



**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 20th September

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sunday 27th September

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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: **romforyouth@brcdt.org** Instagram: **@romford_youth**

Parish School: **St Peter's Primary School**, RM1 4JA. Phone: **01708 745506**

Headteacher: **Mrs M Payne** Website: **www.st-peters.havering.sch.uk**

Facebook / Instagram: **@stpeters_catholicprimaryschool**

Mass Times: **See back page**

Reconciliation: **Saturday 5.45 – 6.15pm**

We continue to celebrate the Season of Creation. With the summer heat still fresh in our minds (and the grass, wildlife and plants still recovering) it is clear that the need to cherish our planet – God's gift – is ever more serious. The Feast of **St Francis of Assisi is 4th October**. This year that is a Sunday and so we will have a special **Blessing of Pets at 2.30pm** in church (or on the piazza in front of church if the weather is good). The service is about 25 minutes, and might be a chance to meet fellow pet lovers, or discover some unusual pets.

We prepare for the Parish Renewal Week, October 12th – 16th. A week full of informative and joyful evening events and Masses. Thank you to those **delivering fliers**; more help is still needed with this – please contact the parish office. Thank you to those who have volunteered with **music and liturgy ministries**, as well as to **accompany anyone who discovers our church for the first time**. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to bake – and we will be asking for more **provision of refreshments** for the week; please help if you can. Finally, save the dates and details in your diaries – and don't forget to sign up for **Westminster Abbey** on Friday 16th; more information within the newsletter.

It is uplifting to see the totals raised by Phil from the coffee morning and Shayne from the haircut. Such initiatives are a beautiful reflection of our lived faith – and a reflection of a wonderfully supportive parish community. Thank you.

Westminster Abbey Visit. As part of the Parish Renewal Week, all are warmly invited to hear the choirs of Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Abbey sing Vespers, just steps from the tomb of St Edward the Confessor. **Friday 16th October**, 5pm (arrive at the Abbey by 4.30pm). For those with less mobility, there will be a coach from the parish (£15 per person), leaving 2.45pm and returning about 8.00pm. Please sign up after Mass or email the parish office and indicate if you require a coach seat.

Fair Trade fortnight is celebrated from 21st Sept – 4th Oct. Now is the time to switch to Fair Trade certified products and ensure that farmers and workers in developing countries receive fair pay, safe working conditions and extra funds to improve their local communities.

Shayne's haircut raised £1,438.88 – a wonderful total, along with 3 plaits of hair, each around 25cms! This will all be donated to the charity The Little Princess Trust, to provide wigs for children with cancer, and support research into cures and treatments for childhood cancer: <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/>

Breast Cancer Now A huge thank you to everyone who supported Phil Griffin and the Breast Cancer Now coffee morning in August. Together we raised **£1,905 - magnificent!**

Macmillan Coffee Morning. Join us **on Saturday 26th September, from 9:30am to 12:00pm in the Parish Centre.** Come along and enjoy a relaxing morning of coffee, cake and good company, while supporting **Macmillan Cancer Support**. Donations of cakes and raffle prizes are always gratefully received. These can be left with the parish office, given to Annette Bacon, or brought to the hall the evening before or on the morning of the event. **Save the date and pop in for a cuppa — everyone is welcome, and it's all for a great cause!**

CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 2nd October Please donate and put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. A collection will be taken after all Masses on the 3rd/4th October. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/envelope

Join Caritas Brentwood this autumn for three special gatherings across the Diocese exploring Catholic Social Teaching in action. Hear from inspiring speakers, connect with other parishioners and discover how local parishes are living out our faith.

Saturday 26 September: Brentwood Cathedral on **Environment**; Saturday 17 October: St Alban's, Elm Park on **Homelessness** ; Saturday 14 November: St Anne Line, South Woodford on **Refugees**. To register, and find out more go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/caritas-brentwood-events-4458423>

Save the Date – Quiz Night in aid of the building fund on **Friday 23rd October** in the Walsingham Hall. More details to follow.

Sacrament of Confirmation – Deadline approaching!

For any young person in Year 10 to 13. You are warmly invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 2027. Preparation starts in October 2026, and all the application information is at the back of the church. The completed forms must be returned no later than **4th October 2026**. If you have any questions please email frdominic@brcdt.org.

The new Children's Choir had a great beginning with some very tuneful young singers!

