

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. At the moment 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 **Solemnity of Corpus Christi 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ

Corpus Christi, Year A, 2020

During the past week it was announced that all places of worship will be opened on Monday 15th June for personal and private prayer. This is truly a wonderful move forward to our eventual return to regular worship in our churches. Manifestly, we will have to follow the Government guidelines with regard to social-distancing, and also health and safety regulations from our own Diocese of Brentwood. It has been nearly three months since we closed our churches, and it has been a really hard time for all faithful people; not to be allowed into our spiritual homes has been a real test of faith. But the fact that we've been able to live-stream every day, and to have so many parishioners tuning in daily, has been a wonderful innovation. I never would have believed that I would be able to facilitate this by means of daily communication via Social Media but needs must! We will continue in our daily live streaming of Holy Mass at 10.00am, as the church is still not providing public masses & service. We move forward slowly!

GOSPEL REFLECTION: On this Feast of Corpus Christi, we celebrate the great and eternal gift that the Lord Jesus gave to his disciples on the night of the Last Supper. As he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and shared it with his friends, and the same with the cup of wine, this simple gesture of love and friendship, was to become the powerful remembrance of that holy night, that would become the central feature of the gathering together to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of the Lord. He left us his body & blood, his soul & his divinity through the species of bread of wine. Through the miracle of the Mass we are privileged to share in this eternal gift.



LIVE STREAMING: 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.

RE-OPENING OF OUR CHURCHES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER: You will see in this Newsletter the Guidelines for the re-opening of our churches for Private Prayer. I would encourage all parishioners who will be attending the Church to bring face masks and your own hand-sanitiser. Sanitiser will be provided when you enter and leave the Church, but it's always good to carry your own as well.

PLEASE READ THE GUIDELINES VERY CAREFULLY. YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY ARE THE PRIME CONCERN FOR US HERE AT ST. EDMUND'S PARISH, LOUGHTON.

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; stay at home if you can;
Always be kind and loving to one another.
Fr. John



MASS INTENTIONS – JUNE 2020

- Sat 13th 10.00am Jackie Shallice (sick). (McLay Family)
- Vigil Mass for Sunday*
- Sat 13th 6.00pm Eamonn, Heather, Finley, Thomas & Rose Faherty (Kathleen Sorrell)
- Sun 14th 10.00am Canon John Duckett RIP (Fr. John)
- Sun 14th 11:00am NO 11am MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
- Mon 15th 10.00am Martha D'Souza (B'day Ints) Pat, Margaret & Remy)
- Tues 16th 10.00am Sheila Burns RIP (John & Sue Campbell)
- Wed 17th 10.00am Georgina Rogers RIP (Peter & Chritine Burrowes)
- Thurs 18th 10.00am Sheila Burns RIP ((Diana & Ferdi Tisi)
7.00pm HOLY HOUR
- Fri 19th 10.00am Frank Westcott's Int's (Margaret Duffy)
- Sat 20th 10.00am Kenneth George Tudhope RIP (M Duffy)
- Vigil Mass for Sunday*
- Sat 20th 6.00pm People of the Parish
- Sun 21st 10.00am Kitty McDermott RIP (M Kavangh)
- Sun 21st 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,

Solemnity of Corpus Christi

GUIDELINS FOR OPENING OUR CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

With the lockdown restrictions being slowly lifted I would like to share with you information with regard to the re-opening of Church for Private Prayer. The Bishop's Conference of England & Wales has issued guidelines in accord with Government advice on the re-opening of all public places of worship. The main objective is to open our churches safely (i.e. providing the least possible risk of the transmission of the virus) for private prayer, which is the first step. This guidance has been provided and compiled with detailed public health advice and scrutiny and complies with the Principles established by the Government.

Principles:

- a. Protecting those at higher risk (e.g. the elderly, those extremely vulnerable and shielding or clinically vulnerable and accessing annual flu immunisation);
- b. Enhanced cleaning of premises – more regularly and no sharing items;
- c. Social Distancing – including when using outdoor spaces;
- d. Face coverings for reassurance;
- e. Hygiene (hand-washing) or hand sanitising facilities for all;
- f. Managing children

What is 'Individual Prayer?'

Individual prayer within a place of worship is defined as a person or household entering the venue to pray on their own and not as part of a group, led prayer or communal act. They must be socially distanced from other individuals or households. Collective or communal prayer and regular scheduled services are not permitted at this time. This includes any minister of religion or lay person leading devotions or prayer.

First Steps: Preparing for safe-reopening:

- a. Assembling a Team of stewards to ensure that the guidance document can safely be put into effect. The number of volunteers will depend on the size of the church. All volunteers should be drawn from those parishioners who have not been instructed to shield themselves, nor, as a general rule, from groups considered more vulnerable to coronavirus.
- b. A sufficient supply of alcohol hand gel has been purchased; including cleaning materials (also gloves for cleaners). Notices all over the church. Blocked off areas of seating. Please follow instructions from

stewards. And always adhere to the social distancing requirements of 2 Metres

- c. Please sanitise your hands upon entry & exit of the church. Please also take post-it sticker with you upon entry, and kindly leave it in the place you sat. This will ensure that cleaning and sanitisation can take place on your departure.
- d. After visiting the Church; the places where people have sat will be cleaned immediately. Exit from the church will be via the Sacristy (hand sanitiser will be available as you depart).
- e. There will be plenty of ventilation in the Church during your visit. The doors of the Church will be open and windows also.
- f. The Parish toilets WILL NOT be available during this period of time.
- g. A steward will be available at all times when the Church is open, providing information and guidance during your visit. Please follow instructions rigidly. Please follow Stewards Instructions.
- h. Stewards should themselves practice good hygiene through regular hand washing or hand sanitising. Please ensure that cuts and grazes on hands are covered with waterproof dressings.
- i. Entry into the Church will be through the Right Front Door; and Exit from the Left Front Door – Please follow the signs and kindly sanitise your hands as you leave.
- j. Places where people sit should be two metres apart from one another in all directions – facilitating social distancing. People who are of the same household can sit together.
- k. The Church will be thoroughly cleaned regularly
- l. **OPENING TIMES:** For private prayer – Unfortunately we cannot open all day. For the moment we will be open for one hour a day 12noon until 1.00pm **THE STEWARDS WILL HELP YOU.**
- m. If there are any problems or issues that you need to discuss, please contact Fr. John or our Health & Safety Co-ordinator Robin Bradley Tel No:
- n. When the Government give further instructions as to the full-opening of Churches for Services, I will keep you up to date with their guidelines and, also Brentwood Diocesan Guidelines.

HOLY MASS will continue to be livestreamed each day at 10.00am, through the social medium of FaceBook and the Parish Website; St. Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton. Please keep up to date with all parish news through the WhatsApp group & the Website. With thanks, & God Bless. Fr John