

St. Edmund of Canterbury & St. Thomas More

The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven

Dear Friends in Christ

Feast of the Assumption 2020

What is the 'New Normal?' If any of you have been out this week, you would have noticed that life is trying to return to some semblance of normality. I've seen many people making their way to the Gym next door, the swimming pool is open; restaurants and coffee shops are open, pubs are open; most shops are now open. I see groups of young people walking along the street together; parents out with their children; museums and places of interest are opening. Many parishioners are going away on holiday, both home and abroad; but sadly, very few families have returned to Sunday Mass. The hardest thing during the lockdown was to walk into an empty church every day; I have celebrated Holy Mass every day since 23rd March, even when I had Covid 19 myself. And now that all places of worship have opened, it is mainly our middle-aged and older parishioners that have returned to Sunday Mass. As I stated a couple of weeks ago, it's very easy to get out of the habit of attending Church. Please think seriously about this. If you have started to do many of the other things I listed above. I would strongly recommend you also return to Church.



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. (You're probably safer here than going to the Supermarket). It goes unsaid, that before you leave home that you should thoroughly wash your hands. Hand sanitiser is available as you enter the Church. It is now mandatory that you wear a face covering. 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'.

If you still feel insecure or unsure about attending one of our Sunday Masses, why not attend one of the Weekday Masses at 10.00am, Monday – Saturday. Returning to normal is the goal of everyone. But we must also make the effort to achieve this ourselves!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR BLESSED LADY: Today we celebrate the great Doctrine of Faith, that at the end of her natural life here on each God assume Our Blessed Lady body and soul into heaven. This doctrine was dogmatically defined by Pope Pius XII on 1 November 1950, in the apostolic constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* by exercising papal infallibility. We proclaim and define it to be a dogma revealed by God that the immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever virgin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven.



Munificentissimus Deus emphasised Mary's unity with her divine son and as his mother, she is the mother of his church which is his body; she is the "new Eve" (the term is used three times), paralleling Christ as the new Adam; and by her assumption she has attained the final bodily resurrection promised to all Christians, and the Church has reached its ultimate salvation.^[14] These three plus the Perpetual Virginity of Mary make up the four Marian dogmas of the Catholic church.

The dogma of the Assumption followed from the 1854 definition of Mary's Immaculate Conception (her freedom from original sin), and both developed from the recognition of her status as the Mother of God, meaning that she, like Jesus, was without sin, preserved from corruption, resurrected, received into heaven, and a recipient of corporeal glory.

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/

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 this Sunday at the 11.00am Mass. Anabel Jewell & Edward Docherty. This is a special time for the children, who have been preparing since last September. It's extremely important that all those children and their families who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion in the coming weeks start attending weekly mass once again. Obviously, during these unusual times this celebration will only be for their immediate families. My thanks to our Catechists Kathryn, Elena & their helpers.



REPOSITORY: There are a variety of Religious gifts and items available for First Communicants. Cards, statues, rosaries, medals, prayers books, candles There is a cash box to leave your money. The church is open from 10.30am – 11.30am each day Monday – Saturday.

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!

URGENT (AND FUN) APPEAL TO EVERYONE

Our very own Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (bccs), like many charities this year, has seen a considerable drop in income. Sponsored walks and other fund-raising events have all had to be cancelled because of the corona virus.crisis. Conversely, due to lockdown, bccs counsellors have been extremely busy dealing with an increased number of children and families in need of help during these unprecedented times.

As most of you know, bccs provides much-needed help and loving care to children and families throughout our Diocese and the generosity of donors to support their vital work is needed now more than ever before.

This is where we can help – and have a bit of fun too!

Bccs has signed up to take part in a 'virtual' walk being organised by the Fun Walk Trust, inviting participants to walk 2k or 5k anywhere, and at any time, during the month of September.

We hope that many of you will want to take part, get your family and friends to sponsor your 'walk' and raise as much as you can for bccs.

We're getting further details from bccs shortly and, when these arrive and with Fr. John's full support, Iain Mclay has kindly agreed to attach all details, sponsorship forms, etc. when he emails the weekly newsletter to everyone. Those on Whatsapp will also get the information, plus we're planning to have some hard copies available in the Church porch.

We do hope that many of you will take part, have fun walking and 'persuading' people to sponsor you and so raise much-needed funds for the vital work of bccs

ST JOHN FISHER PRIMARY SCHOOL IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL FOUNDATION GOVERNORS. This is an exciting and extremely worthwhile opportunity to become involved in the Catholic education of our children at a primary school at the heart of our Parish, which was rated 'Good' following its most recent Ofsted inspection. No previous experience of school governorship is required, but those with a knowledge of business and/or employment practice, financial or property management, or of course education, would be particularly welcome for this vital voluntary work at the heart of our parish. If you are a practising Catholic, enjoy working as part of a team, and are willing to make the necessary time-commitment, to find out more please contact the current Chair, Hugh Arthur, at hgarthur@outlook.com, or let Fr John know of your interest - and if you know of someone else you think might be suitable, please pass on this information to them.

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.

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 they are used by parishioners. If you would like to volunteer as a Steward, please contact Iain McLay Tel No: 07806 998187

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

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.**

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.

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.

God Bless You All Fr. John



MASS INTENTIONS – AUGUST 2020

Sat 15th August	10.00am	Sr. Susan Asher Int's
		<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday: Church resumes regular Sunday Schedule</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)
Mon 17th	10.00am	Pauline Isobel Roberts RIP (Maria Corley)
Tues 18th	10.00am	Dec'd members of The Walstow Family (Mary Walstow)
Wed 19th	10.00am	Maureen Kelsey B'day Int's. (Pat & Margaret)
Thurs 20th	10.00am	Michael & Breege Kerrane RIP (Mary)
	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR with Exposition.
Fri 21st	10.00am	Alice Sullivan B'day Int's (M Duffy)
	10.30am	Holy Hour Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament
Sat 22nd	10.00am	Melinda Staines B'day Int's
		<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>
Sat 22nd	6.00pm	Mary Faherty (Kathleen Sorrell)
Sun 23rd	9.00am	Walter & Lilian Corden RIP (Pauline Jarvis)
Sun 23rd	11:00am	Int's of Bernard J Gilley (Eileen Ward)