



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Epping

1st Sunday of Advent

30th November 2008

My Dear Friends,

Grace and peace are the good wishes sent by St. Paul to his friends at Corinth in the second reading today. We as Christians should exchange that same greeting to one another at the start of the Advent Season. In secular circles the run up to Christmas is marked by feverish activity and a commercial bombardment of our senses. It is to be hoped that the current economic crisis across the globe may cause people to look again at what really matters in life. Advent is a time of reflection. We are encouraged by the liturgy of the season to think about the implications for our own lives of the coming of God as a child. The immediate message in today's Gospel is vigilance. We are called to stay awake and to stand ready. Life is fragile and it is vulnerable; all too quickly and unexpectedly we can be overtaken by events. As we light our first Advent candle we are expressing our belief that a light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. We are also expressing the hope that, whatever comes, God is with us.

Today some young people of the parish will speak to us about the aims and work of the Brentwood Diocesan Youth Services. There will be a collection after Mass for this very worthy cause.

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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www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

The class is at 5 p.m. on Monday 1st December—the theme is Reconciliation.

THE OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2010

Anyone interested in this once every ten year event is invited to contact Fr. James. The play would be the centre piece of a 9 day coach trip to Bavaria and the Austria Tyrol. Approximate cost: £995.

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, Fr James (when he returns) or telephone Mary Morgan 01992 574719.

CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE

The Children's Carol Service will take place at 4.00 p.m. on December 14th.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The parish bazaar is next Saturday. This is the one time of the year when the whole parish community gets together to meet old friends and make new ones. The bazaar is in the Church hall from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Please spend the latter part of the week baking for the cake stall—sponges, pies, scones, biscuits and buns all go like hot cakes (even if they're cold!) Setting up is on Friday afternoon 3 p.m. onwards. Your muscle urgently needed. A quick co-ordination meeting will be held on Sunday after the 11.00 a.m. Mass in the Hall. Janet and Dorothy will be there to finalise arrangements with stall holders and other volunteers.

ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society will take place on Saturday 6th December at The Grange 93 Queens Road, Brentwood, Essex at 2.30 p.m. There will be a talk on "Mediaeval Colchester's Lost Churches" by John Ashdown-Hill.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

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

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

This will be observed this weekend with an appeal and retiring collection for the Brentwood Youth Service. Sunday 30th at 11.00 a.m. Mass presents Youth Mass, please come along and join in we need as many of you as possible to be there. There is a Youth Mass in Brentwood on Wednesday 3rd December. Hope to see you there. Don't forget to send Lourdes forms back. Cheers.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Will all members of the Parish Council please collect copies of the agenda for the meeting on 2nd December from the post box in the Church Porch. A copy is on the Notice Board.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for Mr Barry Stimpson whose funeral service will be on Tuesday 2nd December at 1.30 p.m. R.I.P.

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 01992610483 and Pete and Sarah Day 01992522476, John and Julie Ryan 01992524633

VACANCY ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Foundation Stage Teacher—temporary required for 1st January 2009 for 2 day weekly. Please contact the school on 020 8508 6315 for details and application form. Closing date 1st December 2008.

CHURCH BENCHES PROJECT

The Church Benches Fund is now within almost £1,200 of its target. If you could donate something towards this amount please let Fr. James have your offering, indicating whether it can be Gift Aided which is worth an additional 28% at no further cost to you. Thanks to everyone for their tremendous support.

HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Hall Management committee meets on Thursday 4th December at 8.00 p.m. in the Cry Chapel, All parishioners are welcome to attend.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
This weekend 29th and 30th November 2008

Saturday	6.00 p.m. Lady Joan Russell R.I.P.
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Deceased members of Harrison family 11.00 a.m. People of the Parish
<u>Intentions week commencing Monday 1st December 2008</u>	
Monday	9.00 a.m. Paul Flack R.I.P.
Tuesday	9.00 a.m. Stefano & Pasqua Capaldi 1.30 p.m. Barry Stimpson Funeral Service
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. Deceased members of Harrison family
Thursday	9.00 a.m. Deceased members Stimpson family
Friday	9.00 a.m. Paul Kehoe R.I.P.
Saturday	6.00 p.m. Deceased Jolly family and friends
Sunday	9.00 a.m. James Jennings 11.00 a.m. People of the parish

Congratulations: To Mrs Maureen McClean who has just celebrated her 90th Birthday.


Christmas 2008: Please note, carols followed by Mass will begin 10.30 p.m.& will finish at midnight. The Parish Priest of Evander in South Africa, with which we are twinned, has written to thank us for the recent gift of £2,100.

Morning Prayer each weekday in the Church at 8.45 a.m.


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.*



Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
 Monday to Friday for an hour after Mass and Tuesday till 12.30



ROSARY GROUP
 Thursday at David and Pat Jolly's 2a Vicarage Road, Coopersale at 5.00.p.m.
 All Welcome



Offerings last Week:	£ 1,088.61	Thank you
CAFOD:	£ 81.03	