

**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.



**EPPING FOREST FOODBANK DONATIONS:** Thank you to all parishioners who continue to generously donate items for the Foodbank during period. Your donations are needed as much as ever now 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. During Lent they are in urgent need of the following items: sponge puddings, tinned fruit, jam, tinned meat pies/ham, instant mash, male and female deodorant, laundry tablets, toilet roll (2 or 4 pack), shampoo and razors. Thank you! You can also keep up to date with the Foodbank via their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/](http://www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/)

**Christian Aid Week this year is 10th-16May:** St Edmund's has a band of collectors who go out every year collecting door-to-door and in the street to raise money for Christian Aid. We are part of a wonderful ecumenical group in Loughton with the other churches all collecting at the same time. This year all the door-to-door and street collecting has been stopped so you will not get your red donation envelope through the door. However, to replace it we have created with the other churches a "JustGiving Page" where you can still donate. This is a time when we must not forget about our brothers and sisters in the developing nations who live right on the edge of extreme poverty. This crisis will have a terrible effect on them and they need the help Christian Aid can give. Here is the link to the JustGiving page: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-9MO7TfwXate4HB3Lh35jWLSs1NRWy5x> Please do visit to make your Christian Aid Week donation.

**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.

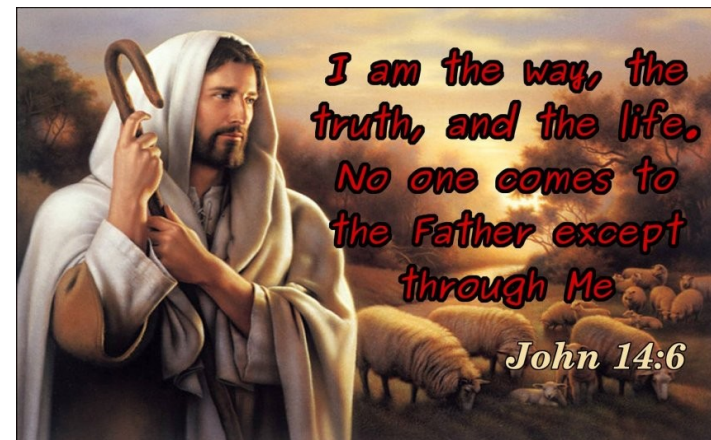
## **St. Edmund of Canterbury & St. Thomas More** **Fifth Sunday of Easter 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Fifth Sunday of Easter 2020

I really hope that you have all had the opportunity of joining Holy Mass through Social Media. In these unusual times, it's important to keep some semblance of normality and routine within our homes. With the lockdown of almost everything it would be easy to fall into the trap of doing nothing. But this is also an opportunity to truly value the presence of love & family; and to really evaluate the most important aspects of all our lives. We are very conscious of our health, and those who care for us through social medicine. Those working on the frontline endeavouring to protect us during this pandemic are the real heroes; and we all have so much to be grateful for. Whatever the 'New Normal' will be remains to be seen. But the reality is that life will never be the same again! The one conclusion that I have come to is, that it is Almighty God who is in complete control and not us. Sometimes a 'wake up call' is necessary in life to point us all in the right direction. There is always a bigger picture; and there is only one Saviour, Jesus Christ!

**GOPEL REFELCTION:** Jesus Christ came to show us the Way to God. He did this through his life, death and resurrection. His teachings, to this day form the core of all Christian living. His words and actions are emulated and proclaimed in every Christian Community throughout our world; and most certainly have stood the test of time. Jesus continues to invite us to share in His life; it's an invitation freely given, and it's up to each one of us to respond personally. Let us say 'Yes' to the Lord!



**LIVESTREAMING:** Holy Mass is being live streamed at 10.00am each day, through the medium of Facebook & the Parish Website. St. Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton. There will be a Holy Hour each Thursday evening at 7.00pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. There is so much to pray for: our front-line workers, doctors, nurses, care workers, nursing homes, scientists looking for a vaccine, pharmacists. We need to pray for those who are sick and sadly those who have died from this pandemic. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed daily at 3.00pm.



**YOUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY DURING SHUTDOWN** My sincere thanks to those who are making their weekly contribution of Gift Aid envelopes and through the banking system that has been set up through the Diocese whereby your Offertory can be paid directly into the Parish Account, details below: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=loughton> Or you can use Parish Bank Account: Using Online Banking HSBC Sort Code 40-13-22 Account Number: 11019651 Please put your name as reference and your Gift Aid number if you have one. If you can set it up as a regular payment this would be excellent and save a lot of time in the future. If you don't have GIFT AID this is a good time to start, you can do this by e-mailing Maria Mosquera ([mjm70@hotmail.com](mailto:mjm70@hotmail.com)). With continued thanks for your generosity.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** This weekend the 14 children should have been making their First Holy Communion. Sadly, due to the lockdown, all sacramental programmes were suspended until a later date. Please keep all the children and their families in your thoughts and prayers; and let us pray for brighter times when we can gather again as the Family of God in this pocket of the Lord's vineyard here at St. Edmund's. I will remember the children especially in our Prayers of Intercession this weekend.



**WHATSAPP GROUP: ST. EDMUND'S PARISH GROUP 07806 998187.** If you're already on WhatsApp, all you need to do is text Iain McLay 07806 998187. and he will add you to the group.

Wishing You All A Blessed Week, keep safe & well; Be kind to one another!  
The Lord Has Truly Risen Alleluia!

Fr. John

**MASS INTENTIONS - MAY 2020**

- |                        |         |  |
|------------------------|---------|--|
| Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>    | 10.00am | People of the Parish                                   |
|                        |         | <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>                           |
| Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>    | 6.00pm  | Dr Thomas Cruzs RIP ((Dr S Cruzs)                      |
| Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>   | 10.00am | Lilian & Walter Corden RIP (Pauline Jarvis)            |
| Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>   | 11:00am | NO 11am MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.                     |
| Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>   | 10.00am | Dec'd family members of Canale FamilyRIP (Ann Barrass) |
| Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00am | Georgina Rogers RIP (Helen Kain)                       |
| Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>   | 10.00am | Peter Smith RIP (Paul Falco)                           |
| Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Special Birthday Int                                   |
|                        | 7.00pm  | HOLY HOUR - for all frontline workers.                 |
| Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>   | 10.00am | Ms Anne Duffy RIP (Ann Barrass)                        |
| Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>   | 10.00am | People of the Parish                                   |
|                        |         | <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>                           |
| Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>   | 6.00pm  | Meg Brown RIP (L Schofield-Brown)                      |
| Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>   | 10.00am | Joyce & George Gregory RIP ((Andrew Gregory)           |
| Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>   | 11:00am | No 11.00am Mass until further notice.                  |

**BOOKING MASSES:** At present there are many openings for Mass Intentions. If you would like a Mass for a particular intention, please write your details on an envelope and post it through the letterbox at the presbytery. You can Gift Aid your intentions just put the GA number on envelope. Place your Mass offering in the envelope. Thank you!

**NO PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS:** Considering the Coronavirus, and in accord with Government Health Warnings, and the directives from the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, there will be **NO SACRAMENTS CELEBRATED WITH CONGREGATIONS** until further notice; e.g. No Sunday or Weekday Masses, no Baptisms, No Weddings, No Funerals. I will celebrate Holy Mass (Behind Closed Doors) Daily keeping the Intentions of the whole parish community lifted-up to God.

**MAKING A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:** This is uniting ourselves spiritually with Jesus Christ through Prayer: -

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.” Amen