



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Third Sunday of Advent

13th December 2009

Dear Friends,

The message on the cards that we send and receive at this time is 'Happy Christmas': but what exactly does it mean to be happy? Today the Liturgy tells us to rejoice; what is the cause of our joy? Happiness entails peace of mind and there can be no peace of mind without a clear conscience. An integral part of happiness is contentment. To be content is not to be smugly complacent, but it does mean that we are grateful for what we have and are ready to count our blessings. The cynic will say that since half the world is hungry and the other half is at war, there is no cause for laughter. The follower of Christ, whilst not denying the woes of the world, is prepared to face them with a message of hope and a readiness to do something about them.

Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

is the response of our psalm today. We show our joy in the conviction that God is with us and He will strengthen us in all our times of trouble. Again, I exhort as many of you as possible to share in our Advent Service of Reconciliation and Penance **8pm Monday 14th December**. The Sacrament of Penance lightens our load and gives us peace that surpasses all human understanding.

The parish bazaar was an outstanding success, raising over £3,100, well up on last year. Thanks are due to Janet Abbott and her team, whose tireless efforts made it all possible. Thank you also to all who supported this wonderful community event.

God bless you always,
Father James.

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall
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Registered charity No. 234092

ADVENT SERVICE OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Monday **14th December** at **8 p.m.**

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

All welcome. 7.30 till late in the Church Hall. Adults £7.50; under 18's and OAP's £3.50. Be great to see you there. For tickets, call Julie and John Ryan on 01992 524633. Bring your own food and drinks. **Sorry, no admission on the door. Admission is by advance ticket only.** Thank you.

CAROL SERVICE MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER

In our church, run by Poulton's. At 6.30 p.m.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN'S CLASS

Next on January 9th (Saturday) in the Hall, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL

Will members of the Parish Council please collect their copies of the minutes of the meeting of November 25th from the post box. A copy is on the notice board and on the website.

ECCA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

next Friday, **18th December** in St. John's Church at **8 pm.** Admission free. Programme £2. Retiring collection for 'Crisis at Christmas'. Join us for seasonal refreshments afterwards. Please support us.

WHIST DRIVE

Thursday 17th December at 7pm. Admission £2 with refreshments. All are welcome at 3, Lynceley Grange, Epping.

HIRE OUR HALL

for your function if you want a comfortable, spacious and bright venue. Competitive rates all year round. Contact Arnold Verrall on 573633 or 0776 440 4813. Feel free to tell your friends.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DRESSES / SUITS

Barbara Aldridge is starting a 'bank' of these: if you have any in your wardrobe you would like to raise some money from on a 50% - 50% basis, or are looking for a more economical way to make your child look their best on their big day, this may be an option. Please contact her on 07954 173683 or melaniesdressagency@fsmail.net

CHECK OUT OUR NEW VOCATIONS WEBSITE!:

www.brentwoodvocations.org

NO MASS ON BOXING DAY SATURDAY EVENING 6PM

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON

We would like to invite anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to join us for a traditional lunch in our hall. Carers with dependants and couples will also be most welcome. Please give your name to Father James or Deacon Duncan, or phone Mary Morgan 574719. Transport can be provided. *If you have promised support kindly leave your donations of food or gifts in the Sacristy. Cheques should be made payable to CTED. The hall will be open from 11am - 1pm on Christmas Eve. Please telephone Mary Morgan to arrange collection of refrigerated items. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

by writing or phoning in against assisted suicide. The bill is being discussed now. The addresses: **Right to Life, PO Box 26264, London W3 9SQ.** Sarah@righttolife.org.uk. Phone: 020 8992 7657

“Woe to you if you do not defend life!” (John Paul the Great).

THE CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE

will take place on Sunday **20th Dec @ 4pm**. All children in the parish are welcome, with family and friends, to attend or participate, whether you wish to be an angel/shepherd/king/Mary/Joseph/animal/ reader, etc. A practice will take place after Mass on the 13th. Phone Norah on 01992 577932.

SPECIAL YOUTH MASS AND GATHERING

The young people of The Most Holy Redeemer Billericay & Fr. Dominic invite the Youth of the Brentwood Diocese at 8pm on Friday 8th January 2010 in the Parish Pastoral Centre, Laindon Road, Billericay. Live music & refreshments after Mass. Do come and have a fun night!

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Will be accepting your usual generous offerings at the Christmas Crib on the sanctuary, for the support of their invaluable work with needy and underprivileged children.

ADVENT TALK AT CONFERENCE CENTRE, BRENTWOOD

'Journey into the Heart' with Fr David Clemens on Monday 7th Dec 7.30pm. Tel: 01277 265257/219

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please make yourselves known to Fr. James or Deacon Duncan, so we can welcome & inform you.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

This weekend 12th / 13th December 2009

Saturday	6 p.m.	Peg Horan, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9 a.m.	Elizabeth Brennan, <i>R.I.P.</i>
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

Intentions Week Beginning 14th December 2009

Monday	9 a.m.	Rita Gill, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Wednesday	9 a.m.	Gary Russell, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Thursday	9 a.m.	Fr. Raymond Kerby, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Friday	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Saturday	6 p.m.	Jeannette Mulligan, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9 a.m.	George Rimmer, <i>R.I.P.</i>
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

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

Confessions: Saturday 11.30 to 12 noon and after 6 p.m. Mass

Please pray for the sick: Yvonne Morrall, Doris Scott, John Hannis, Ellen Day, Karen Toohey, Paulette Jarrold, Amy O'Day, Elsie Moore, Doug Barker, Julie Eke, Mike Collett, Annette Goodchild, Betty O'Mahoney, Kathleen Flower, Gladys Saunders, Arthur Devereaux, Jennifer Peacock, David Jolly, Tullia Borelli.

HOLY HOUR

Please note:

There will be no Holy Hour now until we restart on Monday the 11th January at 8pm.



Adoration of the Most

Blessed Sacrament

Monday to Friday for an hour after 9 a.m. Mass and on Tuesday till 12.30.

Jesus awaits you

Please note: no Adoration from Tuesday 22nd Dec. till we restart

ROSARY GROUP

Friday at 5.00 p.m. at the home of Charles Ward, 22 Vicarage Road Coopersale.

In the Rosary, Our Lady leads us to Her Son



Offerings

£ 1216.98

Of which CAFOD

£120

Thank you