

MASS INTENTIONS - JULY / AUGUST 2019

Sat 27 th	10.00am	Breege Kerrane RIP (Nuala Kerrane) <i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i>
Sat 27 th	6.00pm	Jim Cantwell RIIP (Kathy & Mark Munro)
Sun 28 th	9.00am	Parishioners / Patrick Marchant, B'day Int's (Veronica, Mary, Pat & Margaret)
Sun 28 th	11:00am	Rev Canon John J Harvey Anni. Int's (Ann Hawkes)
Mon 29 th	12.15pm	Rosemary & Ian Johnson (Ann Hawkes)
Tues 30 th	9.00am	Teresa Kane RIP
Wed 31 st	12.15pm	Communion Service
Thur 1 st August	9.00am	Communion Service
Fri 2 nd	12.15pm	Communion Service
Sat 3 rd	10.00am	Communion Service
		<i>Sunday Vigil Mass</i>
Sat 3 rd	6.00pm	Lilian Mothersole's Int's.
Sun 4 th	9.00am	Parishioners / Jenny & Arthur Catterall (Ann Hawkes)
Sun 4 th	11:00am	Helen Kay & Marie Kelly RIP

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK DONATIONS: Thank you to all parishioners who have donated items for the Foodbank. Your donations are needed as much as ever at the moment by people in our area who are struggling to put food on the table. Basic staple items are always welcome including the unbranded supermarket basic ranges which can make your generous donations go even further. In July they are in urgent need of the following items: tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, UHT milk, powdered milk, long-life juice, pasta sauce jars, tinned tomatoes, small jars of coffee, chocolate bars, washing liquid, ladies deodorant, washing up liquid, rice pouches for the microwave and tea bags (80 bag size). Thank you! You can also keep up to date with the Foodbank via their facebook page: www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/

St. Edmund of Canterbury And St. Thomas More

PARISH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends in Christ

17th Sunday of the Year 2019, C

Today we encounter Jesus' teaching on prayer, which is more radical, challenging and life-changing than we may at first realise because it encourages an approach or attitude to prayer which we might not share or even appreciate. The Lord Jesus positively and unambiguously encourages a bold, confident, even brazen attitude towards approaching God in prayer. The Lord wants us to cultivate a way of praying that is hopeful, expectant and sure of God's goodness and generosity.



No prayer captures this more beautifully than the Our Father, which the Lord himself taught us to pray. The Our Father is the Magna Carta, the blueprint for all prayer. Despite being so short and compact it encapsulates the essence of prayer and the very heart of our relationship with God. St. Augustine said of the Our Father: 'If you run through the petitions of all holy prayers, I believe you will find nothing that is not summed up and contained in the Lord's Prayer.'



Jesus uses the story of a persistent neighbour, who will take not take for an answer to reveal that God the Father is not like the unwilling neighbour, but is generous, kind and benevolent provider for his children's needs. We discover who God is more through prayer, than any other spiritual exercise, for it is in prayer that the Spirit works in us to expand not just our minds but our hearts, our imagination and our horizons.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY: £1,576.94 Sincere and grateful thanks for your generosity to the Parish with you weekly offering to the Lord. It helps to defray all the costs incurred by the parish on a weekly basis! Thank you!

Dear Friends in Christ

17th Sunday of the Year, C

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Will commence with the Parents' Information evening on Wednesday 11th 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 15th September at 10am. At the 11.00am Mass the children will be formally presented by their parents as Candidates for the Sacraments of Reconciliation & the Holy Eucharist

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: The Journey of Faith talks will commence on Thursday 12th September at 8.00pm in the Parish Retreat (this is up the stairs and above the parish hall). I have spoken to a few people already, and it is hoped that there will be a good number once again for this Programme. If you know of anyone else who may be interested in learning a little more about the Roman Catholic faith possibly with the view of being received into full-communication with the Church at Easter 2020, please see Fr. John as soon as possible. Tel No: 020 8508 3492



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.

