

St. Edmund of Canterbury & St. Thomas More Eighteenth Sunday of the Year 2020

Dear Friends in Christ

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year 2020

Last weekend, it was truly wonderful to see so many of you at Sunday Mass. People are slowly gaining their confidence about going out and trying to regain some semblance of normality to their lives. Although this 'New Normal' is quite strange, we also cannot become complacent about Covid 19. One of the worrying factors is that there will be a new wave of infections. As you know we have adapted the Church to accommodate social distancing. I would ask all parishioners to adhere strictly to these rules.

This week I have received an updated instruction from the Governmental & Diocesan guidelines; where there is an enclosed space with a large gathering it states that **FACE COVERINGS** should be worn, which means in the Church; it not only to protect the individual, but also everyone else. Also, in the new guidelines, it has stated that as soon as we leave Church we should not congregate outside or have social conversations, just go straight home. I know this seems somewhat severe, but we are trying to protect everyone from this contagious virus.



I make a very special appeal to all our families to seriously consider coming back to the weekly practice of Holy Mass. Routine is important, especially for our children. The practice of our faith is not something that we just tag on to the rest of our lives, it is fundamental to who we are, and of course, eventually of what we become. Let us all make a very special effort to consider the importance of our faith, especially in these strange times. Life is not a dress rehearsal, we only pass this way but once, and we need to take every opportunity given to us in our relationship with God.



In the past it was noted that a habit can be acquired within 21 days. In more recent studies it said up to 66 days. We were away from Church for a hundred days. As I have stated it's as easy to get out of the habit as it is to get into it. Manifestly, I believe that everyone must make a conscious effort to try to return to the 'good habit' of Sunday Mass

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 Mass, 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 will be 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

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.

EPHING 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/

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: As you know since the lockdown through the Pandemic of Covid – 19, we had to postpone our First Holy Communion celebrations this year. As the Church has now opened again, we have decided to go ahead with the First Holy Communions. Obviously this will be done in a very different way. But before we start any new programme for 2020/2021 I wanted our 14 children who were preparing since last September to receive Jesus is Holy Communion. Therefore over several weekends at the 11.00am masses two children per week will make their First Holy Communion. I thank Kathryn Poulter, Helena Manara & their helpers for kindly arranging this, and all the families have agreed to this, thank you! This is truly a day to remember in each child's life, and we want it to be special for each of these children. The families are aware that very few guests can be present as we have to strictly follow the Governmental guidelines on social distancing.



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,

MASS INTENTIONS – AUGUST 2020

Sat 1st August	10.00am	Sr. Susan Asher Int's <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday: Church resumes regular Sunday Schedule</i>
Sat 1st	6.00pm	Holy Souls
Sun 2nd	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sun 2nd	11:00am	Alice & Harold Kendal RIP
Mon 3rd	10.00am	Int's of Mary McGowan (Teresa Fabbri)
Tues 4th	10.00am	Olga Norgueira (B'day Int's) (Pat & Margaret)
Wed 5th	10.00am	Joanne, Stan & Michael Maycraft RIP (Monica Maycraft)
Thurs 6th	10.00am	Teresa Kane RIP (Margaret Duffy)
	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR with Exposition.
Fri 7th	10.00am	Int's of Raymond Kearney
	10.30am	Holy Hour Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament
Sat 8th	10.00am	Sr. Susan Asher Int's <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>
Sat 8th	6.00pm	Peter Smith RIP (Paul Falco)
Sun 9th	9.00am	Patrick Joseph Laffey RIP (The Laffey Family)
Sun 9th	11:00am	People of the Parish

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!

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.

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 Dalglish, 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: Danny McRory RIP and for all our deceased loved ones, Requiescant in Pace.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: With continued thanks for your Weekly Offering. 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. If you forget your envelope, there are spares in the Porch. Thank you!

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. Your mass will be offered within a couple of weeks. Thank you!