



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

27th July 2008

My Dear Friends,

This weekend, while Duncan and I are away in Lourdes with a group from the parish, we welcome Fr. Patrick Shanahan of the Missionaries of Africa. Fr. Patrick was here a few years ago to make an appeal for the charity called "Street Child Africa". I know that you will make him very welcome.

This year is the 150th Anniversary of the Shrine at Lourdes. The Pope will be going there in September. Our Epping Group is part of the Brentwood Diocesan Pilgrimage, lead by Bishop Thomas, comprising several hundred people. What impressed me on my previous visits to this remarkable place is the centrality given to the sick and the handicapped together with the care accorded to them by so many generous helpers. Physical cures at Lourdes are comparatively few, given the numbers who flock there every year. The moral miracle of the Shrine is the outpouring of joy and love, lavished on the most vulnerable members of our society. Lourdes is also a magnet for young people eager to be part of this work of Christian Generosity. We need to hear a lot more about those flocking to Sydney and to Lourdes to bear witness to the values of the Gospel.

The parish will be very much in my prayers during the pilgrimage.

God Bless you always, Fr. James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes

Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse

Pastoral Assistant.: Dr. Davnet Barker

Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall

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SPONSORSHIP of NEW BENCHES for CENTRE AISLE etc

Sincere thanks for the generous sponsorship received so far, which has provided nearly half of the funds required. Additional sponsorship forms may be found by the newspapers at the back of the church. The decoration of the church is now complete and the new centre aisle benches and the tabernacle and plinth are planned to arrive before the end of August, after the floor of the church has been sanded and sealed, a relatively dust-free operation these days. There has been valuable feed-back from parishioners about changing the aged curtain behind the crucifix and discussions are now under way with suppliers to put this in hand—it will be a shade of blue which will compliment the blue and gold frieze and blue kneelers on the benches. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of a bench, please either hand your donation to Fr. James directly or post it through the presbytery letter box. It is hoped that we shall cover the whole cost of the benches through these donations, so rendering unnecessary additional fundraising through social events etc. Please be as generous as possible.

GIFT AID

H.M. Revenue and Customs has refunded £10,900 for the past tax year. Many thanks to all who “Gift Aid” their offertory. This refund could even be better if everyone who pays income tax “gift aided” their contributions. Please contact Malcolm Heughan for details on 01992 81 2012.

IS THIS FOR YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

JOURNEY - IN - FAITH GROUP 2008 - 2009

An **information evening** will be held in the Presbytery at **8.00 pm on Wednesday 6th August 2008**, when will be explained the outline of the new Journey-in-Faith Programme. All those wishing to **learn about our wonderful Catholic Faith** are encouraged to attend this meeting, at which dates and times of the meetings during the year ahead will be discussed. Please let Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) or Father James know if you can attend the meeting, or if you are interested but cannot come on this date or at this time.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

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

RACE NIGHT SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2008

The Parish Social Committee is organising a Race Night in the Church Hall. The nett proceeds will be allocated equally to two causes:

- Joanne Ryan has asked that the 50 % originally to be allocated towards her Training Fund for the 2012 Olympics be re-directed to our **twinned parish of Lebohang in South Africa.**
- **Church Hall Funds** –following recent outside re-decoration.

Please note the date in your diary. The committee will be seeking Race Sponsors (£20) and Horse Owners (£5) during the coming weeks. Please support the event generously – Names and money for Sponsors and Horse Owners with their Horse Names can be handed to Paul Harwood, Terry North, Dorothy Whitehouse or Deacon Duncan, or may be posted through the presbytery door clearly marked 'Race Night'. The event will be organised into tables of 8 or 10.

Your chance to win a horse for a fiver or two horses for £10.

- Next week, after all Masses, members of the Social Committee will be seeking Owner for Horses in the Race Night on Saturday 6th September.
- Choose a name for your horse (one or two words) which will appear on the Race Card.
- All profits from the Race Night will be divided between our twinned parish of Lebohang in South Africa and our church hall maintenance fund,
- The owner of the winning horse in each race will receive a bottle of wine.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE CATERING SUPERVISOR

Are you able to cook for groups of 40-50 people? Do you like working with young people in a friendly and supportive environment? Are you able to work evenings and weekends in term time with most school holidays free? Salary £10,500 p.a. for a 23 hour week. Based at Walsingham House Canvey Island. Job details and application form from Dr Dominic 01268 696610 Closing date 10th August interviews 22nd August. Start early September.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

SVP — request for household items. We are helping a local family in need. If anyone has an oven, camp or ordinary beds and old carpets or rugs, please contact Susan Asher 575017 or Stan Holder 572520.

THE PARISH ASSEMBLY— Wednesday 10th September 2008 @ 7.30 p.m.

Would members of parish organisations who wish to report their Groups efforts for the year through the "Parish Report" please ensure their contributions are into the Presbytery by Friday 22nd August.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
This weekend 26th and 27th July 2008

Saturday	6.00 p.m. Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Holy Souls
	11.00 a.m. People of the Parish

Intentions week commencing Monday 28th July 2008

Monday	9.00 a.m. Liturgy of Word & Holy Communion
Tuesday	9.00 a.m. Liturgy of Word & Holy Communion
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. Liturgy of Word & Holy Communion
Thursday	9.00 a.m. Liturgy of Word & Holy Communion
Friday	9.00 a.m. Liturgy of Word & Holy Communion
Saturday	6.00 p.m. Jim Lennon R.I.P.
Sunday	9.00 a.m. People of the Parish
	11.00 a.m. Intentions of Cecelia Joseph

First Holy Communion Programme 2008/09 Application forms are now available from Fr. James for the course starting after the Summer holidays. This year's classes will be held on Monday evenings from 5—6.30 p.m.

Baptism: Congratulations to Adam O'Boyle

Morning Prayer will be held 15 minutes before 9am Morning 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 Jarrold, Trudy Behn, Amy O'Day, Kathleen Schofield, Elsie Moore, Gina Hawkins, Anne Higham, Josie McGlynn, Jane Gant, Doug Barker, Julie Eke, Jeanette Mulligan, Margaret Cabon, Marie Verrall and Vera Nolan.

HOLY HOUR

Monday at 8.00 p.m. in the Church All Welcome



Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Last day Friday 1st August
Restart Monday 1st September



ROSARY GROUP

Not during August



Offerings last Week:	£ 1,055.14	Thank you
CAFOD:	£ 40.00	