

St. Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton

And

St. Thomas More, Debden

PARISH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

Seventeenth Sunday of the Year 2018

Jesus gave various signs because they had the power to lead people to faith in him. The first sign he gave was the provision of abundant wine at the marriage of Cana. It 'manifested his glory.' The feeding of the five thousand was also a sign to people, intended to lead them to faith in Jesus. They should have understood that if Jesus had the power to give them bread from heaven (spiritual): 'do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you.' Rather than putting their faith in him, the people, instead, wanted to 'take him by force to make him king', compelling Jesus to escape into the hills. Signs must be read correctly if they are to bring us to saving faith in Jesus.



Peter and the Twelve correctly read the signs that Jesus gave and refused to leave him: 'Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Lord always works 'signs' in our lives. They should bring us to greater faith in him: 'he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name'. What are these 'signs'? Every day he cares for us, stays at our side, provides for our needs, and keeps us safe under his protection. Through his Word and through his Church, he teaches us and directs our lives. In the Eucharist he nourishes us with his life-giving Word, and feeds us with his own body and blood. These 'signs' should lead us into abundant life: 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

Do you see the 'signs' in your own life? Ask the Lord to show you the countless ways that he cares for you and give you his life in abundance – his gifts of peace, joy and love. Thank him for the 'signs' of his love. Declare your faith in him.

ORGAN-LOFT STAIRLIFT SPONSORSHIP: The sponsored marathon organ performance has raised £4,400.00 so far! There are a few remaining promised donations to be collected. Choir members may not be able to be outside all Saturday and Sunday morning Masses to collect these. If you have a donation that remain to be collected, please phone John Johnson on 020 8508 4167 to arrange this. Many thanks to all those who have already made donations! We hope that we will reach our target very soon.

NOTE TO EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: Our next practice takes place on Monday, 30th July (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 5th August. Please make every effort to come to the practice. We really do want to look at some new music we've only touched on before and we need as many of you as possible there to make the practice worthwhile. Thank you

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the summer holidays begin we are truly grateful for having had such beautiful weather over the past several weeks! If you are going away on your annual leave I wish you all a safe journey to your destinations, and a wonderful period of rest and relaxation while you are away. Please do try to explore the different Catholic Churches, Cathedrals and sites while away; and remember you take the Lord with you wherever you go! St Edmund's will function as normal during the holidays, and there will be a visiting priest, while I'm on my annual leave, at weekends, to celebrate the Masses.

God Bless You All,



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Will commence with the Parents' Information evening on Wednesday 12th September at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. We will cover the first theme of Belonging. Also you will receive the children's work books and programme for the whole year. The children's first session will be on Sunday 16th September at 10am. The formal presentation of the children as candidates will take place immediately after the class on Sunday 16th September at the 11am Mass.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: The Journey of Faith talks will commence on Thursday 13th September at 8.00pm in the Parish Retreat (this is up the stairs and above the parish hall). If you know of anyone who may be interested in learning a little more about the Roman Catholic faith possibly with the view of being received into full-communion with the Church at Easter, please see Fr. John as soon as possible. Tel No: 020 8508 3492



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"Dear St. Edmund's: Thank you for a wonderful experience at your parish this summer! I didn't know what to expect when I arrived in England for the first time at the end of June, but you were very welcoming and supportive during my stay. I appreciate your travel tips, your stories, your company, your generosity, and especially your prayers. The opportunity to minister in a parish over the summer is crucial to my pastoral formation in the seminary and I'm grateful that I had such a positive experience. Please keep me and all the seminarians in your prayers as we continue to discern God's will in our own lives, and know of my prayers of gratitude to God for all of you." Matt Duclos - Seminarian

A NOTE TO ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: If you are going away on holiday during the summer, please ensure that you have found a substitute for your ministry while you're away. This applies also to our Readers. Bidding Prayer writers, please ensure that you produce a hard copy for the weekend masses while Fr. John is away, as he often doesn't read his e-mails while on holiday!



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST: There is a monthly Vocations Group to help those who would like to find out more about a possible vocation to the Priesthood! There will be a talk, a time of prayer and some food. The next two sessions will be held at St. Edmund of Canterbury, 9 Traps Hill, Loughton, Essex. IG10 1SZ 7.00pm on Tuesday 7th August; 7.00pm on Tuesday 4th September. If you would like to join us or to find out more please get in touch with Fr. Mark Swires: 07843 758961 or vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

PARISH WEEKLY OFFERTORY: At present the Weekly income is not meeting the weekly outgoing. The recent notice in the Newsletter does not appear to have made any difference to the Weekly Offertory. Please do consider your weekly offering to God and the Church, if you're in a position to increase it, this would be gratefully received. Also during the summer holidays, please try to keep your Weekly Offertory Envelopes up to date. As you all know utilities are set to rise over the summer. We also have to have the Organ repaired during August, as there is a major problem with the instrument; it's functioning on a 'wing and a prayer' at present! If it wasn't for the Gift Aid returned tax, we would certainly be running at a deficit!

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Mary Cocklin who passed away recently. Mary was a long-time parishioners at St. Edmund's her requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 1st August at 12.15pm. Our condolences go to her family in this time of great loss.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Clare Lavery & Paolo Merrifield who will be married at St. Edmund's on Friday 3rd August at 1.00pm. Clare is our Reception Class teacher at St. John Fisher School and is known to many of our families. We ask God's blessing on Clare and Paolo as they embark on their married journey of life together. Ad multos annos! Which means 'to many years!'

