



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

1st Sunday in Lent

28th February / 1st March 2009

Dear Friends,

'Lent' comes from an old English word for 'Spring'. This enables us to see this time of year as a season of hope as well as a period of sobriety. The message of Lent contains the cores of Our Lord's message: *The Kingdom of God is close at hand: repent and believe the good news.*

When I was away on retreat last week, I celebrated the Sacrament of reconciliation as part of my own preparation for Lent; or, to put it in a traditional way, I went to Confession. I try to do this three or four times a year. You will notice that one of the intercessions at Mass this morning is for a rediscovery of the Sacrament of Penance by those who have neglected it. I could not preach to you or write about this subject unless I practised it myself. Without danger of rash judgment, I can safely say that the Sacrament of Penance does suffer from sad neglect in our parish. Many go to Holy Communion week after week without ever giving the Sister Sacrament a second thought. I am asking those of you to whom this applies to think again. To repent and believe the good news, we all need now and again to open ourselves to the absolution and grace offered us by the Lord in this powerful and liberating Sacrament. There is a time for Confession every Saturday from 11.30 am to 12 pm. Our Lenten Penance Service will be on Wednesday 1st April.

God bless you all,
Father James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse

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11, Church Hill, Epping CM16 4RA

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Sunday 8th March, 6 p.m.

FIVE EVENINGS WITH ST. PAUL — LENT TALKS

Fr. Michael Butler will give five talks on the subject of St. Paul in our Church **Sacristy** at 8 p.m. on Thursdays 26th February, 12th, 19th, 26th March + 2nd April. In this year dedicated to St. Paul, it is good to have an opportunity of reflection in this way. Tea/coffee will be provided at 7.45 p.m. A £5 contribution towards expenses is suggested for a single talk, or £10 for all talks.

CTED LENT LUNCHES: On Saturday 7th March 12.30 to 2pm in our Church: we need waitresses and waiters, donations of soup, etc. - please phone Mary 574719. A suggested donation of £2.50 is requested for Christian Aid at all the lunches. Please bring your friends - all very welcome.

IN LENT COME TO CALVARY in Buckhurst Hill. The Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic at the top of Russell Road 'processes' some 400 babies a week. A very small prayer group meets nearby on Saturday mornings to pray peacefully for all involved - babies, parents and staff. Why not join us between 8 and 11.30 am for as short or as long a time as you like? - your presence and prayers are urgently needed.

FATHER JAMES' BIRTHDAY

Fr. James invites all parishioners to a "drink and nibbles" in the Hall after the 11.00 a.m. Mass on Sunday 15th March in celebration of his 70th Birthday. A Birthday card is being prepared for parishioners to sign and will be available before all Masses in the weeks to come. If you have any questions please speak to John and Julie Ryan or Peter and Sarah Day.

USHERS / COLLECTORS

We need help to organise collections at every Mass. If you are able to help, please give your telephone no. to Fr. James or Deacon Duncan, or phone Mary 574719.

MEETING OF THE PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 11th, at 8 pm in the Presbytery. Everyone is welcome. A copy of the agenda will be on the notice board.

WHIST DRIVE

On Thursday, March 5th at 7 pm. Admission £2.00, including refreshments. All are welcome at 3, Lynceley Grange, Epping.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday March 6th at St. John's Church @ 10.30am, with refreshments afterwards. The speaker is Monica Richardson, the leader Carole Goddard. The service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Papua, New Guinea. The theme is *In Christ there are many members, yet one body.*

People from 180 countries will be celebrating this Day of Prayer. Come and join us, everyone most welcome. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

Also in ST. MARY'S CHURCH, THEYDON BOIS: 2-3 pm, Friday, 6th March. All are welcome to join us in this united service.

THE NEW ATHEISTS.

This study day will explore what people like Richard Dawkins really say and reveal the flaws in their arguments. Dr Tina Beattie, who is professor of Catholic Studies at Roehampton University, and a prolific writer and broadcaster, will be coming to this event at Brentwood Cathedral Hall on Saturday 7th March, 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please book your place for this free event (sandwich lunch and refreshments provided) by e-mail to cef@dioceseofbrentwood.org or phone [01277 265289](tel:01277265289).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUPPLIES

provided by former catholic school governor. Dresses, veils, tiaras and accessories. Telephone Clare on 01442 258607 for a fitting appointment or go to www.fhc-online.com.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: 6TH MARCH

Please give generously to CAFOD's Lent Fast Day and bring hope to people living in poverty. Envelopes will be available in church this week. Don't forget to fill in your gift aid details if you are a taxpayer

STEPS ALONG THE WAY:

A 10th anniversary celebration with Fr John Armitage and Fr Chris Vipers for young adults aged 18-38 discerning their calling in life. **Friday 13th March 2009 from 7pm onwards** in the Hinsley Room at Westminster Cathedral. For further details visit www.free2become.org or call 01277 373848

HARLOW FOOD BANK

Help provide emergency food for people in crisis. The project opens in April 2009, and we are currently collecting food to meet the requests that have already started coming in. Please help us by agreeing to collect or donate food in your church as we seek to show Christ's love to people in need. For more information go to www.mrct.org.uk/foodbank or phone Gary Knott on 01279 724515

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 28th February / 1st March 2009

Saturday	6.00 p.m. Thecla Floor
Sunday	9.00 a.m. People of the Parish
	11.00 a.m. Elizabeth Crowley, <i>R.I.P.</i>

Intentions week commencing Monday 2nd March 2009

Monday	9.00 a.m. Communion Service
Tuesday	9.00 a.m. Communion Service
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. Communion Service
Thursday	9.00 a.m. Communion Service
Friday	9.00 a.m. Communion Service
Saturday	6.00 p.m. Timothy White
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Robert Rimmer
	11.00 a.m. People of the Parish

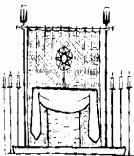
Morning Prayer will be held 15 minutes before 9am Morning Mass.

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, Elsie Moore, Gina Hawkins, Jane Gant, Doug Barker, Julie Eke, Margaret Cabon, Mike Collett, Annette Goodchild,

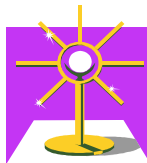
HOLY HOUR

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



Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

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



ROSARY GROUP

Thursday at 5.00 p.m. at
the home of Charles Ward
22 Vicarage Road
Coopersale
All Welcome



Offerings

£ 1405.26

of which CAFOD:

£ 2.07

Thank you