

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 **Pentecost Sunday 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Pentecost Sunday 2020

Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the Birthday of the Church. On that first day, when the promised Holy Spirit was sent to the Apostle; their lives were filled with the total presence of God. The Holy Spirit inspired them; gave them courage and strength to embark upon the work the Lord had prepared them for – to go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News. Their lives would never be the same again. Strengthened and inspired by the Resurrection of Jesus, they now had all the tools they needed to continue his work in the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. And to this day that mandate has faithfully been carried out. There have always been hurdles and difficulties along the way, but the Church has always risen to the challenge. In these difficult times of Pandemic, our faith has certainly been tested, perhaps in a way that it has never been tested before. We now have a completely different mindset; we are going to have to adjust to a new way of life and living, and it affects all of us!

GOPEL REFLECTION: On that first day of Resurrection, Jesus appears to his friends and extends the gift of Peace. They are overawed by his presence, almost incredulous. He shows his wounds, and they are filled with Joy. Then he breathes on them and gives them the Gift of the Holy Spirit – the eternal gift that he had promised them at the Last Supper. The Apostles work must now begin. Jesus will be with them until the end of the age; as he is with us and his Church. Let us thank God for the gift of our faith & the gift of the Spirit.



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.

NATIONAL ROSARY RALLY: Pope Francis encouraged all Catholic throughout the world to pray the Rosary in our family home throughout the month of May, especially when the Pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families and making it possible for us to pray together in lockdown at home. You are invited to join the initiative that follows from the Pope's request, the Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally. From 9.00am to 9.00pm across England, Wales & Scotland. Our Diocese of Brentwood has been designated 11.00am. Please join us immediately after 10.00am Mass.



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 - JUNE 2020

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| 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 30 th | 11:00am | NO 11am MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. |
| Mon 1 st | 10.00am | Sarah & Peter McQuade RIP (M Duffy) |
| Tues 2 nd | 10.00am | Margaret & Bertrand Smith RIP (Smith Family) |
| Wed 3 rd | 10.00am | Lilian Harrington RIP (Fr John) |
| Thurs 4 th | 10.00am | Margaret & Pat Birthday Greetings (Veronica & Steve Short) |
| | 7.00pm | HOLY HOUR |
| Fri 5 th | 10.00am | John Anthony Harvey RIP Anni. (Fr. John) |
| Sat 6 th | 10.00am | Edward Martin Duffy RIP (M Duffy) |
| | | <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> |
| Sat 6 th | 6.00pm | People of the Parish |
| Sun 7 th | 10.00am | Daniel, Ellen & Betsy Exley RIP (Catherine Knight) |
| Sun 7 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!

My Dear Friends,

With the lockdown restrictions being slowly eased by the government, and people returning slowly to work; we are trying to get used to this 'new normal'. Obviously social distancing is still fundamentally at the heart of this situation, and we are encouraged not to compromise this, or think we're invincible. Anyone can contract Covid 19. Manifestly, the elderly, and those with underlying and compromising health issues should be even more careful; and we should all respect these guidelines. As far as I am aware, Churches will be allowed to be open once again on Saturday 4th July; initially this will only be for private prayer, and social distancing will have to take place. I will keep you informed as to when we can have public mass once again. I'm sure that you're all missing our weekly celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. I know that I really miss your presence here in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. We have never known anything quite like this in our lifetimes.



A very Big Thankyou to the whole parish for your continued support and encouragement during this Pandemic. We have all had time over the past ten weeks to evaluate the most important aspects of our lives – our families, our health & safety; our faith & our love and care for each other. We have shown that our charity goes just beyond ourselves; our care in the community through your contributions to the Foodbank, continue to be exceptional. Care of the sick and housebound is equally important.

During the Pandemic, we have been fortunate enough each day to livestream our Mass at 10.00am. With the technology of Social Media, Mass is able to be livestreamed through the medium of Facebook & the St. Edmund's Parish Website. I have been encouraged by the number of parishioners who have continues to livestream, both daily and weekly for Sunday Mass; thank you for your faithfulness and loyalty to our parish. Many parishes are not livestreaming, so I consider we're very fortunate. I must pay tribute to all those who have helped in the technical side of things. It really hasn't been easy over the past week or so; we have been in contact with BT several times, but in the end we've been reliant on our own devices and technical knowhow. Thank you to my Team!



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. 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.

WHEN WILL THE CHURCH OPEN AGAIN: The simple answer is, I don't know! But when it does open we will have to follow government health and safety measures; plus our own diocesan church measures. Initially the Church will be open only for private prayer, and people will have to practice social distancing. Manifestly, there will be no holy water; no sign of peace; only Communion in the Hand; no hand-shaking after masses. For the reception of Holy Communion there will have to be orderly social distancing of 2 metres. Fr John will only give Holy Communion; (immediately before distributing he will sanitise his hands, and immediately afterwards; also wearing a face mask). I would also ask all the parishioners to bring hand sanitiser and clean your hands immediately before receiving the Blessed Sacrament. Also, if you wish to wear face masks during the Mass, please feel free to do so!

After each mass we will have to sanitise the benches and surfaces; this is where we are going to need a number of volunteers, wearing gloves and masks; ensuring cleanliness throughout the church. There will be no use of hymn books and Mass Books. The Offertory Collection will be taken as you come into the Church, there will be boxes and baskets to receive your envelopes and offerings. For the time being this will be the 'New Normal'. We just don't know how long all this will last; possibly until a vaccine is found. Please continue to watch this space; I will try to keep you all up to date with any changes from the Government or the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales. As soon as a date is given I will let you know. Thank you!