

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/

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 **Seventh Sunday of Easter 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Seventh Sunday of Easter 2020

We have spent the past nine weeks in lockdown. In this very strange and unusual time we have endeavoured to exercise social distancing, staying at home, and trying to keep ourselves as safe as possible. We have seen courageous witness from all those working on the front-line to keep us safe. Sadly, we all probably know someone who has passed from Covid 19. I was made aware over the past week of parishioners who had lost parents. Our hearts go out to them. Even when the lockdown is lifted, life will never be the same again. What is the 'New Normal'? None of us really know the answer to that question. The fact that the whole world has experienced this pandemic has certainly made me think seriously about life & death issues. Ultimately, life is the most precious gift we possess, and this is God given. The preservation of life is fundamentally at the heart of our existence. We have experienced a real wakeup call from God. As we approach Pentecost and the giving of the Eternal Spirit of God promised by Jesus to his Apostles; let us echo the words of the *Veni Sancte Spiritus*: “Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle within them the fire of your love”.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: In the Gospel today, we hear the beautiful Priestly Prayer of Christ. Jesus prays earnestly for his disciples that Gospel will protect them and give them courage and strength. Jesus knows his own fate, that in his self-sacrifice to the Father, salvation will come to the whole world. His work on earth has been completed, now he entrusts the work of Gospel to those he had chosen. And so, the work of the proclamation of the Good News continues to this day. Twenty-one centuries later we are still gathering around the Table of the Lord; and we still proclaim the triumph of Jesus Christ.



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). With continued thanks for your generosity.

NOTE TO PARENTS: I trust you and your families are well. This has been a very testing time for all. I pray that you have continued to share the faith with your children, pray with them, and have joined us each week for Holy Mass with our online streaming. We really do need God and our faith at this very difficult time. It truly does make us realise who is ultimately in control here. This pandemic is something that future generations will read about in history books. We must make the most of everyday that God gives to us and, never to abandon our hope that Jesus Christ came to bring into our world.



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,

Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS - MAY 2020

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|------------------------|---------|---|
| 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 11am MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. |
| Mon 25 th | 10.00am | Maureen Goss RIP (Maureen Perry) |
| Tues 26 th | 10.00am | Gerard Pampellonne RIP (K Pampellonne) |
| Wed 27 th | 10.00am | Kathleen & Tommy Mullaney RIP (Monica Maycraft) |
| Thurs 28 th | 10.00am | Peter Venis RIP (Pauline Howard) |
| | 7.00pm | HOLY HOUR |
| Fri 29 th | 10.00am | Margaret Mullaney Sp Int. (Monica Maycraft) |
| Sat 30 th | 10.00am | People of the Parish |
| | | <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> |
| Sat 30 th | 6.00pm | Yvonne Maria Westcott RIP ((Frank Westcott) |
| Sun 31 st | 10.00am | Fr Paul Dynan RIP (Sheehy Family) |
| Sun 31 st | 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!

My Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to expressing my sincere and grateful thanks to the whole parish community during these very difficult times of the Pandemic. These times are unprecedented; we've never really known anything quite like this, and hopefully never will again. As I stated in my editorial, we have all had time to evaluate the most important aspect of our lives: Our families, our health, our faith, our love and care for one another. The community has shown its real care and concern for the sick, elderly and housebound, demonstrating true neighbourliness, and charity. I have been overwhelmed by your continuous and ongoing contributions to the Loughton Food Bank, and would like to thank all those involved in the collection and transferring each week to the Food Bank. The Food Bank has expressed their gratitude.



I personally express my gratitude to the whole parish community for the encouragement I have received with regards to the Daily Livestreaming of Holy Mass. Even though we may be isolated in our homes, we still have that opportunity to connect spiritually through social media. The Daily Celebration of Holy Mass, & Vigil Mass & Sunday Mass, has for many been a lifeline in keeping connected to our faith. Never before have we needed the Lord so much as we do now. Thank you for being loyal to our parish daily and weekly. I long for that day when I can see you back in the pews; I really do miss your presence and, of course the interaction that we have when celebrating the sacred liturgy. Tentatively, according to Government directives, churches come under phase 3 in releasing the lockdown. Hopefully the church should open on Saturday 4th July, but for private prayer only, and also social distancing will have to be practiced.

My thanks also go to our team of technical wizards who have helped with the livestreaming everyday of our masses. We have two mediums of access to Holy Mass, Face Book & the Parish Website. Also grateful thanks for the publishing of the Weekly Newsletter through the Website and also many are receiving the Newsletter via e.mail. If you would like to be added to the list just let us have your e.mail address. My thanks to Edie who has livestreamed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy Daily. I know many people have enjoyed it. Also to those who have joined us for Holy Hour every Thursday

WEEKLY OFFERTORY: During this difficult time, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks all our parishioners who have continued to make your weekly contributions, either through your Offertory Envelopes or your Online Giving; the details of which are published on the Website & the WhatsApp group. At least we have been able to continue paying all our bills. Obviously with no one coming to the Church, it has been difficult to sustain a regular weekly income, but I'm truly grateful to all who have made weekly contributions. Last Weekend's envelope contribution was £251.00. Thank you! Manifestly, we have not been using heating or lighting in the Parish hall, and in the church only for about half an hour each day; also very limited use of lighting & heating in the presbytery. Therefore the utility bills will be a lot lower at this time of the year; as it's got a lot warmer. We have an online system set up by the diocese for anyone to make your weekly contribution; it's very easy to use and a number of parishioners use this now on a weekly basis. Also there is the possibility of setting up a direct debit. Please refer to Maria Mosquera our Gift Aid Organiser.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN: At the end of our 10.00am Mass on Sunday. Please stay tuned on the livestreaming, as our first Holy Communion Class have recorded a special prayer. It should have been their Going Forth Mass, but as you know all celebrations of the Sacraments have been suspended until further notice. A very Big Thank you to Kathryn Poulter our First Holy Communion Director, who has arranged for this to be set up, and our technical team who have been able to put it all together and livestream it. Whenever we come back to Church we will arrange the First Holy Communion celebrations once again.

PERSONAL NOTE: Thank you to all the parishioners who phone on a regular basis; it's wonderful to be able to keep up with you, and also to be able to have a chat. Living on my own, it's quite easy to go through a day without talking to anyone. So I'm truly grateful for your thoughtfulness and kindness in making contact. I'm sure we're all fed up with being self-isolated, but to keep safe and well is of prime importance. Love & God Bless Fr. John

