

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

Dear Friends in Christ

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year 2020

Once again, it was wonderful to see so many of our parishioners returning to Sunday Mass. As people gain their confidence about going out and trying to get back into some routine of 'normality', I just want to reassure all our parishioners, that here at St. Edmund's, we have taken all Governmental & Diocesan recommendations and guidelines very seriously. Your Health & Safety are our prime concern. Procedures are in place when you attend Church to protect you. It goes unsaid, that before you leave home that you should thoroughly wash your hands. Hand sanitiser is available as you enter the Church. A one-way system enables you to take your seats from the outside aisles. Alternate benches are closed facilitating social distancing. There is no 'sign of peace', no physical contact with another person, excluding the 'family bubble'.



I make this Special Appeal to all our parishioners, to seriously consider returning to the Weekly practice of faith. Manifestly, many people are returning to other social activities; as gyms, restaurants, pubs social venues, parks, museums, some theatres are now open. Parishioners are also flying abroad for holidays. We are encouraged to be sensible and follow the guidelines. And considering the information available, please know that when you come to Mass on Sunday (which now last for approximately 35 minutes), we will look after you! As from Saturday 8th August, it is now mandatory to wear a Face Covering in all places of worship. Also, please do not congregate outside after Mass. Thanks!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Please pray for our 14 children who will be making their First Holy Communion during August & September. The first two children will celebrate First Eucharist next Sunday at the 11.00am Mass. This is a special time for the children, who have been preparing since last September. Obviously, during these unusual times this celebration will only be for their immediate families. My thanks to our Catechists Kathryn, Elena & their helpers.



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 the they are cleaned every time them 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

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 of 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/

FINANCIAL STATUS: Since the beginning of the Pandemic 23rd March, the Parish Offertory in every parish up and down the country took a serious hit. As you can appreciate, for 14 weeks the Church was closed, and now, even though we are open for Weekend Masses, less than a third of the mass going congregation are attending Holy Mass. Manifestly, the income has been reduced drastically! There are parishioners who have availed themselves of the online giving and also direct debit schemes; but these are very few. I do encourage our parishioners to consult the Newsletter for these methods of giving. As autumn and winter approaches, and we will have to initiate the heating utilities, which is our most expensive bill each week, I do appeal to our parish family to continue to support your Church. We are all experiencing differing kinds of hardship, but it's your support that sustains the parish throughout the year. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS – AUGUST 2020

Sat 8th August	10.00am	Sr. Susan Asher Int's
		<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday: Church resumes regular Sunday Schedule</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
Mon 10th	10.00am	Lou Macpherson RIP (The Kendal Family)
Tues 11th	10.00am	Frank Westcott B'day Ints. (Pat & Margaret)
Wed 12th	10.00am	Canon Brian O'Shea, Retirement (Rosemary & Ian Johnson)
Thurs 13th	10.00am	Frank Westcott's Int's (Steve & Veronica)
	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR with Exposition.
Fri 14th	10.00am	David Staines B'day. (Melinda Staines)
	10.30am	Holy Hour Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament
Sat 15th	10.00am	Sr. Susan Asher Int's
		<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>
Sat 15th	6.00pm	George (Jerzy) Rathe RIP (Bill & Helen Walsh)
Sun 16th	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sun 16th	11:00am	Tony Duff RIP (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 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: For all whose anniversaries occur at this time and for all of 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!

BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH: We have been given permission to celebrate Baptisms once again in our parishes. Manifestly, families are allowed up to 30 guests, you will have to wear face coverings. If you wish to go ahead with the Baptism please contact Fr. John as soon as possible. Tel No: 0208 508 3492 Thank you.

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!