YOUTH MASS IN PARISH PARTNERSHIP: The parishes of Loughton, Waltham Abbey & Epping will be celebrating a Young People's Mass on Sunday 22nd September at 6.00pm, to which all are invited, followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards. The next planning meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th September at 7.00pm in the Parish Retreat; also the musicians will meet to rehearse the music for the mass. If you would like to be involved in this venture, please come along to the meeting. Our young people will be doing everything at the mass, reading, Offertory, Prayers of Intercession, singing.

NOTE TO EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: Our next practice will be on Monday, 29th July (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 4th August. Please do try to be at the practice, even if it's for a short while. Thanks.

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES: Next meeting: We will have a break for the summer recess and meet again on Monday 9th September (8pm).
COMING SOON! PARISH BBQ: We are planning to hold a parish barbeque on Sunday 6th October. We hope this will be a fantastic community event so appeal to all of you to come forward to help. As well as the food and drink, we would like to showcase our parish and provide activities and entertainment. Perhaps you could help with catering, welcoming, music, face painting, activities for children or something else? We would love for all groups and individuals in the parish to be involved in the organisation of this event. If you would like to get involved, please contact Iain McLay with your mobile number on 07806 998187 so that you can be added to the WhatsApp group. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time and talents!

CLARETIAN FAMILY DAY: Bank Holiday Monday 26th August, Buckden Towers. A warm invitation to any of us who may like to go! It's a great day out at this historic Claretian Centre, and it's for all the family. The village of Buckden is very easy to get to – it's about 60 miles north of Loughton, and is immediately off the A1. The Claretian Centre is a walled estate which encloses Buckden Towers. The day starts at 12noon. There is a Barbeque in the grounds. With Mass at 3.00pm. All welcome!

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: As the summer recess has begun, could I ask all parishioners who Gift Aid to try and keep your envelopes up-to-date throughout the summer.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS: If you are going to be away on holiday over the summer recess, could you kindly arrange cover for your particular ministry. There have been a few problems recently with ministers not turning up. Please consult your contact list.

HOLIDAYS: If you are going away on holiday over the next several weeks, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a good and well earned rest. Wishing you a wonderful time wherever you go! Please take the Good Lord with you always as your guide and shepherd! God Bless!

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.

END OF ACADEMIC YEAR: Our Schools will close this coming Wednesday 24th July. May I take this opportunity of thanking all of our Teaching Staff & Assistants, Caretaker & Ancillary Workers for all they have done over the past year for our children! It is now time for a break, some rest and relaxation! As you know Mrs Bryson left us just after Easter; a big thank you to all the Senior Leaders and Mr Sean Kelliher for stepping in as Acting Head over the past term; we are grateful for everything you have done for our school of St. John Fisher. We bid a fond farewell and every happiness & success to Mrs Kathryn Poulter who is taking up a new assignment as Deputy Head teacher at St Antony's Catholic School, Woodford Green; she will be greatly missed! The End of School Year Mass will take place on Monday 22nd July at 9.15am. I would like to encourage parents to attend the Mass. The new Academic Year will commence on the 5th September at 8.45am. Have a wonderful Summer Holidays.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS, NOT A HOLIDAY FROM GOD: Our obligation as Roman Catholics is to participate in the Weekly celebration of Holy Mass; this is not suspended over the summer holidays, and has always been the teaching of the Church Mass is celebrated every Weekend; Saturday's at 6.00pm & Sunday's at 9.00am & 11.00am. Even if we are on holiday we have obligation to participate in the Holy Eucharist; but it's also a wonderful time to explore the beautiful Churches all over Europe and Abroad; and also the various other Continents people happen to travel to. God Bless You All!

ADVANCED NOTICE: The Parish Newsletter during the month of August will be a single page and produced fortnightly. As all of the programmes suspended during the summer recess, and many people are on holiday, our numbers are somewhat reduced! If you have any information for over the summer newsletter, can you let Fr. John have it as soon as possible please; also if you have mass intentions please let us have them also! Thank you!



FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN: Once a child makes their first Holy Communion, the Catholic obligation and commitment to attend weekly Sunday Mass is binding. This doesn't only apply to our first communicants, but to everyone; this has always been the teaching of the Roman Catholic Faith and has never changed. To be part of the worshipping community of believers is the greatest gift we have from the Lord,

to share in his Eucharistic celebration.



NEW ALTAR SERVERS: Could I ask all of the parents of our First Holy Communicants this year to encourage your sons and daughters to think about becoming Altar Servers. This is a wonderful way of serving God at a very young age, and also serving the community of faith. We are fortunate enough to have a wonderful team of servers who faithfully attend weekly mass and attend the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist. If your child would like to start serving, please speak to Fr. John, and he will arrange for them to receive Albs and cinctures. Our two MC's will assist in training them, and helping them in the early weeks of serving.

NEW YOUNG READERS: We also need some new Lectors (Readers) at Mass. I would like to encourage some of our young teenagers to seriously think about this request. If you are interested in Reading God's Word at one of the Sunday Masses on a regular basis, once again, please see Fr. John. To bear witness to Christ by proclaiming his Word is truly a great honour and privilege. We will help you to prepare for public reading!

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: In your mercy please pray for the repose of the soul of Desmond Gibbins RIP who passed away last weekend. Desmond was a long time parishioner at St. Edmund's, but for the past few years has been housebound. We extend our condolences to his family at this time of loss. Desmond's body will be received into the Church on Thursday 25th July at 4.30pm, and the Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 26th July at 12.15pm.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: If anyone is interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Faith, possibly with the view of receiving the Easter Sacraments at Easter 2020, please contact Fr. John to talk about the RCIA – Journey of Faith Programme. It is a systematic programme of the Catholic Faith from the Scriptural & Moral teachings of Jesus Christ, to the celebration of the Sacraments & the Sacred Liturgy; to understand the whole meaning of the Eucharist; Distinguishing the Old & New Testaments; to learn about the Blessed Virgin Mary & the Company of Saints; the different methods of prayer and meditation; the meaning of 'The Church' and what it means to be a member of the Church – Ecclesiology; the four last things, death, judgment, heaven & hell. Tel No: 020 8508 3492



THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: will feature on Lourdes TV (www.lourdes-france.org/en/tv-lourdes/) at 22.00 (UK time) on Monday 22nd July when we are part of the Marian (Torchlight) procession and at 09.30 (UK time) on Tuesday 23rd July, when we celebrate Mass at the

Grotto. In addition, each day from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th July the BCYS (Brentwood Catholic Youth Service) will be offering "Virtual Pilgrimage" clips and highlights from Lourdes, including homilies from Bishop Alan and priests of the Diocese. You will find all these on the website www.bcys.net. The website is being refreshed this Friday, 19th July, with new resources and links for youth leaders and catechists: have a look!

NOTE TO EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: Our next practice will be on Monday, 29th July (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 4th August. Please do try to be at the practice, even if it's for a short while. Thanks.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

2019/2020: My thanks to all the parents who recently came to see me regarding your child being enrolled in the First Holy Communion Programme 2019/2020. It was good to have the opportunity to speak with you. The Programme will commence on Wednesday 11th September at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall with an Information Evening for the parents. You will receive your child's Golden Book, the Programme of Meetings for the children and parents; various prayers and Guidance Notes. This is going to be a very small class. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.



PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME: Runs in every parish. The principle behind the scheme is to encourage the Faithful people of God to make a weekly commitment in faith to its parish through financial contribution. This is your weekly gift to God and is used to defray the costs of running a parish. Every householder is completely aware of the increasing costs of everyday living, and how we have to budget the annual income. The Gift Aid Scheme means that for every £1 you give, we are able to claim back at the end of the Financial Year an additional 25pence per £1. But using the Gift Aid envelopes is essential, and without your envelope there is no additional income. Manifestly, there are occasions when parishioners do forget their envelopes, in fact I've noticed that many people leave their box of envelopes in their cars. But there are additional spare envelopes in the porch, and all we need is your Gift Aid number or your name.

