

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/

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Three 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.

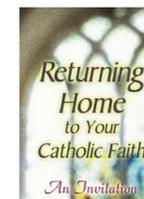
IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: Tuesday is usually Fr. John's Day Off. In Cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either in Epping – Tel: 01992 572516, or the St. Thomas of Canterbury Friary at Woodford Green – Tel: 020 8504 1688. This would also apply if Fr. John is away for a few days break 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 Fourth Sunday of the Year 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ

24th Sunday of the Year 2020

It was truly wonderful to see so many of our families returning to Mass last weekend. People are trying their hardest to return to some semblance of normality, but every day the Government are announcing new measures to combat the upsurge in Covid 19 cases. As many people are not adhering to the social distancing rules, there has been a spike this week in our country. Unfortunately, all the negative reporting doesn't help either; it is invoking an atmosphere of fear and anxiety in many people.



If we are sensible and follow the guidelines, especially with regard to social distancing and wearing face coverings, not socialising with friends, we may not have seen for a long time, we can do our bit to help stop the spread of this dreadful disease. As we enter the autumn and winter seasons, and as the cold and flu season is rapidly approaching, it is so important that our Senior Citizens all avail themselves of the Flu vaccine. Hopefully this will assist and help everyone. Scientifically it has been observed that the wearing of face coverings and the washing and sanitising of hands will certainly decrease the likelihood of catching colds and flu, let alone Covid 19. **STAY ALERT!** Obviously, of late, many people have lowered their guard, hence the increase of cases.



Here at St. Edmund's our main objective is to keep everyone safe, that's why the Government and Diocesan guidelines are in place. Many of you will have already seen the letter I sent out a few days ago. Our parish family is so important, and our love and care and concern for one another are fundamentally at the heart of our parish life. I have made an executive decision to add an additional Mass at 10.00am on Sunday mornings; this is a temporary measure, but hopefully it will accommodate more people and avoid overcrowding and people having to stand outside the church. Also, the one disabled toilet will be open for use. I do ask all parishioners to kindly respect cleanliness measures in the bathroom, there will be hand sanitiser outside the toilet, and soap in the toilet. Please ensure you leave the bathroom in the way you found it. Parents kindly accompany your children, if they need to use the bathroom. Thank you!

ADDITIONAL SEATING: Our Health & Safety Committee have managed to add some additional seating in the Church, and in the Library (just off the porch). I do ask all our parishioners to kindly follow the directions of the Stewards who will show you to your seats. Please move right into the benches; obviously families can sit close together in their 'family bubble', but please ensure social distancing wearing your face coverings. Also, for Holy Communion make sure there is a metre plus from the person in front of you as you process to the Altar. Thank you! My thanks to Iain McLay who has set up a speaker just outside the church. This will accommodate any overspill, and you will be able to hear very clearly.



ADDITIONAL MASS: With the additional mass at 10.00am, the turnaround has to be very quick; it is imperative that the cleaning of the benches takes place as quickly as possible after the 9.00am & 10.00am masses. We still need some more Stewards. Or, if you can assist with the sanitising of the benches after the masses, this would be of great assistance to us.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

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 10th 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.

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.



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. Live streaming is still available daily just go to the Website of St. Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton

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

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.**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. John'.

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIG SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2021

In response to the COVID-19 situation and due to extraordinary circumstances this year, the school has commissioned a virtual tour of Trinity Catholic High School, which can be found on our website (<https://fc.tchs.uk.net/>). The school has taken this decision, not to expose our prospective parents to any unnecessary risks. The school realizes that you, as parents, may be disappointed with regard to this but please be aware that we only have the interests of the parents, and our school community, at the forefront of this decision, and would not wish to disadvantage any parents who may not feel able to attend. The website contains a lot of information regarding Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 teaching and the School Prospectus contains details of the life of the school. Please contact Mrs L Scrivens, Admissions Officer, on LScrivens@tchs.uk.net, if you have any further queries and this will be passed onto the relevant department.

The closing date for applications is 31st October 2020. Please note that applicants will need to complete a common application form which will be provided by their own Local Authority. This application will then need to be returned to the applicants own Local Authority. For applicants wishing to submit a Certificate of Catholic Practice, this Diocesan document can be obtained through your parish priest, on the Diocesan website or the priest who will be signing your form. You will also need to complete a SIF form which can be found on the Trinity website, under Year 7 – 11 Admissions.

Parents will be able to drop these documents off at the Sydney Road entrance in the drop box, not directly to the school office as visitors will not be allowed on site. Please contact the office via the buzzer on the gate to let them know that documentation has been left. Please provide a SAE if you require a receipt’.

May I thank you once again for your help and support with this process and please do not hesitate to contact me if any questions arise.

With every good wish.
Yours sincerely
Dr P C Doherty OBE
Headmaster



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, (about 20 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. Money Prizes, Colour Television, I Pad, Kindle, X Box, Crate of Wine, Restaurant Vouchers, Various Hampers (large & small), Large Bottle of Champagne, Large Bottle of Whiskey/Brandy, Health Spa Treatment, Theatre Vouchers, Set of Crystal Glasses, Men’s / Ladies Watches, 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 _



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, 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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION: As you know were only just celebrating First Holy Communion for our children (postponed from May). The likelihood is that we will begin our Communion Programme & Confirmation Programme after Christmas. I have spoken to the Catechists, and they are in agreement with this. (Our Bishop Alan is supposed to make a Pastoral Visitation in 2021 celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation). Please keep an eye on the newsletter for details.

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: Joseph Olivelle RIP, and 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!

PPE: Since the lockdown, the parish has had to purchase several hundred pounds worth of PPE equipment; the special cleaning fluids for the ebenches ensure that the varnish is not removed, hand gels, masks, etc. Obviously this is added expenditure to each parish at this time.

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!

MASS INTENTIONS – SEPTEMBER 2020

Sat 12 th	10.00am	John Ironside RIP (Margaret Duffy)
		<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday: Church resumes regular Sunday Schedule</i>
Sat 12 th	6.00pm	George (Jerzy) Rathe RIP (Bill & Helen Walsh)
Sun 13 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sun 13 th	11:00am	Yvonne Grace RIP (O'Regan & Tuson families)
Mon 14 th	10.00am	Mary Piotrowski RIP (Chris Piotrowski)
Tues 15 th	10.00am	Margaret & Frank Irving RIP (Margaret Hopkinson)
Wed 16 th	10.00am	Peter James RIP (John Powderly)
Thurs 17 th	10.00am	Roxanna Spataru (Sp. Int)
Fri 18 th	10.00am	Rose Smith RIP (Noreen Smith)
	10.30am	Holy Hour Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament
Sat 19 th	10.00am	Sr Susan Asher's Int's
		<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>
Sat 19 th	6.00pm	Michael & Breege Kerrane RIP (Mary)
Sun 20 th	9.00am	Martin & Family (Maree Kavanagh)
Sun 20 th	10.00am	People of the Parish
Sun 20 th	11:00am	Rose McMorrow (B'day) (Maureen Perry)

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