

**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 these difficult times. 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. Currently they are in urgent need of the following items: instant mash, tinned meat, packet noodles, savoury crackers, sponge puddings, crisps, snack bars, laundry tablets (small and medium) bars of soap and hand sanitisers. Thank you! You can also keep up to date with the Foodbank via their facebook page: [www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/](http://www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Please pray for our 13 children who will be making their First Holy Communion during August & September. The third two children will celebrate First Eucharist on Saturday & Sunday this week. 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.

**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.

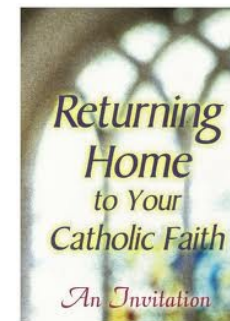
## **St. Edmund of Canterbury & St. Thomas More** **Twenty Third Sunday of the Year 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year 2020

Daily we receive updates on the Covid-19 situation at home and abroad. These are unprecedented times; as this Pandemic has spread throughout the whole world, naturally one's health and safety always come first. There is still a great deal of fear in some people, even though Governmental guidelines have been put in place. I spoke to someone recently who hasn't been out since last March. How to regain that confidence and surety once again is a gargantuan task. I am hoping that with the return of our children to school, it will instil hope and confidence in our families.

For those who have returned to the regular practice of faith, you have witnessed for yourselves, that we have put all the Governmental and diocesan guidelines in place in our church to insure your health and safety. Hit and miss appearances at mass is certainly not what being a practicing Catholic is all about! I really believed, perhaps naively, that this Pandemic would have focused everyone's hearts and minds on what really matters in life, especially in the area of faith; sadly, it appears that I was wrong! Talking to priest friends all over the world, the same scenario exists in their countries as well. During the lockdown, I livestreamed Holy Mass each day. My worry now is that the livestreaming is being used as an alternative to the return to church, or in fact, no contact with church at all. Nothing can replace the actual being present and receiving Our Lord through Holy Communion at Holy Mass. I appeal to all our parishioners, especially our young families, to come back home to the Lord.



There is still quite a lot of space at our Weekend Masses, especially at our Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 6.00pm. Manifestly, as you're probably aware that face coverings are required, unless you have exemption or underlying breathing problems. This not only protects you but everyone else as well. We do want to regain some semblance of normality once again in our daily and weekly lives. Also there is a speaker outside the Church transmitting the Mass.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

Each year the RCIA programme – often referred to as the Journey of Faith – is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Faith. It offers the enquirer the opportunity to explore in a systematic way all the aspects of Catholicism. There is a Weekly talk and discussion for about an hour and quarter. If you know of anyone interested in enrolling in the programme which will commence this Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm in the Presbytery. I have had one enquirer already. If you're interested, or you know of anyone who might be interested, please let them know about this programme; ask them to contact me at the presbytery Tel 020 8508 3492.



CONGRATULATIONS: To Bianca Felton, who was due to be received into the Catholic Faith at Easter and will be baptised on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September at the 9.00am Mass and receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. Please keep her in your prayers.

PARISH BAZAAR THIS YEAR? With the uncertainty regarding the Covid 19 Pandemic, I have made an executive decision not to have our annual Parish Bazaar this year. Instead, it would be good to have a 'Big Grand Draw' with really good prizes. I know it's early days, but if anyone would like to donate really good prizes for the Draw these will be gratefully accepted. Obviously, it would be good to know in advance so we can publish a list of prizes. If you can donate a really good prize please speak to Fr. John. Tel No: 020 8508 3492\_

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](mailto:mjm70@hotmail.com)). With continued thanks for your generosity.

God Bless You All Fr. John

### MASS INTENTIONS – SEPTEMBER 2020

Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Tony Rattigan RIP (Maureen Rattigan)
		<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday: Church resumes regular Sunday Schedule</i>
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Rosemary Mahoney RIP (Bill & Helen Walsh)
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Abelardo Ingan Jnr RIP
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Martin Duffy RIP (Carmel Willsmer)
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Mary Piotrowski RIP (Chris Piotrowski)
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Thanksgiving (Margaret Duffy)
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Margaret & Clarence Clark (Monica Maycraft)
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Mary Piotrowski RIP (Chris Piotrowski)
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Peter Smith RIP (Paul Falco)
	10.30am	Holy Hour Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	John Ironside RIP (Margaret Duffy)
		<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	George (Jerzy) Rathe RIP (Bill & Helen Walsh)
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Yvonne Grace RIP (O'Regan & Tuson families)

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 practicing 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](mailto: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 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.**

**BAPTISMS:** We have been given permission to resume the Baptism of infants in our churches. Manifestly, families are allowed up to 30 persons to be present in the Church, practicing Social distancing and wearing a face covering. Many baptisms were put on hold with the lockdown. But I would encourage you to have your babies baptised now. The Church is open for weekly Sunday Mass, and we are trying to get back to some semblance of normality. Life cannot be put on hold forever! Please contact Fr. John to arrange Baptism dates. Tel No: 020 8508 3492.



## 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 Walstow, Mary Witten, James Wright. And all our loved ones.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Gerard Pampellonne RIP & Vera Copeman RIP and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time and for all of our deceased loved ones, Requiescant in Pace.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** £843.21 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!

**ST. EDMUND'S PARISH HALL:** Is still closed until we get the go ahead to open once again. But there will be really strict and stringent guidelines with regards to each group or organisation using the hall; and social distancing, and the cleaning and disinfecting the hall and toilets after each use. The health and safety of the whole parish is our main concern. 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!