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Making donations go further

Our Gift Aid Organiser Maria Mosquera recently sent all who Gift Aid a letter, giving a breakdown of your contributions over the past financial year; this will assist you in your Annual Tax Return. If you have any problems with this, please contact Maria directly, as I do not have access to the Gift Aid information. Also if you would like to join the Scheme, and are a Taxpayer, it doesn't cost anything, other than your name and address, and of course your weekly contribution. It is possible to set up a Standing Order through your Bank this will ensure that your Weekly Contribution for the support and upkeep of the Parish is ensured! Application Forms can be found in the Porch of the Church, please feel free to take one and return completed to the Presbytery

It should be pointed out that all your contributions can be Gift Aided. Your Weekly Offertory contribution; Mass Intention requests; Donations for flowers; Forty Hour Candles; Special Collections; CAFOD; Any charitable contribution that you make; Any Special Donations to the Church; as long as you are a Taxpayer, and are signed up to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, all of the above apply!

For any further information please speak to Maria Mosquera or Fr. John. There are spare Registration Forms for the Gift Aid Scheme available in the Porch of the Church; please complete the form and return it to the presbytery

Youth Mass at St Edmund's, Loughton 6pm Sunday, 22nd September

On 3rd July, we had a great meeting with eight of our Loughton Parish youth (our core group) to start planning for this Mass. Three of our Loughton and Waltham Abbey musicians and two other supporting adults were there as well. Everyone brought some really good ideas to the meeting and the following has been agreed:



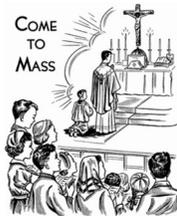
The core group will organise the writing of bidding prayers, get readers, choose hymns, music and other things that need to be done – all of these with the help of their friends and other young people from Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping parishes. Musicians from Loughton and Waltham Abbey parishes will combine to provide the music and hopefully Epping will join us. After the Mass, everyone will be invited into St. Edmund's Hall for refreshments, drinks and chat and the Hall has already been booked.



We've planned another meeting for 7pm. Wednesday, 4th September in St. Edmund's Hall / Retreat when the core group will meet to agree everything, where the musicians will gather to practise the hymns / music and where we'll then combine to polish off what needs to be done. If any of our young parishioners from Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping are interested in joining us (as being part of the core group, musician, or willing to help in any other way) please do come to this meeting – you'll be made very welcome!

For all of our young people in Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping parishes, please put the 22nd September in your 'phone/diary, please do come and bring your friends as well!

There are many of our young people who no longer attend Weekly Sunday Mass, which is always sad; but we ask all those young people who regularly attend weekly mass to become evangelists, and invite these other young people to accompany you to this Special Celebration. The Celebration of the Eucharist is the central feature of our Catholic Faith, we gather together as a Community of believers to express our love and thanksgiving to Almighty God for so many gifts in our lives. The Mass is our opportunity to come to know Jesus even more deeply and develop a relationship with Him.



FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who attended our July meeting.

COMING SOON! PARISH BBQ: We are planning to hold a parish barbecue on Sunday 6th October. We hope this will be a fantastic community event so appeal to all of you to come forward to help. As well as the food and drink, we would like to showcase our parish and provide activities and entertainment. Perhaps you could help with catering, welcoming, music, face painting, activities for children or something else? We would love for all groups and individuals in the parish to be involved in the organisation of this event. If you would like to get involved, please contact Iain McLay with your mobile number on 07806 998187 so that you can be added to the Whatsapp group. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time and talents!



