

**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.



**ST EDMUND'S PARISH HALL:** Is available for hire for children's parties etc. If you're interested in hiring, please contact Mrs Antonella Thorpe via the presbytery Tel No: 0208 508 3492.

**MISSIO RED BOXES:** Thank you to all those who responded to the Missio appeal. If you missed the chance to take a box there are a couple of spare boxes in the porch of the church. **EXISTING BOX MEMBERS:** Please bring your box to mass on the second week in June 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> June, when they will be emptied. If you have a box and no longer wish to use it please return it that weekend. Thank you!

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018. 8:00pm in the Parish Retreat. This is an extremely important meeting. I would ask that all members of the Parish Pastoral Council please be present. I have managed to get Mr Mark Lambert to come and speak to the Council about the Evangelisation Initiative of 'Forming Intentional Disciples'. Hopefully this will dovetail into our Stewards of the Gospel Initiative. Reaching out to our lapsed Catholics and also to be welcoming to new members in the Church. At present we're running a Faith Sharing Programme; and in September we will begin our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults once again. Evangelisation is at the heart of all parish life, preaching the Gospel message of Jesus Christ is fundamental to our commitment in faith. In truth, many people are leaving the practice of their faith; the reasons are many and varied, but anything that can help us understand why we are at Mass each Sunday and why we're Roman Catholics, can only be a good thing! Hopefully these two new initiatives will help us!

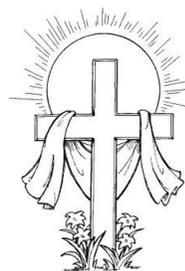
**IN CASES OF EMERGENCY:** Tuesday is usually Fr. John's Day Off. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either in Epping – Tel: 01992 572516, or the St. Thomas of Canterbury Friary at Woodford Green – Tel: 020 8504 1688. This would also apply if Fr. John is away for a few days 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,

Tenth Sunday of the Year 2018

'The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis is a masterpiece and a must-read. If you haven't read it, you really should try and get hold of a copy. St. Thomas More said: 'Satan proudeth spirit cannot bear to be mocked', but this is precisely what C.S. Lewis does in his amusing yet deadly serious account of the training of a younger demon by an older, more experienced one. He also wisely counselled: 'There are two equal and opposite errors... about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.'

Certainly today many will say that belief in demons or Satan belongs to the ancient world, a bygone era. In our more sophisticated age, medicine and especially psychiatry shed new light on behaviour that once might have been called demon possession, but today is understood to be mental illness of one kind or another. Indeed, psychiatry and psychology are sciences which do explain a wide range of human behaviour. The problem believers have is that the New Testament contains accounts of deliverance from evil, the teaching of the Church since the beginning has upheld its belief in the devil and his realm, and saints through the ages have often engaged in conflict with demonic forces.



However, it is Scripture itself that is our greatest authority for the existence of evil. The author of Hebrews wrote: 'so that by his death Jesus might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.' James urged us to resist the devil and he will flee, and Peter described the devil as a roaring lion on the lookout for someone to devour.

We are delivered from evil in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, but also by the blood of Christ. Faith gives us confidence by assuring us that the power of Satan cannot go beyond the limits set by God. Faith likewise assures us that even though the devil is able to tempt us, he cannot force our consent. Through the power of God we are able to triumph over evil.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Tenth Sunday of the Year 2018

It is with great pleasure, that on behalf of the parish I would like to welcome Mr Michael Hoye, a Seminarian from the Pontifical North American College in Rome, who has come to spend a couple of weeks on pastoral placement. As you know through the years we have hosted many seminarians, many of whom are now priests back in the United States. Please extend Michael your warm hospitality. He has written a little biography as follows:

*“Dear Parishioners, Greetings! My name is Michael Hoye and I am happy to follow a long line of seminarians who have studied in Rome and have served in your parish with Fr. John. I come from the United States and grew up in a small rural town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts named Sutton, which is situated in my home diocese of Worcester. Yes, both my town and diocese are named after those towns in England which you might be familiar with. I pray that being from New England does not act as a hindrance to our relationships while I am with you. I am the last of seven children and we all grew up playing soccer, sailing and working on a local farm picking strawberries and corn for our first jobs. Before entering the Seminary I graduated from Assumption College and ran cross-country and track and field while studying philosophy and theology for four years. I was sent to Catholic University of America in Washington DC to finish philosophy during my first year of Seminary; and after that short year my Bishop chose to send me to the North American College in Rome to study Theology. I look forward to getting to know you all as we worship our Lord and help to bring forth the Word of God into our world!”*

