



# ST. EDMUND'S CHRONICLE



St. Edmund of Canterbury Catholic Church  
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Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/whitton

Parish Priest: Fr Nigel Griffin

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Vivien Rimmer Safeguarding Administrator: Anne Jones  
If you have any concerns about the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people in our parish call 07779 288 867

Divine Office: Psalms Week I

25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

We meet in Christ's name from many different backgrounds and circumstances to acknowledge our complete dependence on him and to receive from him the strength we need to serve him faithfully in the world.

(FIRST SUNDAY MASS) Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	18.30 09.30	People of The Parish Arthur O'Neill (RIP)	<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b> Baltasar Domingues, Ann Doherty, Ann Singleton, Richard Pereira, Katherine Pereira, Emily Cleary, Connie Hewson, Riky Langham, John Simpson, Roy Edwards, Rachael Boyle, Phillip Dear, Peter & Anne Rutzler, Freida Batshon, Min Wilde, Jacqueline Turner, Teresa Gilbert, Michael Garvey, Pat Scammell, Bridget Martin, Mary Hepworth, Colm Brennan, Brigid Lonergan, Justina Nathan, Kevin O'Neill, Jim Tobin, Parul Peters, Charmaine Peters, Ken Stalder, Steve Simpson, Veronica Lapworth, Mollie Cundy, Neri Fernandes, Anna O'Keeffe, Rose Fox, Patricia Corry, Christian Gibbins, Jeff De Haas, Phyllis Walsh, Geraldine Mullan, Quinton Luis, all who are sick and the families who care for them. Please pray for the repose of the soul of <b>Atwell DeSouza, John, Thomas &amp; Amelia Mullan</b> all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, all who have recently died and the families who mourn.
25 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.15 18.00	Luigi Raffa (RIP) Josephine Gorrino (Int)	
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September ST MATTHEW	09:15	Eileen O'Callaghan (RIP)	
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	09:15	Frances Kelly (RIP)	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September St Pius of Pietrelcina	09:15	Anthony Widera (RIP)	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September Our Lady of Walsingham	09:15	Richard Simmonds (RIP)	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September (Abstinence)	09:15	Sparkes family (Intention)	
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> September Ss Cosmas and Damian	10.30	The Sick	
(FIRST SUNDAY MASS) Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	18.30 09.30	Eileen O'Callaghan (RIP) Stephen Donald David	
26 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.15 18.00	McCaffrey (RIP) People of The Parish Marie & Zygmunt Tacij (RIP)	

During the month of September we pray for the priest and people of Sunbury-on-Thames

### WAYS TO GIVE

#### CONTACTLESS GIVING IS HERE!

We are part of a pilot for contactless giving using a debit or credit cards. Initially this will not include gift aid, but retrospective claims will be possible. The machine is by the entrance nearest the car park. It is also easy to give online from your bank account. The parish account is **WRCDT ST EDMUNDS CANTERBURY WHITTON, 40-05-20, 61094564**. Another way to give is through **Virgin Money Giving**. Simply go to [tiny.cc/StEdmundVM](http://tiny.cc/StEdmundVM). Your generous donations are helping us to keep the church running. Planned Giving envelopes for those in the scheme are now available for collection in church.

### KEEP IN TOUCH

The Chronicle will be published each week on [parish.rcdow.org.uk/whitton/](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/whitton/) and circulated to all on the parish email list (to be added email [whitton@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:whitton@rcdow.org.uk)). We also have a page on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StEdmundWhitton/](https://www.facebook.com/StEdmundWhitton/). If you have any need please do not hesitate to call Fr Nigel 07809 667562.