This year: A lot has been achieved in the last year. Large numbers of you took part in the *Forming Intentional Disciples* programme and many events have

followed. We gave out daffodils on Mother's Day, held a forest walk, ran bible study/prayer group sessions and had a wonderful flower festival recently. Thank you to everyone who has been involved so far.

Next steps: A Youth Mass for Loughton, Epping and Waltham Abbey is being planned for Sunday September 22 (6pm) at St Edmund's. Please support if you can.

Next meeting: We will have a break for the summer recess and meet again on Monday 9th September (8pm). Please make every effort to come along as we shall be planning the Parish BBQ and need your help. Everyone welcome! We need a lot of help in organising this open Sunday event. It will coincide with Uniform Sunday Parade. This is an open invitation to the whole community, if you have friends please bring along with you!

Our Parish Evangelisation Team (PET) meets monthly to:

1. Pray together;
2. Reflect on, and to discuss, opportunities to spread the Good News among our own parishioners and the wider community;
3. Plan and organise a wide range of activities in our parish;
4. Help each other to develop our faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ through words and actions.

We have sent an email to all those that signed up at the meetings. If you have not received it, please email markpoulter70@hotmail.com for further details.

ALTAR SOCIETY: We need some new helpers in the Altar Society to look after the care of Parish Church. If you can give an hour or so once a month please see Fr. John or Sharon Fitzmaurice.

ADVANCED NOTICE: It is over 45 years since our Parish Organ had a complete overhaul; we keep a diary of every Organ visit and tuning. Unfortunately there are some serious issues with the organ, and if they are not resolved fairly soon, we are going to find ourselves in difficulty. The engineers will be working on the organ at the end of September for three weeks.

CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS: I'm making an appeal, especially to our seniors, to seriously consider attending an additional weekday mass once or twice a week. The mass is the great act of thanksgiving, as we grow older, and perhaps have a little more time on our hands, it would be truly wonderful to have more people at the weekday masses. Our numbers have diminished through the years. Please consider coming along. You'll always be welcome!

St Edmund & St Thomas More, The Immaculate Conception and St Thomas More and St Edward Parish Partnership
An update of our Parish Partnership Discussions

Representatives from the Parishes of Loughton, Epping and Waltham Abbey have established regular meetings to discuss and explore our future as a partnership of Parishes.

Questions from the Diocesan Parish Partnership Plan have been used as a structure for our deliberations.

In principle we think we should remain as 3 individual parishes collaborating through sacramental provision and feel strongly that we need to protect and nurture our communities.

In the mid-term, we hope to have 2 Masses in each parish over the weekend with 3 Masses across the parishes over the weekend, as a longer term goal.

Week day Masses should take part in each parish at least once a week. Flexibility will be needed with regard to funerals etc... but there is usually time to inform parishioners through newsletters and social media.

There is the possibility of a Care Scheme (there is already an ecumenical scheme in existence which could be approached) for anyone who is inconvenienced getting to Mass by new arrangements.

Our aim is that parishes should remain open. However, there is some question over Nazeing. Mass currently takes place in a C of E church and that should continue while there are enough priests and resources to meet the needs of those parishioners. However, it is important to 'drip feed' parishioners so that they know what the future may hold.

We need to consider 'What structures could be put in place to facilitate a Priest's life and make it more manageable?' In Canon Law, the Priest is responsible for everything so a central committee with sub committees in each parish is important.

A Youth Mass is planned in Loughton on Sunday 22nd September. This is a great opportunity to involve the youth and dates have been set for the planning process.

For Consideration

- How do we communicate all the proposals to the parishioners?
 - Education - The centrality of schools in the process
 - Spiritual Needs of the Vulnerable
 - Integrated and co-ordinated approach to leadership
-

THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS RAPIDLY APPROACH: The holidays are a wonderful time for all the family to relax and charge our batteries. After the academic year ends, there is usually a mass exodus from the parish, as families take their annual leave and travel on holiday. Whether or abroad or at home, this is an extremely important time of the year. It goes unsaid, that everyone needs some rest and relaxation!