I have always encouraged the seminarians to see as much of London and the surrounding district as possible. If anyone is going anywhere of interest and you want to ask Michael to accompany you, or to a football match, or if you want to invite him to your home, please feel free to do so! Michael will be with us until 25<sup>th</sup> June; and then Matthew Duclos from the diocese of Albany, New York, will be arriving for five weeks until the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**ORDINATION TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE:** Please pray for Mr Simon Conrad, former deputy head teacher at St. John Fisher School, who will be Ordained to the Permanent Diaconate at Bentwood Cathedral next Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September. May the Lord bless him in his future ministry!

May God Bless You All,



**RETURNING TO THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH:** From the first moment Jesus gave his command to the Apostles to, ‘Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News’, the faithful people of God have responded! It is an invitation freely given by Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church, on her part has tried to the best of her ability to encourage and support all the faithful in their Journey of Faith. Sometimes along that journey people can lose their way, often taking other paths. But, they are still part of the family, and we really do miss them when they’re not with us. We pray for them, and I truly believe that Jesus is constantly searching out our brothers and sisters. We can also help in this mission; if you know of anyone, it may be a family member, or a neighbour or friend, who no longer actively participates with the worshipping community, have the courage to invite them to accompany you to one of our weekend masses. Obviously, there are so many other distractions out in the world today that it’s so easy to be distracted with regards commitment in faith; but the fact is that Jesus Christ came into our world to show us the way to God, and he doesn’t want to lose anyone along the way that leads to him. Sometimes, when people have been away from the practice of the faith, they often feel nervous and embarrassed about coming home. There will always be a Big Welcome! This is real Evangelisation, because it really can enable and help all of us recognise the importance of what it means to be a member of God’s Family of Faith. Have Courage!

**NEW ALTAR SERVERS:** I would like to extend an invitation to any of the boys and girls who have just made their First Holy Communion, to consider becoming an Altar Server at St. Edmund’s. This is a truly wonderful opportunity for our young ones to get involved with the life of faith and give great service to God and the Church. I was an Altar Server right up until I was Ordained to the Priesthood. As you can see we have a number of Senior Servers who have served for ten years and over who have received their Silver St. Stephen’s Medal. Parents, can I alert your children to this invitation. We will train the children at the altar. Our Parish MC’s David Knott and Robert Hatt give instruction to the children. If you are an Altar Server, you are expected to be present at weekly mass!



**LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING:** Will take place in the Parish Retreat on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. Would all Liturgy Committee members kindly be in attendance? If there are any items that you would like included on the Agenda please let Fr. John or Ferdi Tisi know as soon as possible.

### ST. EDMUND'S PARISH FINANCES

The reality of late is that our monthly income is not meeting our monthly outgoing. There has been a considerable drop in the weekly offertory! I have been consciously aware of this for a long time now, and I try not to burden you with this.

When the St. Thomas More Church was still open we had an additional income from the Presbytery, and also a Playgroup that was quite successful for a number of years. Manifestly, with the closing of the St. Thomas More site and everything moving to St. Edmund's, there has been a loss of revenue, somewhere in the region of £25,000 per year. Coupled with diminishing offertories, this is most certainly taking its toll on our parish Finances. I am very consciously aware of every parishioner's financial situation; there are so many demands on all of us today, mortgage, home maintenance, cars, family expenses, and the list can go on and on!

The survival of any parish is holily dependent on the generosity of the faithful People of God. You are those people! Your weekly contribution sustains the life of the parish. Your offering reflects your thanksgiving to the Lord no matter how great or small it may be. There are always some who may be in the position of giving more. As Cardinal Hume used to say, an hour's salary was not an unreasonable offering. If we think of some of the luxuries we purchase, a bottle of wine, a packet of cigarettes, a meal out, Weekly Gym membership, and season tickets to sports venues. Perhaps a good benchmark would be that suggested by our Parish Accountant, that if everyone gave the price of a cup of coffee that you would purchase on the High Street, this would certainly enhance the Weekly Offering. Of course the 'widow's mite' is always welcomed.

