

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. 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/

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

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 **Sixth Sunday of Easter 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sixth Sunday of Easter 2020

With the recent announcements by the government to an easing of the lockdown, a lot of people are confused with some of the measures that have been advocated. Ultimately, the safety of every human being in our society is the prime concern for everyone. Whatever we must do to stay safe and well, by staying at home and self-isolating is fundamental to human survival. Tragically, here in the UK we've seen over thirty-five thousand people die from Covid 19, the highest number in Europe. We need to continue to practice social distancing and follow all the advice given for the washing of hands, cleanliness, wearing a face masks, avoid using public transport if possible. No one is invincible; I speak personally after testing positive several weeks ago, it's not very nice. I have buried two people during the past week that died from the Corona virus, and I personally know of several others who have died from the virus. This is tragic! Please stay safe and well; stay at home if you can. Until we have a vaccine, we are all at risk. Let us continue to pray for one another.

GOPEL REFLECTION: At the Last Supper table, in his dialogue with his apostles, Jesus makes the promise of sending ‘another Advocate’ – the Holy Spirit – which is the ultimate gift of his eternal presence to be with the Apostles and the Church. The perfect love between the Father and the Son, will be the life-giving force of the Church for ever! The whole life of God, Father Son & Holy Spirit, is the gift that we are given in Baptism. The indwelling presence of God is that which makes us who we are as Christians in the world today. We need that presence to continue to perfect our lives through his grace.



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. 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). With continued thanks for your generosity.

I would really like to thank all those parishioners who have signed up through the online banking scheme, through the diocese or parish Bank Acc. It has really made a difference to the Weekly Income at present. It is helping to continue to pay all our bills.

SOME REALLY 'GOOD NEWS': You may remember a couple of weeks ago I mentioned that two new candidates for the priesthood have been accepted by Bishop Alan and the Diocese of Brentwood. I'm happy to inform you that Frank Westcott, one of our own parishioners, is one of those candidates. Frank has been discerning his vocation for a long time. I am happy for him and continue to offer him my support and prayers as he embarks on this new journey to priesthood. Frank will be going to St. Mary's College, Oscott in September. Please keep him in your prayers.



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,
God Bless You all and keep you safe.

Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS - MAY 2020

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| Sat 16 th | 10.00am | People of the Parish |
| | | <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> |
| Sat 16 th | 6.00pm | Meg Brown RIP (L Schofield-Brown) |
| Sun 17 th | 10.00am | Joyce & George Gregory RIP ((Andrew Gregory) |
| Sun 17 th | 11:00am | NO 11am MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. |
| Mon 18 th | 10.00am | Special Int. (Eileen Lee) |
| Tues 19 th | 10.00am | Anne Gilsenham RIP (Steve & Veronica) |
| Wed 20 th | 10.00am | Mary Walstow Int's (Pat & Margaret) |
| Thurs 21 st
Ascension Day | 10.00am
7.00pm | Christine Slisz RIP (Slisz Family)
Rose McMorrow's Int's (Maureen Perry) |
| Fri 22 nd | 10.00am | Aoife Hogan RIP (Hogan Family) |
| Sat 23 rd | 10.00am | People of the Parish |
| | | <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> |
| Sat 23 rd | 6.00pm | Mary & Ernie Walsh RIP (Bill Walsh) |
| Sun 24 th | 10.00am | Peter Smith RIP (Paul Falco) |
| Sun 24 th | 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!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: Will be celebrated next **Thursday 21st May.** It is a Holy Day of Obligation, having the same status as a Sunday. **Holy Masses will be livestreamed at 10.00am & 7.00pm.** I hope you will be able to join us for one of these masses. Forty Days after His Resurrection the Lord Jesus returned home to the Father, to be seated at His right hand. Reigning eternally from Heaven; the Holy Spirit, promised by the Lord at the table of the Last Supper, would be sent to the Apostles at Pentecost. Coming Home is always the desire of the Lord for each one of us, and how we live our lives and relate to one another is extremely important. During these difficult times, let us always value kindness and love to one another; that may seem a very simple thing to do, but the long term implications of something so simple are truly far reaching and affect the whole of our lives. May God Bless Us All.

