

**BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH:** If you have a child due for Baptism please let me know as soon as possible. To avoid any disappointment with dates contact the Presbytery to book your date. If you are first-time parents, you need to contact Sharon Chalk, who will organise a Baptismal Preparation of two sessions, and then I will come and visit you in your homes. Please don't forget to collect your Baptismal Information Form.



**WEDDINGS IN 2018:** If you're planning on getting married this year, the parish needs approximately 6 months' notice! If you're getting married abroad, we need at least nine months' notice please Tel No: 020 8508 3492. Documentation and *Marriage Instruction need s to take place.*



**SCIENCE TUITION:** The Secondary science learning centre is running GCSE and A level science classes at St Teresa's Hall (Chingford) and the Beckett Centre (Woodford) in small groups at just £15 a session. Contact us for more information and to book your child a place: Tel: [07940056928](tel:07940056928) or Email: [Secondaryscience@outlook.com](mailto:Secondaryscience@outlook.com)

**MAISONETTE FOR SALE:** With very close proximity to the Church and the High Street. If there are any parishioners who may be interested in this property please Telephone: 01424 224952

**UTILITY BILLS:** As you can appreciate, during the winter months and especially during the recent cold snap, keeping all our buildings heated and warm is an expensive task. February's Gas bill alone was £870.00, I do try to keep the Church and Parish Hall as warm as possible, when people are using them. Please consider these bills when making your weekly Offertory Contributions. With grateful thanks for your continued generosity.

**IN CASES OF EMERGENCY:** Tuesday is usually Fr. John's Day Off. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either in Epping – Tel: 01992 572516, or the St. Thomas of Canterbury Friary at Woodford Green – Tel: 020 8504 1688. This would also apply if Fr. John is away for a few days break or on Retreat. All the local funeral directors have a contact number for Fr. John if a funeral needs to be arranged in his absence.

Dear Friends in Christ

Palm Sunday of the Passion 2018

Today we celebrate our Palm Sunday Liturgy, which marks the beginning of our Holy Week. The Passion overshadows Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This is the most sacred week of the Church's Liturgical Year. I encourage all of you to enter into the spirit of this 'Great Week.'

Our Lenten Fast ends on Holy Thursday, and the Triduum of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection begins. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday is at 8.00pm at St. Edmund's. It reminds us of those events long ago, when Jesus instituted the gift of the Holy Eucharist as the eternal gift of Himself to the Church. The Mandatum (The Washing of Feet) is the selfless example of love and service that Jesus showed to his friends; he asks each one of us to do the same! We journey with Our Lord to the Garden of Gethsemene, and watch with him until midnight.



**GOOD FRIDAY** This most powerful day! Our Lord walks the most painful road to Calvary. At 3.00pm at St. Edmund's we commemorate The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a simple liturgy with the Reading of the Passion from St. John's Gospel, and the very beautiful Veneration of the Cross, followed by Holy Communion. This is the only day of the year that holy Mass is not celebrated!

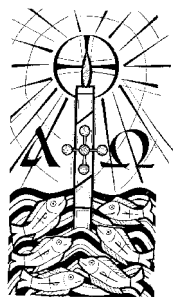
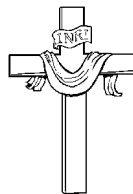
**HOLY SATURDAY:** We share in the Easter Vigil commencing at 7.30pm at St. Edmund's. This very rich and elaborate ceremony encapsulates the whole of Salvation History; and together, we rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please make every effort to attend the Triduum Services, as they are seen as one continual celebration. Please share in the first Mass of the Resurrection with us.



*Dear Friends in Christ,  
2018*

*This is Holy Week*

*Our Holy Week Journey has begun! This is the most sacred time in the Church's liturgical year. We retrace the final days of Jesus' journey that will lead to Calvary and Resurrection on Easter Day! It is a personal journey of faith also. I encourage all of our parish community to enter into the full spirit of this Holy & Most Sacred Week. It can be a real moment of grace for you and your families. This week's Newsletter lays out clearly all the ceremonies and masses to help us enter into this incredible drama of Salvation history. (Also on the website & Facebook) The ultimate sacrifice that Our Lord made on Good Friday was for our Salvation, to free us from the slavery of sin, and allow us to enter into the new life of grace!*



*I make an impassioned plea to all of you to share in the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday & the Mass of the Lord's Supper; The Good Friday Passion of Our Lord, and the Easter Vigil. This is one continuous celebration with three different facets to it. Obviously the high point is the celebration of the Easter Vigil commencing at 7.30pm on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. This year there will be two receptions into the Church Samantha Gell & Lorraine Leith. Please pray them There will be a reception immediately after the Easter Vigil in the Parish Hall. If anyone would like to contribute some food for a finger buffett this would be very helpful, just drop it off at the parish hall before the Vigil commences. I really look forward to celebrating this Holy Week with you this year!*

