



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

14th / 5th February 2009

Dear Friends,

Although it is still ten days away, I would like to say something about Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on February 25th this year and Easter will be on April 12th, a good three weeks later than last year. One of the most profitable Lenten observances, to my mind, is the day-to-day reading of Holy Scripture. God's word not only provides us with a wealth of consolation in times of sorrow; it also challenges us in our complacency. It is never sufficient to content ourselves with the snippets of Scripture read to us on Sunday at Mass; we also need to grapple with the word at a personal level. This year marks the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. To commemorate it at a local level, we have organised a series of five Lenten talks on the letters of St. Paul to be given by Fr. Michael Butler, parish priest of Old Harlow. They will take place in the church sacristy on Thursdays in Lent at 8 p.m. They promise to be very instructive.

I shall be absent from the parish from Monday to Friday this week for my annual retreat. It is a requirement of canon law that a priest should regularly renew his spiritual resources in this way. Please pray for me and the other priest of the diocese who will be making these spiritual exercises with me.

God bless you always,
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

ASH WEDNESDAY

25th February. Mass at 10a.m. and 8 p.m. Day of fasting (one full meal only) and abstinence (no meat).

HOLY COMMUNION CLASS: 5 pm Monday 23rd February in the Hall
PARENTS' SESSION: Tuesday 24th February, 8 p.m. in the Hall.

LOURDES FORMS

Those young people wanting to go to Lourdes in July 2009, forms NEED! to be sent back to the BCYS. Places are filling up and we want a great show from Epping this year. Any information about it all see a leader of the Youth Group.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Please pray for Kathleen Schofield and Patricia Holman, who died last week.

May they rest in peace.

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.

FATHER STAN FORTUNA

is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal based in the Bronx, New York. He is an internationally renowned speaker to young people: his style includes a mix of rap and song, and there is a rare opportunity to hear him speak in our diocese on SUNDAY MARCH 15TH from 4.30pm at Brentwood Cathedral. Open to all aged 15+.

SPONSORED WALK—Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Sat 23rd May

2009 sees the 25th Anniversary of the Society. To mark this occasion we hope for a record number of walkers to take part. Walkers will start from a central point in each Deanery, walking to Brentwood Cathedral. Where this is impractical because of distance a number of circular walks based on parishes are being arranged. Please book this date into your diaries!

VOLUNTEER BOOK-KEEPER/ACCOUNTANT FOR PARISH ACCOUNTS

We are looking for someone to take on the preparation and reporting of our parish accounts: Responsible to the parish priest. (Currently delegated to Deacon Duncan). The job involves approximately 6-8 hours each month, at any suitable time, either in the parish office, or at home. There is an up-and-running diocesan-based computer programme, with off-line support. Membership of the parish Finance and Development Committee, which meets quarterly. Initially to 'shadow' Deacon Duncan, with a view to taking full responsibility from 6th April 2009.

VOLUNTEER CARETAKER FOR CHURCH, PRESBYTERY AND GROUNDS (NOT CHURCH HALL).

We are seeking a practical person to have oversight on maintenance issues, as follows: Responsible to the parish priest. (Currently delegated to Deacon Duncan). The job is spasmodic in nature, with no set hours of work or expected time commitment and simply needs an eye being kept on emerging needs. To identify small maintenance requirements and to effect repairs etc., either personally or through contractors. To oversee the work of the church contract cleaners and other contractors. To purchase minor maintenance items as required (cost refunded). Commence as soon as convenient. Please contact Fr. James or Deacon Duncan to discuss.

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.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL—SATURDAY 4TH TO SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2009

The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service invite all young people of school year 10+ (age 15+) to join us for our Lenten All Night Vigil. The vigil will include active sessions of drama, art, multimedia and music plus reflective times in the atmosphere of Brentwood Cathedral at night. We start the evening at 10.30pm in the Cathedral House conference centre, and will end at 7am, having had early Mass and breakfast together. Application forms are available on www.bcys.net/anv or by calling Sarah Barber on 01277 265286. The cost for the evening is £5

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

Saturday 6.00 p.m. Margaret George, *R.I.P.*

Sunday 9.00 a.m. Holy Souls
11.00 a.m. People of the Parish

Intentions week commencing Monday 16th February 2009

Monday 9.00 a.m. Claire Lafford, *R.I.P.*

Tuesday 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Wednesday 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Thursday 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Friday 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Saturday 6.00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday 9.00 a.m. Shelli Canni
11.00 a.m. Reg Clements, *R.I.P.*

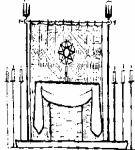
Morning Prayer will be held 15 minutes before 9am Morning Mass.

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, Kathleen Schofield, 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 Cooper-sale
All Welcome

Offerings £ 1129.23

of which CAFOD: £ -/86

Thank you