

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 donate items so generously for the Foodbank during the pandemic. Your donations are needed as much as ever at the moment 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. This month they are in urgent need of the following items: tea bags (small/medium box), sponge puddings, tinned fruit, tinned meat pies/ham, instant mash, long life juice, tinned spaghetti, chocolate bars, washing up liquid, laundry tablets and shampoo. Thank you! You can also keep up to date with the Foodbank via their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/

FROM RACHEL POULTER: On Saturday the 25th of July, I would have been setting off on my third pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Obviously, the pilgrimage has been cancelled this year, but the BCYS have come up with a virtual pilgrimage called 'Lourdes in your Living Room'. To start the pilgrimage, they are running the '18 hour challenge', which will be from 4.30 pm on Saturday the 25th to 10.30 am on Sunday the 26th, as this would have been the time in which we would be travelling on the coach to Lourdes (and Mary appeared to Bernadette 18 times). During the 18 hours, the idea is that you complete a challenge relating to the number 18, and I have decided to bake 18 different cakes! I will then be giving the cakes to my neighbours and people in the parish. The 18 hours will then be ended with a live-streamed mass on the BCYS's YouTube page. The other part of the challenge is to ask people to sponsor you to complete the task, to raise money for the BCYS and CAFOD. If you would like to donate, you can do it here: <https://bcys.net/donate/>. You can also follow along and find out more on the BCYS's Instagram page: @brentwoodcys. Thank you for your support! Rachel

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 **Sixteenth Sunday of the Year 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year 2020

Once again, it was truly wonderful to see some of our parishioners returning to Church for Sunday Mass. Manifestly, this has been a strange time over the past 16 weeks, as we've all had to adapt our lives accordingly. Many people are still very frightened to venture out too far from home; and some people think their invincible, and this virus will not touch them. We cannot become complacent, and we should follow the Governmental guidelines.

The Church has implemented all the required guidelines, both Governmental & Diocesan, plus all the Health & Safety requirements, and it is good to see that our parishioners have felt confident enough to return to Church. **IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT FACE COVERING BE WORN AT MASS.** I would like to make a special appeal to our families, to seriously think about returning to Holy Mass. Obviously, your health and safety are our first and prime concern, but if we are all sensible and follow the guidelines, it will help us gain a little confidence, not only in returning to Church, but to start doing all the things that we took for granted in the past.

I would have to say that the most important thing that this Pandemic has taught me, is that the most crucial things that matter in life are family, health & faith; these three, go hand-in-hand. We have all had to re-evaluate and adapt our lives over the past months. It's certainly given us all a lot of time to think and reflect on our relationship with the Lord Jesus has been given extra impetus. The greatest tragedy would be to not have joined the dots together and see what this pandemic hopefully must show us!

Throughout the whole history of Creation and humanity, God has manifested himself in all sorts of different ways. Sometimes a dramatic 'wake-up' call is required! Calling people back to God is the recurrent theme that runs throughout the whole of the Bible. Often when people's lives are consumed by the values of the world, it's easy to forget the sacred.



FEELING A LITTLE APPREHENSIVE: About attending Sunday Mass; we have set up a Speaker outside the Church; and parishioners can practice Social distancing outside as well. Obviously if you attend as a family, you can sit closely together in the Church. Alternate benches have been blocked off, and with the wearing of Face Coverings we are complying with regulations.

UNABLE TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS: If you are genuinely unable to attend one of the Sunday Masses, the Bishops Conference of England & Wales has strongly recommended that you make the extra special effort to attend one of the Weekday Masses, at present being celebrated daily at 10.00am. Please wear a Face Covering.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE VULNERABLE: For parishioners who are in the vulnerable age bracket 70 plus, (It's your prerogative to attend Mass). Or if you have underlying health issues or are displaying symptoms of Corona virus **PLEASE STAY AT HOME.**

LIVESTREAMING: We will continue to livestream all Masses from St. Edmund's via the medium of Facebook & the Parish Website

THANK YOU: I would like to sincerely thank all those parishioners who have volunteered as Stewards, at our Sunday Masses, and for the hour of private prayer during the week. I'm truly grateful for your generosity of spirit and service to the whole parish community. It's truly wonderful to see! We have purchased special cleaning materials for the benches & surfaces, and they are cleaned every time they are used by parishioners. If you would like to volunteer as a Steward, please contact Iain McLay Tel No: 07806 998187

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY: 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.

Wishing You All A Blessed Week,



Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS – JULY 2020

Sat 18 th July	10.00am	Margaret & Hugh John RIP (McKernan Family) <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday: Church resumes regular Sunday Schedule</i>
Sat 18 th	6.00pm	Joe Brown RIP (Betty Brown)
Sun 19 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sun 19 th	11:00am	Sheila Burns RIP (John, Jean & Ann Cocklin)
Mon 20 th	10.00am	Veronica Short B'day Ints. (Pat & Margaret)
Tues 21 st	10.00am	Sarah McQuade RIP (Nancy & Margaret)
Wed 22 nd	10.00am	Mary Walstow Int's (Veronica & Steve Short)
Thurs 23 rd	10.00am 7.00pm	Peter Smith RIP (Paul Falco) HOLY HOUR
Fri 24 th	10.00am	Tony Rattigan RIP (Maureen Rattigan)
Sat 25 th	10.00am	Carmen Antaki B'day Ints (Veronica & Jo Johnson) <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>
Sat 25 th	6.00pm	Canon Brian O'Shea, Retirement. (Eddie & Mary; Steve, Teresa & Family)
Sun 26 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sun 26 th	11:00am	Int's Tony Duff (M Ryan)

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!

DIARY 2020

PUBLIC MASSES HAVE RESUMED ONCE AGAIN AT ST. EDMUND'S. WE ARE STRICTLY FOLLOWING GOVERNMENTAL & DIOCESAN GUIDELINES ON HEALTH & SAFETY. SOCIAL DISTANCING IS IN PLACE. PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO RETURN TO WEEKLY MASS WITH YOUR FAMILY. THANK YOU!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE SICK IN OUR PARISH:

Margaret Baldwin, Brian Beveridge, Jane Downs, Steve Dalgliesh, James Geller, Veronica Godsave, Bernadette Hall, Ann Hawkes, Claire Howes, Pamela Houghton, Shaun Keel, Angela Long, Lilian Mothersole, Sheila Murphy, John McKernan, Rosemary O'Rourke, Kathleen Pomeroy, Barbara Pope, Geraldine Taylor, Vera Taylor, Mary Witten, James Wright. And all our loved ones.

ANNIVERSARIES: Alan West RIP. For all our deceased loved ones, Requiescant in Pace.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: With continued thanks for your generosity. **Please don't forget to use your Gift Aid envelopes.** If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme there are application forms in the Church Porch, or ask Fr. John for a form.

THE SISTERS AT CHIGWELL CONVENT: Would be most grateful for your used postage stamps for their Missions. There is a Box in the Porch of the Church for the stamps. Especially all your Christmas Stamps. With many thanks!

ALL SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES & PARISH COURSES: Will cease until further notice. The First Holy Communion celebrations schedules for May have been postponed. No Funerals, only a graveside blessing. Memorial Masses to follow at a later stage

NO MASS INTENTION REQUESTS: Unfortunately there have been very few Mass Intention requests; therefore, there are many openings. If parishioners would like mass intentions for any occasion or anniversary, please put your request & mass offering in an envelope and drop off at the Presbytery as soon as possible. TY!