*If you have never participated in the Triduum, this really is a wonderful time in the Church's Liturgical Calendar. Or if you have not entered into the full-spirit of the Lenten Season, why not make a very special effort to join us for these three wonderful ceremonies. When we think of what Our Lord did for us, the least we can do is make a special effort to join with Him as he enters His Passion & Death, but also to rejoice with Him & in Him on his Day of Resurrection. I cannot stress enough the untold graces you will receive from God in participating in these sacred liturgies.*

*May God Bless you during this Holy Week,*

**NEW PARISH WEBSITE:** The New Parish Website was set up recently. My grateful thanks to Stephen Richardson for doing this for us. You can now access the Weekly Newsletter through the website. The more people who use the website the greater publicity it will give to our parish and the Catholic Church. Please have a look at the Website



**JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAMME – RCIA:** We have now completed the formal instruction of our candidates in the Journey of Faith Programme. It has been a wonderful time of spiritual growth and discovery as we have journeyed together over the past several months. Samantha Gell & Lorraine Leith will be received into Full-Communion with the Roman Catholic Faith on Holy Saturday night, which is the high-point of our Holy Week celebrations. Please pray for both of them as they take this very important big step in their faith journey!

If you know of anyone who may be interested in the Roman Catholic Faith, and who would like to know more about the faith, please contact Fr. John at the Presbytery Tel No: 020 8508 3492. The RCIA Programme runs every year; it is a systematic instruction in the Roman Catholic Faith.

JOURNEY  
OF  
FAITH

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME:** I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our Catechists, guest speakers, and of course, our Confirmandi, for the wonderful celebration of Sacrament of Confirmation last Wednesday when Bishop Alan came of visitation to the Parish. In particular I would like to thank Mark Anthony our Programme Director for putting together the wonderful book on the faith from all the questions our Confirmandi presented over the past several months. It was a mammoth task for Mark in responding to all the questions; but I'm sure you'll agree it will be a wonderful keepsake; all the Confirmand's names are written in front of the book. It is always an honour and privilege to help our young people in this next stage of their Journey of Faith.

My thanks also to our parents, who, have continued to encourage your sons and daughters in the practice of their faith! As St. John Paul II of our young people when he visited England in 1982: "...In the Church of today, you are the hope of tomorrow....As St. Paul said, Pray at all times in the Spirit".

A big thank you to all those who helped with the Sacred Liturgy, the Choir and the reception after the Mass. There was certainly a great deal of evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit. **THANK YOU ONE & ALL!**

**PARISH CHOIR:** As you know we are very fortunate to have a new Parish Choir Director and Organist, Susan Farrow, and it really does make a difference to our Parish Liturgies. Susan now has two Choir rehearsals a week, Wednesday evening 7pm till 8.00pm and Saturday morning 10.30am till 11.30am. We are looking for new choir members. There are a number of the members from the Contemporary Music Group who also sing in the Parish Choir, everyone is welcome! If you enjoy singing and music, and you want to enrich our Parish Liturgical Celebrations please come along to the rehearsals and Sunday 11.00am Mass. At present the Choir is rehearsing for Holy Week & Easter.

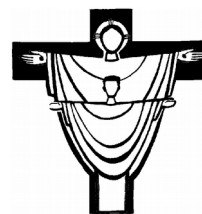


**NOTE TO EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP:** As the first Sunday in April is Easter Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> April), Susan will be leading the Parish Choir for this special feast day, so the next Mass for our group will be the first Sunday of May (6<sup>th</sup> May); this doesn't however mean that our singers can have a rest until then! We have our Holy Week services and our Easter Vigil and Easter Day Masses. Fr. John and Susan would be very grateful if as many of our singers as possible could sing at these services with the Parish Choir to add voice to these special occasions. Some of you already do sing with the Parish Choir and all our singers who can join them would be made very welcome. Please look out for the practises that Susan will be holding over the next few weeks and try to attend them if you can. Thanks very much.