The next rehearsal will be 5pm – 6pm Tuesday 6th October, ready to sing at 9.30am on Sunday 11th October. Open to anyone in school year 4-8. Parents are welcome to stay with children during rehearsals. Many superb singers started out by singing in a church choir – and it is a lovely way to make new friends with similar interests.

Youth news: Onosé, our Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator, will speak at all Masses on **26th/27th September**. Parents and young people are invited to email romforyouth@brcdt.org to receive regular updates. Currently on offer is Open Table Fridays for those aged 18+ (next one 2nd October); accompaniment to the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS) monthly Youth Mass for those in school year 9+ (next on 1st October) ; Monthly Bible Study (starting soon at Gidea Park); Participation in the BCYS “Rooted” events (for year 7-9 / 10 – 13, on 24th / 25th October). www.bcys.net

Catholic Teaching in the World of AI, 11am – 2pm, Saturday 26th September, Christ the Eternal High Priest, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park. Pope Leo recently wrote: ‘In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanisation, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human.’ Fr Hugh MacKenzie will lead this informative day. He is an expert on AI. Everyone is welcome. The talk is free and there's no registration needed. The talk will also be on livestream, and then a recorded version will be available – access this and discover more such talks on www.whatgoodnews.org

The Call to be Human: *an introduction to Catholic morality*. Four talks by Fr Martin Boland, parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead, starting Wednesday 7th October. More information: www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com. All very welcome.

Adoremus (“let us adore”) is a national event taking place at Southwark and Westminster Cathedrals on Saturday 10th October, focused on the Eucharist. Full details <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/adoremus-2026/> and you are very warmly invited to be part of a day celebrating faith with Catholics from across the country.

Secondary School Admissions – Certificate of Catholic Practice

For those with children in Year 6 applying to **Catholic Secondary Schools for admission in September 2027** your application should be supported by a Certificate of Catholic Practice. This is **only** needed for The Champion School and Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School and **indicates that you attend Mass weekly**. Please only ask for a Certificate if that applies to you. Please bring your child's Baptism Certificate and Fr Dominic will have copies of the Certificate **after any of the weekend Masses on 3rd /4th October**. Applications to the Brentwood Ursuline do not need a certificate, nor do Catholic primary school applications in Havering.

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Ellis RIP** who died recently. Her funeral will take place on Friday 25th September at 11am and then to South Essex Crematorium. We pray for her husband Sean and all her family and friends.

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Thomas Kelly RIP** who died recently. His funeral will take place on Wednesday 30th September at 12.15pm and then to Forest Park Crematorium. We pray for his wife Chrissie and all his family and friends.

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary Buckley RIP** who died recently. Her funeral will take place on Thursday 8th October at 11am and then to Barkingside Garden of Rest. We pray for all her family and friends.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 19th	6.30pm	Andrew Grimes RIP (Grimes)
Sunday 20th	9.30am	Ray Graves RIP (Graves)
	11.30am	Dr Rebecca Brown RIP (Joyce)
Wednesday 23rd	12.15pm	Maurice Trihy RIP (Gannon)
Friday 25th	11.00am	<i>Funeral – Margaret Ellis RIP</i>
	5pm–6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 26th	6.30pm	Pat Roarty RIP (Groves)
Sunday 27th	9.30am	Raymond O'Donnell RIP (F)
	11.30am	Beryl Greenway RIP (Conti)
Tuesday 29th	6.30pm	No Mass tonight – Fr Dominic at HCC meeting
Wednesday 30th	12.15pm	<i>Funeral – Tom Kelly RIP</i>
Thursday 1st	9.00am	Florence Howett RIP (F)
Friday 2nd	9.30am	Thanksgiving (D'Souza Family) <u>In St Peter's School</u>
	5pm–6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Saturday 3rd	6.30pm	Ints Annette & Michael Bacon 25th Wedding Anniv.
Sunday 4th	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Bridget Herbert RIP (Herbert)

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,

Anji & Dyllis Dangerfield, Agnes Danielka, Pat Fagan,

Pauline Gillooly, Irene Girling, Jim Griffin, Evelyn Hughes, Benjamin Joseph, Paula Lam,

Josè Lemos, Clara Mangoro, Matty, Harry McKinley, Dorita Mueller, Brendan O'Connor, Monica O'Donnell, Agnes O'Sullivan, Shamus Pierce, Kay Rabbitte, Mary Schroeyers, Peggy Squires, Claire Tilyard, Andrew Todd,

Stephen Toye, Betty Walsh, 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.