

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 9th/10th 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 2nd 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,

Solemnity of Corpus Christi 2018

The Sacrament of the Eucharist completes our Christian initiation – most of us as children, some as adults. The Eucharist was instituted at the Last Supper, on the night Jesus was betrayed, in order that the sacrifice of the cross would be perpetuated, from that moment on until the end of time.

The Eucharist is many things but most importantly it is a memorial of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a Paschal banquet. To describe the Eucharist, the Second Vatican Council coined the phrase 'the source and summit of faith' (Lumen gentium 11). This is because when we receive the Eucharist, we consume Christ himself, our minds are filled with grace and we receive a pledge of future glory. We are a people of the Eucharist, and our way of life is attuned to the Eucharist.



As early as the second century we have the witness of St. Justin Martyr, whose feast-day we marked only a few days ago, for the basic lines of the order of the Eucharistic celebration, which have stayed the same until our own day. Writing to the pagan emperor Antoninus Pius around the year 155, he explained: 'On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place. The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as much time permits. When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things. Then we all rise together and offer prayers... When the prayers are concluded we exchange the kiss. Then someone brings bread and a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren. He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek: *eucharistein*) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts. When he has concluded the prayers and thanksgivings, all give voice to an acclamation by saying "Amen." When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded, those whom we call deacons give to those present the "eucharisted" bread, wine and water and them to those who are absent.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Corpus Christi 2018

Today we celebrate the great solemnity of Corpus Christi, the last and eternal gift that Jesus left to his Apostles and the world at the Last Supper. As earth unites with heaven every time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist, we are uniquely privileged to share in this most wonderful Sacrament of the Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. There is no more intimate expression of love that we can celebrate than to consume the Body & Blood of Jesus at the celebration of Holy Mass. We become what we eat.

The respect we should afford Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist is by making a reverential bow before we receive the sacrament. Through the miracle of the Mass, Jesus comes to us through the Species of Bread & Wine. That simple gesture which he shared at the Last Supper with his disciples was to become the means whereby Jesus, through his own self-sacrifice on the altar of the cross, would be forever present to us when we gathered together in memory of Him. There is no greater gift we could receive! Jesus wants us to be one with him in 'Communion'. He fills us with his life giving body & blood. This is our spiritual nourishment along the journey of life and faith.



SICK & RETIRED CLERGY: The annual collection for the Sick & Retired Clergy of the Diocese of Brentwood takes place this weekend. Please remember this very important collection. We have many priests who have served the diocese for over 50 years, who are now in nursing care and others who are retired because of age. Their service to the diocese has been exemplary through the years. The annual collection helps to offset their care expenses in their old age. Also, as the priests don't receive any additional pension other than the state pension this fund is of great assistance to them in giving a few extra pounds a week in their retirement. As one of the Trustees of this fund, I can assure you that every penny goes to assist and help our infirmed and retired clergy. Please be generous in your response, and please remember these priests in your prayers. Thank you!

ST. THOMAS MORE SITE: Could I once again appeal to our parishioners who live near St. Thomas Site Willingale Rd, to kindly keep an eye on the buildings. As there has been so much vandalism recently. If you see anything untoward, just call the police immediately and also let me know. Thank you!

May God Bless You All,

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 25th 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.



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!



WELCOME BACK: On behalf of the parish I would like to warmly welcome back our Head teacher Mrs Patricia Bryson at St. John Fisher Primary School who has been off for some period of time on compassionate leave, as her daughter or 23years of age, was very sick with Cancer. After five months of very intensive chemo and radio therapy she has been given the all clear by the doctors. Let us give thanks to God for her recovery!

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. 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.

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.

NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE SEMINARIANS: Over the years we have had various North American College Seminarians who have joined us in the summer on Pastoral Placement. Many of whom have come back and celebrated Mass for us. This summer two seminarians will join us; Michael Hoye from the Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts who will arrive next Saturday 9th June and will be with us for a couple of weeks until 25th June. And Matthew Duclos from the Diocese of Albany, New York who will be with us from 25th June until the 1st August. Please make them welcome when they arrive. If anyone in the parish will be doing anything of interest, or travelling to a place of interest please think of the students, I'm sure they would love to have the opportunity of seeing as much of London and the surrounding areas.

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!**

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

OLD PUPILS FROM ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL: Did you (or anyone) leave St. John Fisher School in the 1960's or earlier? Would you (or they) like to make contact with "old" classmates? If so, please contact: Mike Dewar – mike@mikedewar.plus.com or Jan Hatt – jan.hatt@uwclub.net or Ann McGuinn (was Muldoon) – annmcguinn@yahoo.co.uk