment and trips out. For more information, speak with Geraldine Ellis.

Knit'n'Natter Mondays, 2pm – 4pm. Never knitted before? Just want a natter? Try crochet or embroidery! Contact Mary Murnane or Mary Heneghan.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) meet on Tuesday afternoons. They help individuals and families with visits, practical advice, and items such as furniture or clothes. They welcome all offers of help, especially regular help: contact Caroline Dixon.

Mothers' Prayer Group meets weekly – sometimes online, sometimes at a mother's house. This powerhouse of prayer has been part of parish life for almost 20 years; contact Annette Bacon

Open Table Fridays for young adults age 18-35 take place about once a month. A chance for personal prayer, conversation and food together with young adults from across the local area. For more information about this and other **opportunities for young people** contact the youth coordinator, Onosé: romforyouth@brcdt.org

The Legion of Mary pray for and visit people across the parish, with a great deal of pastoral care. Meetings are weekly. Contact Carmel Mathys or Therese D'Souza.

CAFOD is regularly supported by the parish, helping the poorest in the world. For more information, or to serve as a Parish representative, please contact Joan Murphy.

The local charities we support include SMILE in Romford Town Centre (40 High St, RM1 1HR), as well as Ahava (Hope for Havering) who run a shelter for the homeless, which we host one night each week in winter time. Food donations can be left whenever the church is open.

Laudato Si' is the parish group for all things environmental. We have fitted cycle racks, solar panels and heat pumps, "wilded" some areas of the grounds, and we are an accredited FairTrade parish. We also have national LiveSimply accreditation. More information via the parish office.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meet on Tuesday evenings and offer lots of interesting and exciting opportunities for boys and girls aged 6-14. Contact John Hartie via the parish office.

The Knights of St Columba are active across the Deanery, with practical service, prayerful support and charitable fundraising. For more information contact Oliver Chime.

Children's Liturgy is part of the 9.30am Mass, in school term time. For children aged from Reception to School Year 3, this is the chance to hear the week's readings explained in simple ways, with an activity to support the theme of the reading. Helpers are always needed – contact Claire Clist for more information.

Choirs and Music Leadership At 9.30am Mass music is led fortnightly by young adults – contact Sean Brennan or Lara Gorman for more information. To join the 11.30am Mass choir contact Emelie Matutina or Ruzette Borbe. On the intervening weeks, we have an organist at both the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses. If you have any other ideas, please speak with Fr Dominic.

The Petals are the wonderful flower arrangers, providing beautiful floral displays on the altar, with highlights at Christmas and Easter. If you have never arranged a flower in your life, but would like to try, you are very welcome. Contact Julie Smith.

The Parish Repository is a treasure trove of cards, rosaries and other religious items and gifts. It opens after each of the weekend Masses; to help run the repository, or if you are looking for a particular item, please contact Annette Bacon.

Church Cleaners are always needed; you would be on a rota so you clean approx. once a month, usually on a Thursday morning. A hidden but essential service to the parish. Contact Judith Nichols.

Altar Servers are a wonderful help at each Mass; we have a good team of senior servers who help to train young servers; anyone who has made their First Holy Communion can begin to serve; look at the newsletter for details of the next training session, or ask Fr Dominic.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are ministries which need special care and training; if you would like to serve in this way, please contact Fr Dominic.

Welcomers (Stewards) are a lovely “first face” of the parish as people arrive into church, as well as helping with practicalities before, during and after Mass, or any emergencies. If you would like to be a welcomer at a weekend Mass, please contact Julia Pitkin via the parish office.

The **Livestream** continues, for those who are unable to attend Mass due to illness, frailty or shielding. There are some dedicated volunteers who ensure this can happen; if you have good IT skills, especially video skills, please contact Jason Richards.

If you would like to know more about your Catholic faith, there is an annual **Alpha Course** as well as a variety of opportunities to explore different aspects of faith throughout the year, including pilgrimages and special events. Look out for more information in the newsletter.

If you have read all of this, and are thinking, “I’d like to be a Catholic” then you are very, very welcome. We have an RCIA (“Journey in Faith”) group starting each autumn. Everyone’s journey is personal; please contact Fr Dominic if you would be interested in exploring more about becoming a Catholic, wherever you are starting from.

**There is lots more information on the parish website,
including the names of those on the Parish Pastoral Council,
who help guide and shape parish decisions**

www.stedwards-romford.org.uk

Email romford@brcdt.org

Phone 01708 740308