



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

2nd Sunday in Lent

7th / 8th March 2009

In today's first reading, Abraham is tested by God and we should bear in mind that, until recently, Abraham had worshipped a number of gods, as was the normal practice. Now, in order to demonstrate his commitment to the **one God**, he is told to sacrifice his son. We are not called to make this type of sacrifice, but **we are urged to sacrifice the practices in our lives which conflict with the sort of life God wants us to lead. During Lent, we pray especially hard to discern what changes God wants of us**; when we have received his guidance we should then make adjustments to the way in which we live, so that we may better please God. A good maxim to bear in mind as we try our hardest to change so that we please God is **'No gain without pain'!!**

In the Gospel reading, we see the experience of Peter, James and John as they witness the incredible Transfiguration of Jesus. The apostles hear one of the few messages spoken by God the Father: 'This is my Son, The Beloved; listen to Him'. This example of the enormous power of God and his loving and trusting relationship with Jesus was uplifting for the apostles who were present and remains an uplifting account for us today.

The extract from St Paul's letter to the Romans serves as a lovely bridge between the other two readings in today's liturgy. Paul's ministry is a source of amazement and inspiration to all Christians...**why not come and learn a little more about St Paul and his ministry at the talks being given by Fr Michael Butler each Thursday evening at 8pm for the remainder of Lent.** You will be most welcome and should expect to be surprised and delighted by what you learn!

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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STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Sunday in Lent, 6 p.m.

BAPTISM Millie Hughman — Congratulations.

HOLY COMMUNION CLASS Monday 9th March, 5 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Tuesday 10th March, 7.30 p.m. in the presbytery.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on Wednesday, March 11th at 8pm in the presbytery. Everyone is welcome. A copy of the agenda will be on the notice board.

HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meets in the Cry Chapel at 8 pm on Thursday 12th March. All are welcome with ideas for future events.

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.

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 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 14th March 12.30 to 2pm. Hosted by the Epping Forest Church, at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Epping, at the rear of the church. 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.

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.

JUMBLE SALE Saturday 25th April in our hall. Please put the date into your diary.

EPHING CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

next meets on Monday 30th March at 7.30 pm in the church hall. The theme will be Easter. Please bring a friend if it's your first time. Anyone who wants to get involved with the running of the night, contact Pete or James Ryan on 01992 524633 or email jamesryans@hotmail.com.

FR. STAN FORTUNA, inspirational speaker for young people and Franciscan Friar of the Renewal from the Bronx comes to Brentwood Cathedral NEXT SUNDAY AFTER-NOON, 15th March. Events from 4.30pm onwards - for full details call 01277 265286 or look at **www.bcys.net/frstan**

TEACHING SUPPORT ASSISTANT to start 24th April 2009 - 13 hrs per week (£8.83 to £9.37 per hour) needed at The Ilford Ursuline Prep School. Please request an information pack from Mrs Roddy by email on iups@ilfordursuline-prep.redbridge.sch.uk or telephone 020 8518 4050

OPEN MORNING The Staff and Pupils of the Ilford Ursuline Preparatory School warmly invite prospective parents to their Open Morning to be held on Thursday 26th March from 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon to see the school in action. No appointment is necessary. We are an independent Roman Catholic School for girls aged 3 – 11 and our nursery is now open for both boys and girls from the age of 3.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUPPLIES

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

STEPS ALONG THE WAY:

A 10th anniversary celebration with Fr John Armitage and Fr Chris Vipera 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 7th/8th March 2009

Saturday	6.00 p.m. Timothy White
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Robert Rimmer
	11.00 a.m. People of the Parish

Intentions week commencing Monday 9th March 2009

Monday	9.00 a.m. Justin O'Callaghan, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday	9.00 a.m. James Leyden, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. Jack Vaughan, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Thursday	9.00 a.m. Fr. James' 70th Birthday
Friday	9.00 a.m. Beard Family
Saturday	6.00 p.m. Eileen Lennon
Sunday	9.00 a.m. People of the Parish
	11.00 a.m. Annie Thompson, <i>R.I.P.</i>

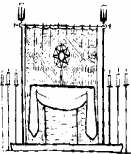
Morning Prayer will be held 15 minutes before 9am Morning Mass.

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,

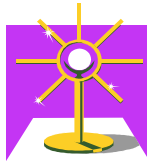
HOLY HOUR

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

£ 1355.43

of which CAFOD:

£ 32.27

Thank you