**VACANCY – Education Office in Brentwood.** PA/Executive Assistant required (PA or Senior Secretarial experience *essential*) required to support the Director and Deputy Director in the education Department. The role is for 35 hours a week, working five days a week over 42 weeks a year. If you – or any of your family or friends – are interested in this role, please first contact: [recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org) for a copy of the job description and person specification. You should then send in your CV, with a covering letter demonstrating how your experience and skills match the essential requirements and attributes of the role as per the job description and person specification. Closing date for CVs/applications is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Interviews and tasks to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

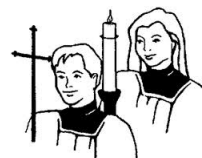
**PARISH GIFT AID ENVELOPES:** If you belong to the Gift Aid scheme, please kindly collect your envelopes at the end of Mass today. The new envelopes commence next weekend, so you will need your boxes. Thank you for your ongoing contributions for the upkeep of the parish.

**PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR LENT:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm. There will be six visiting Confessors. One of the most important elements of the Holy Season of Lent is availing ourselves of the opportunity of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As this is a Penitential Season, it gives us the opportunity to review our lives, and see those areas where change needs to take place. We are all striving for perfection, and part of that process is the humble acknowledgement that we are not self-sufficient, and that we need God's help in all things. I encourage all our parishioners to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Holy Season. Polish priest also.



**THE CHRISM MASS:** Will be celebrated on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Brentwood Cathedral at 7.00pm. This is a very beautiful ceremony where the Bishop and Priests of the Diocese renew their Ordination vows and promises. The Holy Oils of Baptism, Chrism, and the oil of the Sick are blessed by the Bishop and distributed to all the parishes for the celebration of the Sacraments throughout the year. There is an open invitation to the Chrism Mass. For me personally, Holy Week is the high point in the Church's year. I look forward to celebrating this 'Great Week' with you all. Let it truly be a moment of grace and blessing for all of us, that we can celebrate with great joy the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Day!

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR EASTER:** The Altar Society Easter Spring Clean, will take place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, from 9.30am onwards. If any members of the parish can help on that day, it would be much appreciated. Also, if anyone would like to join the Altar Society, please contact any member of the Society. Your help would be much appreciated. Hot Cross buns will be available for helpers!



**ALTAR SERVING DURING HOLY WEEK & EASTER:** Calling all our Altar Servers! It would be wonderful if as many Servers as possible could Serve during the Holy Week Services: the main ones being Holy Thursday at

8.00pm Good Friday at 3.00pm & The Easter Vigil 8.00pm/ Easter Sunday. This is a wonderful opportunity to share in the great liturgies of Holy Week, and there will be plenty to do for the Servers. Please ensure that your alb is washed and pressed.



**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY LITURGY:** (Children's Good Friday Liturgy) The Sunday Liturgy Catechists have organised once again a special 'Children's Stations of the Cross' at 10.00am on Good Friday morning, I invite our children and families to come along for the Stations. I would ask for volunteers to help with the Narration of the Stations of the Cross. Rehearsal after the 11.00am Mass on Palm Sunday

**ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION:** Is for the Holy Land. As you are aware in recent years the conflict in the Holy Land has caused much hardship, especially for the small Christian Communities, who mostly live in the West Bank. This year our collection will go to the Church in Bethlehem. We must ensure that the Catholic faith remains in the Holy Land. Many Catholics have left the Holy Land out of fear.



They often feel isolated. Please give generously to support the Church over there. The collections will take place after the Children's Stations of the Cross in the morning, and the Passion of Our Lord in the afternoon. Thanking you in anticipation.

**EASTER VIGIL MASS:** The first Mass of Easter; our Vigil, will be celebrated on Holy Saturday evening 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 this Year. We celebrate with the Universal Church the conquering of death by Jesus. This wonderful ceremony is so rich in its tradition and history. If you have never been to the Vigil, may I recommend that you come and experience it for yourselves!



**LILIES AT EASTER:** Would you like to donate a Lily in memory of your deceased loved ones? If so, please complete the details on page 6 and drop your envelope off at the prebytery as soon as possible. To give us some idea of numbers and ordering

the lilies we need to have your donation and application this weekend, but it's still not too late! Make sure you list clearly the names of your deceased, and these will appear on a list in the Church, and Holy Mass will be offered for them.

***Lilies at Easter 2018***

*Every year at Easter we remember our deceased loved one by decorating the Church with White Lilies.*



*If you would like to have a stem of lilies placed in the arrangements throughout the Easter Season, in memory of a deceased loved one, relatives or friends. Please complete this form below and return to the Presbytery in an envelope by Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018*

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*St. Edmund of Canterbury:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Names: of those remembered:* (Please print clearly)

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*Amount enclosed* £..... *Gift Aid No:*.....

*From:*.....

**ALL DONATIONS CAN BE GIFT AIDED**  
**Please Use Your Spare Gift Aid Envelopes**