You are all aware of the ongoing costs of maintaining your own homes; and the bills keep coming in! This year we had a severe winter. As you know I've always tried to keep all our buildings warm, for example, some months the Gas Bill was between eight and nine hundred pounds a month. Utilities are extremely expensive. Capitation to the Diocese of Brentwood is £2,200 per month. Monthly salaries are approximately £1,300. Fr. John's Salary is £675.00 per quarter. These are just some of the regular bills.

I appeal to your incredible generosity, and your sense of belonging to this parish. Your Gift Aiding is so important, and the use of weekly GA envelopes really does assist and help with the annual claim that we make to the Inland Revenue. **PLEASE USE YOUR ENVELOPES!**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2018/2019: Forward planning is extremely important in the life of faith and the Church. If you have a child eligible for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist in May 2019 I will be meeting with parents this month from Monday 11th June until Friday 22nd June. PLEASE PHONE FOR AN APPOINTMENT ASAP! Children usually make their First Holy Communion when they are in Year 3 at Primary School. This year we had children from several schools on our programme. Pre-requisites: a) That you are a baptised practicing Roman Catholic, this means that you are attending weekly mass. b) That you live in the Parish. Any outsiders will need a letter of reference from their Parish Priest. c) That the child is already attending Mass with their parents. This is a really serious commitment that you undertake. The practice of your faith is fundamental to this programme for the children. If there are any problems with these requirements please see Fr. John.

### A personal request from Sue Farrow, our Director of Music:

"You probably don't see that much of me but I'm the one who makes a loud noise from above and behind you! My part in the liturgy requires me to be up in the organ loft; along with 21 dedicated choir members who rehearse twice a week to be the best they can possibly be to enhance our Sunday liturgy. Their generosity of spirit in allowing me to nag and cajole them into achieving new things stuns me every single week.

But something's not right. We are actually a choir of 22, but one of our members cannot access the organ loft. That member attends a rehearsal in our hall every week but when it comes to doing our job in the loft, they are effectively excluded. With others also who find the stairs quite difficult these days. This feels wrong to all of us and, with Fr John's support, we've decided to do something about it.

### We're going to buy a Stairlift!

We've already raised a small proportion of the funds we need but we have a long way to go. So, on 28th & 30th June I will be doing a 12-hour sponsored musical marathon to raise the rest. The choir has promised faithfully to prop me up with flasks of (very!) strong coffee but we need your help too. For the next two Sundays we'll be handing out sponsorship forms after the 11am mass. Are you willing to take one and ask your family, friends, colleagues (and anyone else you can think of!) to help us achieve our goal? It would mean so much to us to have ALL our members together in the loft, and we'd be sincerely grateful for your help. Special Donations will always be very welcome. Please support us! Please use Gift Aid envelopes also!"

Thank you. Sue





**FAITH SHARING PROGRAMME:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 8.00pm in the Parish Retreat. Theme: The Priesthood and various Religious Orders & their foundations since the beginning of Christianity.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** Every September we begin a new RCIA (Journey of Faith) Programme, for those who may be interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Faith, possibly with the view of receiving the Easter Sacraments. This is a systematic Programme of Instruction in the Roman Catholic Faith, covering aspects of Catholicism: Scripture, Theology, Liturgy, Mary, Catholic practices & Tradition, Church History, Prayer & Devotions. If there is anyone interested, or you know of anyone who might be interested, could you ask them to get in touch with Fr. John, Tel No: 0208 508 3492. Thank you!



**NOTE TO EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP:** Our next practise takes place on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July. As we've had a big gap since our last practise, It would be much appreciated if as many of you as possible could come along on 25<sup>th</sup> June and also be there for the Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Many thanks. Please don't forget that everyone is welcome to join the Parish choir every week. New singers and musicians are also very welcome to join us!



**STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL:** Core Group Meeting – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 8:00pm in the Presbytery. We have much to discuss in planning for the future, not only in our parish but throughout the whole diocese. We will also discuss the Forming Intentional Disciples Initiative.