### COVID PRECAUTIONS

The maximum number we can accommodate for each mass is 100, there is 1m+ distancing with face coverings required by law (other than exemptions like small children) To fit in the maximum will take some organization, so you may not be able to sit where you prefer. Please enter from side aisles and fill from the centre first to maximize numbers. If demand exceeds supply, we will bring in a booking system. We depend on volunteer cleaners and stewards for this all to happen, and more are needed so please help if you can. Please maintain social distancing with anyone outside of your household, even outside the church. If someone comes to church and is then tested positive for the virus, the church must be closed for 72 hours. **If you are feeling unwell, please refrain from coming to Mass.**

The Sunday Obligation is still suspended, but if you are not at Sunday Mass you should spend some time in prayer and religious reflection and there is plenty of room at weekday masses. Confessions can now take place by appointment.

### MESSAGE FROM FR NIGEL

This weekend at Westminster Cathedral, six men are being ordained to Holy Orders; three as Priests for our Diocese and a further three as Transitional Deacons. These Deacons will, God willing, be ordained Priests in due course. Usually, this event is a one of the larger occasions in our Diocesan calendar; this year inevitably it is a rather smaller affair. Nonetheless, it is still a very important and joyful moment.

The Gospel this Sunday about the vineyard workers reminds us that it's never too late (or too early) to allow God and His grace to work in our lives. Each of us is at a different stage and each of our journeys is unique. And God works with that! So it is appropriate today to consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life. These are very real options for people – they are not the preserve of extraordinarily holy people. No, the vocation to serve God in either priesthood or religious life is there for all of us to consider. There are two essential qualities that are needed, an openness of heart, especially in prayer and a generosity of spirit.

When we open our hearts to God's grace then amazing things can and do happen. We start doing the things that we have to do, then what we can do and finally we find ourselves doing things we never thought possible. The important thing is that we are open to the possibility of growth. Sometimes people are nervous of putting themselves forward, afraid to fail, but this is not so in priestly or religious formation. Discernment is a wonderful thing and crucially gives us time and space to get to know God and what He wants for us. Many people who have offered themselves to either the priesthood or religious life find during the formation process that are called to be elsewhere.

So, be generous, take a risk on God and ask Him what it is that He would have you do. The world needs priests and religious like never before, and whatever the outcome, you will receive so much more than you could ever expect. You will be amazed at God's loving generosity, just as those six men in the Cathedral have found and will continue to find, in their ministry of service to the Church and the world!

**Fr Nigel**

### BAPTISM

There is currently a limit on 30 people to attend a Baptism and the Rule of 6 applies to any gathering after. New appointments are now being made; please contact the Parish Office for an application form.

### CATHOLIC MEDIA

Regrettably, current restrictions have made it impracticable to continue stocking newspapers and magazines in the church. We would like to suggest and recommend readers consider continuing their support for these valuable publications and the people whose jobs depend on them. This can be done by subscribing directly via the publications respective websites:

[www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com)

[www.irelandsown.ie](http://www.irelandsown.ie)

[www.catholicherald.co.uk](http://www.catholicherald.co.uk)

### GARDENING

If you are able to help look after the church grounds, volunteers are needed. Times to suit you, safe distancing guaranteed!

### CAFOD CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY APPEAL

Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](http://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus) to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family.

### PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday (10-12) for mass requests, enquiries etc., or you can send email to [whitton@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:whitton@rcdow.org.uk) or deliver a letter to the Presbytery.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

Born Francesco Forgione in 1887, **Padre Pio** grew up in southern Italy. At the age of 15, Francesco joined the Capuchins and took the name of Pio. He was ordained in 1910 and was drafted during World War I. After contracting tuberculosis, he was discharged in 1917, and was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo. On September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side. Life became more complicated after that. Medical doctors, Church authorities, and curiosity seekers came to see Padre Pio. He saw Jesus in all the sick and suffering. One of Padre Pio's own sufferings was that unscrupulous people circulated prophecies that they claimed originated from him. He never made prophecies about world events and never gave an opinion on matters that he felt belonged to Church authorities to decide. He died on September 23, 1968, and was beatified in 1999. Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio of Pietrelcina on June 16, 2002.