But the holidays are a never a holiday from God or our faith. The life of faith doesn't follow an academic time-table, and our obligations and commitment to share in the Weekly Celebration of the Holy Eucharist are binding. This has always been the teaching of the Roman Catholic Faith. Personally, I always find that the summer holidays are a wonderful time to experience the Catholic Church in many other countries and continents. There are sometime wonderful cultural practices and customs, such as wonderful processions, and fiestas, especially in Mediterranean countries, that celebrate the great religious feasts, such as the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 15th August. Also in the Continents of the Americas and Africa, there are incredible cultural experiences of the Catholic Faith. This allows us to see how universal the Church is; and wherever we go, no matter how large or small a place may be, you'll nearly always find the Catholic Church.

Also, if you're remaining in the UK, I have a Catholic Directory of parishes in England & Wales, with the details of all parishes and mass times. This information can also usually be found through the internet, just google the place name of your holiday and Catholic Church. Have a wonderful holiday and a good rest!

Youth Mass at St Edmund's, Loughton 6pm Sunday, 22nd September

On 3rd July, we had a great meeting with eight of our Loughton Parish youth (our core group) to start planning for this Mass. Three of our Loughton and Waltham Abbey musicians and two other supporting adults were there as well. Everyone brought some really good ideas to the meeting and the following has been agreed:

The core group will organise the writing of bidding prayers, get readers, choose hymns, music and other things that need to be done – all of these with the help of their friends and other young people from Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping parishes. Musicians from Loughton and Waltham Abbey parishes will combine to provide the music and hopefully Epping will join us. After the Mass, everyone will be invited into St. Edmund's Hall for pizza, drinks and chat and the Hall has already been booked.

We've planned another meeting for 7pm. Wednesday, 4th September in St. Edmund's Hall / Retreat when the core group will meet to agree everything, where the musicians will gather to practise the hymns / music and where we'll then combine to polish off what needs to be done. If any of our young parishioners from Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping are interested in joining us (as being part of the core group, musician, or willing to help in any other way) please do come to this meeting – you'll be made very welcome!

For all of our youth in Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping parishes, please put the 22nd September in your 'phone/diary, please do come and bring your friends as well!

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES MONTHLY MEETING: Monday 15th July at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. I call upon all parishioners who are involved in the FID programme to attend this important meeting, and to any other members of the Parish Community, who would like to help with some of our forthcoming events. We're hoping to plan an open BBQ for the parish and the local community in September. Obviously forward planning is necessary. This needs to be organised really well, and the more help we have the better! Please come along:

Our Parish Evangelisation Team (PET) meets monthly to:

- 5. Pray together;***
- 6. Reflect on, and to discuss, opportunities to spread the Good News among our own parishioners and the wider community;***
- 7. Plan and organise a wide range of activities in our parish;***
- 8. Help each other to develop our faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ through words and actions.***

We have sent an email to all those that signed up at the meetings. If you have not received it, please email markpoulter70@hotmail.com for further details.

May God Bless You All This Week,

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

2019/2020: My sincere and grateful thanks to all the parents who came to see me this week in preparation for your child's First Holy Communion in May 2020. It was good to have been able to speak with you in advance of the Programme commencing in September. This is going to be a small year; looking at the Baptismal Register there were fewer baptisms that particular year. I presume that I have seen all those who desire their children to be enrolled in the Sacramental Programme 2019/2020. If anyone has forgotten or omitted to make an appointment, could you kindly do so immediately? **Please phone Fr. John. Tel No: 020 8508 3492.** **Pre-requisites:** a) Baptised practicing Catholic, 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. Many parishes have adopted a weekly check-in register which is signed at the end of holy mass by the Parish Priest for each candidate. Sadly, some enrol in the programme, and often don't attend the weekly celebration of the Holy Mass. If there are any problems with these requirements please see Fr. John.