**FORTY HOURS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Commencing with Holy Mass at 8:00pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July – until Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July concluding with Solemn Benediction at 5:00pm. Please put these dates in your diary. Each year we have the Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration; it is a moment of real grace and blessing to our parish. Please sign up if you wish to sponsor a Candle in remembrance of a deceased loved one during the Forty Hours. Our intention, once again, is to pray for an increase of Vocations to the Priesthood in the Diocese.



**THE 'FORTY HOURS' AT ST. EDMUND'S**

**5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Sponsorship of Candles in remembrance of deceased loved ones.**

Each candle costs £5 (this can be gift-aided) and will burn throughout the 'Forty Hours' of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a wonderful way to remember deceased loved ones. The whole Community is encouraged to come and pray for the Intentions of our Parish & Vocations to the Priesthood.



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

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**For the ordering of Candles let us have your names fairly quickly.**

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

**From:** .....

Holy Mass will be offered on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 8:00pm for the Intentions of the Parish and all our deceased loved ones. Please make a very special effort to come along as we begin our 'Forty Hours' of Prayer.

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ADORATION ON THE LISTS AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH OF ST EDMUND'S**

**CONFIRMANDI:** I would like to encourage our recent Confirmandi to become more involved in the life of the Church. You may feel you have something to offer to God and the Church; please don't be shy to come forward. I hope you have had an opportunity to read the little book he gave you of your questions, answered by Mark Anthony. It really is a powerful resource in understanding your Roman Catholic Faith

**LOUGHTON PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME:** Many thanks to all the parishioners who have collected their new Gift Aid Envelopes. The New Financial Year commences this weekend. Would those who have, as yet, not picked up their new envelopes kindly do so as soon as possible? The use of the GA envelopes is extremely important; we are not allowed to claim any tax back if the envelopes are not used. There are always spare envelopes in the porch of the Church.

If you do not belong to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, and someone in the family pays Income Tax then please consider joining. It is very simple in that we only require you to complete the GA Form with your name and address and Brian Carter will do the rest. Please think seriously about joining the scheme!

We are able to claim back 25pence in the pound for every pound you donate in your envelopes. E.g. if you give £10 per week, we receive an additional £2.50 per week. This certainly mounts up over the financial year.

Brian Carter – Parish Gift Aid Organiser, Tel No: 020 8508 4086

**PARISH GIFT AID ORGANISER:** I am very pleased to advise parishioners that as Brian Carter has now retired we have a new Gift Aid Organiser, Maria Mosquera. It may be a little while to hand over details to Maria as the files have to be updated and confirmed agreement with the Gift Aid Office. Brian will support Maria for as long and necessary, particularly at the end of the Financial Year. Further details will appear in the Parish Newsletter as soon as the takeover has taken place. In the meantime please give Maria the full support that you have given to Brian over the years. Once again sincere gratitude and thanks to Brian for being the Gift Aid organiser both here and in the parish in Chingford for 40 years.

## **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS –**

**GDPR:** You have probably been receiving a great deal of information in relation to the GDPR which came into force on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May. To preserve the confidentiality & privacy of all documentation held at the parish, e.g.



Baptism, Marriage, Confirmation, Death Registers etc. Please be assured that all of these registers are held in fire-proof safes, both in the Church and the Presbytery. All Census Forms are held in a fire-proof filing cupboard. With the new regulations we now need to build privacy into all personal data. Any data that is out of date or obsolete will be destroyed through shredding. To seek information about someone in the parish or registers held at the parish will become a lot more difficult. The only information that can now be given is directly to the individual who desires a Baptismal, Confirmation or Marriage Certificate. For example, solicitors will have to ask their clients to apply personally for a copy of a Marriage Certificate. With regard to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme – the only person who has access to this data is the Gift Aid Organiser; the Parish Priest does not have access. All of those involved in this work have been advised on the confidential nature of this information. No personal information will be given over the telephone – written requests only! This is the first stage of information on GDPR. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to ask Fr. John for more details.

**PARISH CHOIR:** We are always looking for new members to join the choir. You will have heard a lot of the new repertoire over the past several weeks. If you enjoy singing and music, please make contact with Sue Farrow our music director, you will be more than welcome to join the choir. There are rehearsals twice a week, Wednesday evening at 7:00pm and Saturday morning at 10:30am.