



# Newsletter

## The Immaculate Conception

### Epping

3rd Sunday of Advent

14th December 2008

Dear Friends,

Last week, the message proclaimed by John the Baptist was: ***Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His path.*** That message is repeated with increased urgency today. This is a call to us to straighten out what is crooked in our own lives. To that end, I urge you all to recognise the need for regular practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and, if possible, to take the opportunity provided by our Advent Service of Penance and Reconciliation this Tuesday, 16th December, at 8 p.m. I can think of no better spiritual preparation for the coming Christmas feast.

I am pleased to tell you that the target of the £34,000 needed for the new benches and tabernacle area, has now been achieved. I am very grateful to the families and individuals, more than sixty of you, who responded to the appeal and made it possible for us to reach our objective within six months. I believe that we have done something beautiful for the Lord and His Blessed Mother. Within the last few weeks, a priest visiting our church for the first time described it as 'a gem'. Thank you again to all who generously supported the project.

The funeral of royal marine, Georgie Sparks, was a most moving occasion. We continue to offer prayerful support to his grieving family and are most grateful to the Reverend Geoffrey Connor and his parish council for kindly allowing us to use St. John's Church for the occasion.

God bless you always,  
Father James

**Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes**

**Tel: 01992 572516**

**Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse**

**Tel: 01992 577173**

**Pastoral Assistant.: Dr. Davnet Barker**

**Tel: 01992 573865**

**Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall**

**Tel: 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813**

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**Registered charity No. 234092**

**Presbytery 11, Church Hill, Epping CM16 4RA**

**Website:**

**[www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)**

### **CHRISTMAS 2008**

Please note, carols followed by Mass will begin at 10.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and will finish at midnight.

### **ADVENT SERVICE OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION**

8 p.m. Tuesday 16th December.

### **BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK 2009**

Now on sale, price £2.50

### **BAZAAR**

Thank you to Janet Abbott and her team of stalwarts. Thank you also to all who supported this important parish event. A total of £2,413.75 was raised. Details on notice board. Well done, everyone!

### **CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON**

We are pleased to invite anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to luncheon in our Hall 12.30 for 1.00 p.m. Elderly or disabled couples and carers are also cordially invited. Come along and enjoy a traditional Christmas luncheon with all the trimmings. Transport can be provided. Please give your name and address to Deacon Duncan or Fr James, or telephone Mary Morgan 574719.

### **CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE**

Dress rehearsal after 11 am Mass Sunday 14th, gathering in the hall. Service on the same afternoon at 4 pm. Participants meet at 3.30 pm in the hall. Everyone is invited to this charming occasion..

### **ANCHOR HOUSE**

Once again, the parish is collecting Christmas gifts for the homeless men and women at Anchor House. These are the ONLY presents some of those lonely people will get. Please give new articles—socks, hankies, gloves and scarves welcome.

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS / READERS ROTAS**

Will the above please collect their new rotas from the post box.

### **CHRISTMAS STAMPS**

Don't throw away the stamps on your cards. Clip them off with a 1/4 inch border and put them in the porch box.

## **ECCA CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Please support Epping Church Choirs Association (ECCA) at their Christmas 'Reflections' on Friday 19th December at 8pm in St. John's Church, Epping. Seasonal music and carols for all. Interval wine and mince pies. Admission free, programmes £2.

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

Yes! its that time of year approaching again. The Hall is booked, the music is sorted, all we need is YOU!!! As per usual, the date is 31st December (funny that). Adults £5, Under 18 £2.50, OAP £2.50 Come and see the new year in with family, friends and if you are on your own, come and join in as all are welcome. Tickets available from: Steve and Shelia Earl 01992 610483 and Pete and Sarah Day 522476, John and Julie Ryan 524633.

## **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

There will be a meeting of this group at 6pm on Sunday 21st December in the presbytery. Anyone saddened by bereavement is welcome to come to share their problems over a cup of tea/coffee. Queries to Deacon Duncan, 01992 577173

## **CHURCH HALL**

Our church hall is available for hire at competitive rates all year round. For details, ring Arnold Verrall on 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813. Feel free to tell your friends.

## **OASIS OF PEACE (MARIAN) DAY**

Date for your diaries: Saturday the 31st of January 2009 - Tea/coffee at 10.30, Rosary at 11, Mass at 11.45, Talk by Fr. Keenan at 1.30 and Holy Hour at 3 pm. Finish at 4. Please bring packed lunch, drinks provided.

## **NEW PARISHIONERS:**

Please make yourselves known to Fr. James or Deacon Duncan, so we can welcome you to our community & inform you about it.

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**  
**This weekend 13th/14th December 2008**

Saturday	6.00 p.m. Michael McGloughlin, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Terry Kennelly, <i>R.I.P.</i>
	11.00 a.m. People of the Parish

**Intentions week commencing Monday 15th December 2008**

Monday	9.00 a.m. Bill Collier, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday	9.00 a.m. Wayne Russell, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. Holy Souls
Thursday	9.00 a.m. Sylvia Ryan, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Friday	9.00 a.m. Kit Welton, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Saturday	6.00 p.m. Clare Stevens, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Gloria Callaghan, <i>R.I.P.</i>

**Response to the Psalm (Sunday 11 a.m. Mass):**

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices!  
 My God forever He will be, bless His holy name!

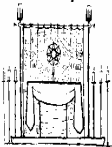
Morning Prayer each weekday in the Church 15 minutes before 9 o'clock Mass.

**Confessions:** Saturday 11.30 — 12.00 Noon and after 6 p.m. Mass

Please pray for the sick: Yvonne Morrall, David Jolly, Rosalie Shannon, Doris Scott, John Hannis, Ellen Day, Paulette Jarrod, Trudy Behn, Amy O'Day, Kathleen Schofield, Elsie Moore, Gina Hawkins, Jane Gant, Doug Barker, Julie Eke, Margaret Cabon, Mike Collett, Annette Goodchild, Betty O'Mahoney, Beth Davie and Christine King.

**HOLY HOUR**

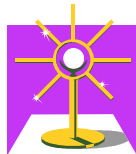
*Monday evening in Church  
 at 8.00 p.m.*



*All Welcome*

**Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament**

Monday to Friday for an hour  
 after Mass  
 and Tuesday  
 till 12.30



**ROSARY GROUP**

Thursday  
 at Charles Ward's,  
 22, Vicarage Road,  
 Coopersale  
 at 5.00 p.m.

*All Wel-*  *come*

Offerings last Week: Without standing orders:  
 496.56

CAFOD: £ 6.49 Thank you