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS: Last weekend I was handed a Parish Newsletter from June 1994, looking at it after mass I was a little saddened to see that the parish offertory last weekend £1,062.00 was almost the same as that of 1994. Unfortunately 25 years hasn't made that much difference in the weekly contributions. I've done



everything I can to try and keep the costs down in all sorts of different ways. But if people are not using their Gift Aid envelopes or updating their Standing Orders. As many of you have commented to me recently the weekly offertory has certainly plummeted! This isn't just about the Offertories; it's about real & true commitment in faith. Time, talent and treasure, isn't about just giving God our 'left overs', it's about giving him 'our best'. The best of our time, in prayer, coming to Sunday Mass, being a part of the community, teaching our children about the faith; Our talent – making sure that what we contribute to God is the best that he has given us, whether we be musicians, Uniform Group Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers & Readers, Servers, Flower arrangers, Church Altar Society. Our treasure – is making a real contribution to the running of our Parish. This is your Church and parish, its upkeep and maintenance is holily dependant on your contributions. What you give reflects your commitment and support of your church. I'm just the caretaker, as is any priest in a parish. Priests come and go from parishes, but the people are the community and have that responsibility for their church. I appeal to your generosity.

Some comparisons in offertories last weekend throughout the diocese. Immaculate Conception Epping - £1,347. Brentwood Cathedral - £3,709.09. St. Bede Chadwell Heath - £1,233.87. Mary Mother of God Hornchurch - £2,255.30. SS Peter & Paul Ilford £1,439.26. Our Lady Immaculate Chelmsford £2,639.72. Holy Family Witham £1,317.28

CANONISATION OF BL. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN:

The announcement was made from Rom this week that Bl. John Henry Newman will be Canonised on Sunday 13th October 2019 in St. Peter's Square, Rome. This is truly great news for the English Catholic Church, as we haven't had a Canonisation since 1970 with the Forty Martyrs of England & Wales; and they were all martyrs of the Reformation. So Bl. John Henry Newman is the first English Saint since the 17th Century. He was born in London in 1801; his family were very strong members of the Church of England. He entered the Anglican Ministry and was an Anglican Priest until 1845. He founded the famous Oxford Movement. But he slowly found himself moving away from the Anglican Church. Eventually retreating to Littlemore, where he was eventually received into the Roman Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi. Even as a Roman catholic life wasn't always easy. He established the Birmingham Oratory, where he lived out his Priesthood. He is a famous academic and theologian. In 1879 Pope Leo XIII created him a Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, as a tribute to his outstanding erudition and piety. Pope Benedict Beatified Bl John Henry back in 2010 at Cofton Park, Birmingham, many from the parish travelled up for this beautiful celebration. Please pray to Bl John Henry Newman —



CARDINAL NEWMAN

UPDATE ON THE 'DIOCESAN VISION' FROM THE BISHOP:

Over six months ago we published the Diocesan Vision Document: Shaping Our Future. That was the culmination of nearly three years of discussions, prayer, discernment and working together.

After initial meetings with the clergy, I invited Stewards of the Gospel to step forward to work with the clergy and myself to find new ways of responding to God's love for us. In the Diocese and our Parishes, we have worked together to find a response that is fit for the 21st Century in East London and Essex.

Last December I asked everyone to work in Parish Partnerships to make the Vision a reality in every part of our diocese. I encouraged us not to cling to the status quo but rather to be bold in our thinking and to explore new ways to evangelise our diocese.

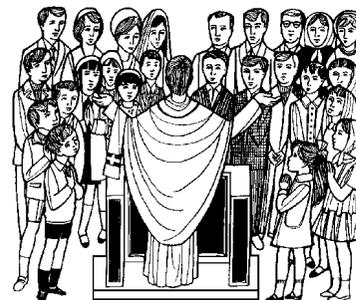
In six months, every Parish Partnership will send in a draft plan for my consideration. That plan should set out how Stewards and Clergy in each Partnership, informed by discussions with local parishioners, think it could be structured so as to best evangelise their part of the diocese.

