



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 4

THE HOLY FAMILY

27TH DECEMBER 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 Mass of Sunday THE HOLY FAMILY Sunday 27 th December	18.30 9.30 11.15 18.00	People of The Parish Peter Pharro (RIP) Michael Moloney (RIP) Pascoal & Salvacao DaSilva	PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Leona Chris, 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, 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, all who are sick and the families who care for them. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Freida Batshon, Fr Derek Peel, Fr David Palmer, Ted Brierley and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, all who have recently died and the families who mourn.
Monday 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS	9.15	Robert Spindler (RIP)	
Tuesday 29th December ST THOMAS BECKET	9.15	Fr Derek Peel (RIP)	
Wednesday 30th December	9.15	Roman McCarthy (RIP Ann.)	
Thursday 31st December	9.15	Anthonio Rosario Dias (RIP)	
Friday 1st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY	09.15	Pat Lafferty (RIP)	
Saturday 2nd January Ss Basil & Gregory	10.30	Paddy Kinsella (RIP)	
First Mass of Sunday SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY Sunday 3 rd January	18.30 9.30 11.15 18.00	John Fraser (RIP) Maria Augusta Dias Anton Ruzario & Maria Augusta Dias + Ancestors People of The Parish	

During the month of December we pray for the priest and people of Whitton

MESSAGE FROM FR NIGEL

We say that during the Christmas season we are celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation, except that that is far too abstract: really, we are celebrating the birth of a child. Of course, this child is True God of True God, the one who has come to save us from destroying ourselves, the one who has come to satisfy every right desire. Still at the heart of it is the birth of a baby. 'In the beginning was the Word...' Those words from the beginning of John's Gospel are the beginning of one famous, and of course inspired, attempt to spell out what happened at Christmas. The Gospels tell us that Jesus was born in a particular place, Bethlehem; and, at a particular time, in the reign of Caesar Augustus just over two thousand years ago. Certainly, the Holy Family were very much in time. But in another sense they stand beyond it because the Holy Family carries an enduring significance, a universal meaning. On today's feast, we are invited to consider their interaction, their family

relationship together, best described perhaps as a communion of love. This communion of love speaks to the human and social aspect of the Incarnation. The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. That dwelling was, for the greater portion of Christ's life, with His family. By His very presence He sanctified that family and for this reason, we rightly call it 'holy'. As such, the Holy Family stands as a model for all of us to imitate; we should follow them in practicing the virtues of family life. We can picture, if we try, the Holy Family in Nazareth in quiet domesticity; working; following the Law; praying; and above all, loving.

Fr Nigel

Whilst there is no obligation to attend Mass on Christmas Day, many people will want to celebrate the birth of Christ. One way in which more people can participate in the 'days of the Nativity of the Lord' is by attending Mass during the Christmas Octave, from Christmas Day until the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on 1 January. *Bishop John Sherrington*

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

WAYS TO GIVE ***CONTACTLESS GIVING IS HERE!***

We now have contactless giving using a debit or credit cards. It is also easy to give online from your bank account. The parish account is **WRCDT ST EDMUNDS CANTERBURY WHITTON, 40-05-20, 61094564**. 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/ and circulated to all on the parish email list (to be added please email whitton@rcdow.org.uk). We also have a page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StEdmundWhitton/

GUIDELINES FOR COMING TO CHURCH

We must all continue to play our part, follow the rules, protect our vulnerable people and control the spread. We are still living with a pandemic. **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 and Masses are still available on websites. Face coverings are mandatory in Church and all those attending must wear a face covering which should be kept on during the whole service -mouth and nose covered. Worshippers should limit their interactions with anyone with whom they are not attending church. Rule of 6 applies at all times.

We will now record details of all who attend church during the Covid-19 pandemic either by entering details in the register or through the NHS Covid-19 App. Thank you for your understanding and support. We depend on volunteer cleaners and stewards for this all to happen, and more are needed so please help if you can. If you are not at Sunday Mass you should try to spend some time in prayer and religious reflection, and there is plenty of room at weekday masses.

COVID-19 VACCINES

Catholics may in good conscience receive any of the authorised vaccines for the good of others and themselves. In good conscience, one may refuse a particular vaccine but continues to have a duty to protect others from infection. The Bishops Conference have issued two statements which can be viewed here:

www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/covid-19-and-vaccination/ and here: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/bishops-conference-statement-on-covid-19-vaccines/>

THE UNIVERSE – FREE DIGITAL TRIAL

FREE download every week until January, all the news and features direct to your home computer, smartphone or tablet. For details, please visit: thecatholicuniverse.com/subscription-trial

CRIB OFFERING

You are invited to make donations to the Catholic Children's Society who since March have provided emergency food and essentials, as well as mental health support, for over five and a half thousand children and their parents/carers. If you cannot give in church, a special page has been set up at www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

(Please observe safe distancing)

ACT NOW AND ASK YOUR MP TO OPPOSE INTRODUCING ASSISTED SUICIDE

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give in to demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

SCHOOL NOTICES

Prospective Reception Parents Q&A

Unfortunately, we are unable to run school tours at the moment. We have included a virtual tour on the website [St Edmund's Catholic Primary School and Nursery - Virtual Tour \(st-edmunds.richmond.sch.uk\)](http://StEdmundsCatholicPrimarySchoolandNursery-VirtualTour(st-edmunds.richmond.sch.uk))

SEE BELOW

PRIMARY RECEPTION SCHOOL ENTRY

Due to current government restrictions, CCP form signing will not be done in the usual way. If you require a Certificate of Catholic Practice for an application for a Catholic Primary School please download the form here:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/whitton/school-admission/>

Please complete the top part and deliver the form together with a self addressed envelope and a parent's contact telephone number to the presbytery. I will return the signed and sealed form to you as soon as possible. (If you are only applying to St Edmund's, I can forward the certificate directly to the school.)

BAPTISM

New dates can now be arranged by emailing the parish office.

FOODBANKS

Isleworth Foodbank remains open over the Christmas and New Year period serving people on a Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30-11.30 at The Bridgelink Community centre TW7 7QR. Whitton Foodbank at Whitton Community centre - Last day is Friday 18th December 2020 from 9.30-12.30pm. Reopens on Friday 8th January 2021 from 9.30-12.30pm.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Thomas Becket, a future chancellor and archbishop of Canterbury was born on St. Thomas day, 1118, of a good family, and he was educated at Merton Priory in Sussex, and later at the University of Paris. When Thomas returned from France, his parents had died. Obligated to make his way unaided, he obtained an appointment as clerk to the sheriff's court, where he showed great ability. All accounts describe him as a strongly built, spirited youth. He rose by merit and when Henry of Anjou, great grandson of William the Conqueror, became King Henry II, it was not long before he appointed this gifted churchman as chancellor, that is, chief minister. He was only a deacon when he was appointed chancellor of England. When he was ordained as archbishop of Canterbury, he underwent an abrupt conversion of life and began to defend the Church's rights against the king. He had to take refuge in a French monastery for six years, and when he returned to his diocese four knights, inspired by careless words from the king, assassinated him in his cathedral on 29 December 1170. He was immediately acknowledged as a martyr and the king later did penance and endowed his shrine. He is remembered for his courage in defence of the rights of the Church and is the patron of the pastoral clergy of England and Wales.