



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Epping

Feast of the Holy Family

28th December 2008

Dear Friends,

After a long build-up, Christmas passes very quickly. The Sunday which follows it is always kept as the Feast of the Holy Family. As believers, we experience family at two levels. Firstly, there is the family of blood relationship and then there is the extended family, which Scripture calls 'the Household of the Faith'. When a family is dysfunctional, it quickly hits the headlines; we have had several sad examples recently. Within a family, there must always be an endeavour to give and take; there needs to be patience, forbearance and, above all, love. Families, though rarely perfect, are the bedrock of a stable society. Today's feast gives us all the opportunity to recommit ourselves to the well-being of our own families and to the good of our parish family of faith.

I would like to thank you for the many kindnesses shown to me over the Christmas Season: for your gifts and cards and for a very generous offering on Christmas Day. The affirmation I experience makes me very humble and also makes me very thankful to be pastor in such a loving community. I wish you and all those dear to you a very blessed and peaceful New Year.

God bless you always,
Father 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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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.

YOUR CHILD'S CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Have you thought about your child's Catholic education? Is your child approaching his/her 5th birthday? Is your child currently attending a non-Catholic Primary School?

For information about applications for admission to our parish school, St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School, please contact the school office on 0208 508 6315.

Friday 9th – Sunday 11th January BCYA NEW YEAR RETREAT

The Brentwood Catholic Young Adults would like to invite anyone aged 18 to 30ish to our New Year Retreat held at Douai Abbey, just outside Reading. Sr Judith Russi SMN, a lively and engaging speaker, will be leading us in a relaxed yet thought provoking time together as we look to the coming year. If you would like to meet other young adults in the beautiful grounds of Douai Abbey while taking time to engage with your faith after the Christmas rush this retreat is for you. For more information or to book please call Teresa on 01277 265286, email youngadults@bcys.net or visit our website www.bcys.net/young-adults

Ilford Ursuline High School SIXTH FORM PREVIEW EVENING

Entry to Year 12 for students born between 1st Sept. 1992 and 31st Aug. 1993 Thursday 15 January 2009 6.00 – 8.00 pm. Head Teacher's Address: 7.30 pm. Ilford Ursuline High School is an all-girls Catholic School serving the local community and beyond. We have an excellent record of achievement at A level, with the 2008 ALPS report grading teaching and learning in the Sixth Form as excellent. The Sixth Form is open to students of all faiths. If you would like to study for A levels in this environment and feel you could make a positive contribution to Ilford Ursuline Sixth Form, then come along to the school on Thursday 15 January, speak to a member of staff, and discuss the possibilities. We will endeavour to make your experience here as personalised as we can.

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.

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.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK 2009

Now on sale, price £2.50

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL

At Our Lady of Fatima, Harlow, Dec.31/Jan1 in the chapel 10pm to 6am, with Midnight Mass, and Adoration for the rest of the night. Tea and coffee provided.

OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

to visit Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and walk where Jesus walked! In October 2009 the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service will visit the Holy Land. Open to all aged 17+ (school year 12+ when we travel) and young adults. Full details and application form **www.bcys.net/holyland** or call 01277 265286. The dates are October 24th - 31st - school half term and reading week at many unis.

(NB Also look at www.bcys.net for Lourdes trips (age 15+) and many other events for young people (age 13+) throughout the year).

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 27th/28th December 2008

Saturday	6.00 p.m. John & Eileen Lennon
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Intentions of Ann McCall
	11.00 a.m. People of the Parish

Intentions week commencing Monday 29th December 2008

Monday	9.00 a.m. Rachel Richardson (birthday)
Tuesday	9.00 a.m. Joseph O'Connor, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. Guild of St. Stephen
Thursday	10.00 a.m. People of the Parish
Friday	9.00 a.m. Holy Souls
Saturday	6.00 p.m. Terry Kennelly, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Cecil and Florence Budd
	11.00 a.m. People of the parish

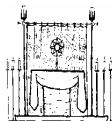
Morning Prayer each weekday in the Church 15 minutes before 9 o'clock Mass.

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 Jarrold, 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

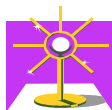
*Monday evening in Church
at 8.00 p.m.*



All Welcome

**Adoration of the Most
Blessed Sacrament**

No Adoration for two weeks.
Recommences Monday
5th January 2009



ROSARY GROUP

No meeting for two weeks.
Recommences Thursday
8th January, 2009



Offerings last Week:

Without standing orders
£ 495.55

CAFOD:

£ 57.23

Thank you