There are many wonderful things happening in our diocese for which I am very grateful- please continue to work together in a spirit of prayer and united always in Christ and Mary. Bishop Alan Williams, sm

PARISH FINANCES: No priest likes talking about Parish Finances, but It has become very apparent over the past year or so that the Weekly Offertory has dropped dramatically, especially over the past several weeks. Unfortunately if this trend continues we will not be able to pay our weekly salaries to the employed staff. As you know I didn't replace our parish secretary, and now do all the Office Administration myself, I also did not take my own salary of £690.00 for the last quarter. As the offertories have been so low, I have been trying to keep costs to a minimum, but we are still not meeting our monthly targets. The Diocesan Monthly Quota is £2,200.00 which is automatically debited every month. Utilities - as you all know are astronomical, and with such large buildings to light and heat this is no mean task. As you know, I have always maintained that our Church should be warm, especially during the winter months. Monthly salaries work out to about £1,400.00. Capitation to Trinity Catholic High School was £1,410.00. Altar Wine for Mass £384.40. Altar Candles & Votive Candles £341.53. Supply Priest £250.00

May I appeal to all those who use the Parish Gift Aid Scheme to kindly use your envelopes on a weekly basis. If you forget your envelope, there are plenty of spare ones in the porch; all we need is your GA number or your name. Without the use of the envelope, we will lose the claim of the tax return. The tax Return from the Inland Revenue is 25 pence in the pound. Over twelve months, this can build up to quite a bit. Sadly not everyone attends mass on a weekly basis; therefore, we also miss out on the weekly contribution from these parishioners. Could I ask Parishioners who Gift Aid to seriously consider using the Standing Order option, at least if you are unable to attend Holy Mass, the parish doesn't miss out on your weekly contribution to the Lord? As you can see and appreciate these are difficult times! I really don't know what to do anymore; I've tried my best to encourage all those who attend Holy Mass to seriously consider your weekly contribution to the Lord. Put your contribution into the perspective of your everyday expenditure – there are many luxuries we avail ourselves of, eating out, which is not cheap these days. A Bottle of Wine, a pint of beer, a take-away Pizza, or any other carry-out meal. If we make our weekly contribution in line with these luxuries I think this is a reasonable gift to God. Please reflect on these sentiments, because they are important. Thankyou!

THE BEAUTY OF HOLY MASS: *The one obligation that we are bound to as Roman Catholics is to fulfil our obligation and participate in the celebration of Holy Mass, either at the Saturday evening Vigil Mass or one of the Sunday morning masses. This has always been the teaching of the Roman Catholic faith and has never changed! Once a child has made their First Holy*



Communion they are bound by this teaching. The Priest is Ordained to celebrate the sacraments, and specifically the Holy Eucharist on a daily basis. I personally consider it the most important thing that I do every day, to be a Priest of Jesus Christ, to share in his Eternal Priesthood is the greatest honour and privilege of my life. To be able to share that with others, the faithful people of God, is also a privilege!

Mass in our parish is celebrated daily. Sadly through the year, those who were regular daily mass-goers, have passed on, and very few have taken their place. Could I make this special appeal to all of our Senior Citizens, who perhaps do not work anymore, to attend an additional mass or two each week. The Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Christian life', what more beautiful way to honour the Lord than to participate in the Eucharistic Banquet! There also may be others, who can attend an additional mass; parents who are looking after young children, please bring the children along as well, the more the merrier!

PARISH CHOIR: You have heard the wonderful music from our choir. We are always looking for new members to join the choir. 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.

PARISH REPOSITORY: As you have seen, our Parish Repository has been able to stock many new religious items. Statues, Children's Books, Medals, Rosaries, Prayer Cards, Many different occasion Cards, First Holy Communion Gifts. Please continue to support our repository. If there's anything you specifically require we can order it for you.