



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

6th Sunday of Easter

16th/17th May 2009

Dear Friends ,

There are two very striking, even hard-hitting, statements in the Scripture readings this weekend. In the Gospel, Jesus says: *You did not choose Me; I have chosen you.* In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter says: *God does not have favourites.* In a world riddled with divisions of class, creed, race and money, those bold assertions challenge us to look again at our relationship to God and at the way in which we relate to one another. God is Father to all: He calls us, He chooses us. Our response should be one of humble gratitude. There is no pecking order in His sight; that is why, in the old master paintings of the Last Judgement, all souls are depicted as standing naked before Him. One thing alone is asked, and all can give it if they wish. *What I command you is to love one another.* Love is the robe of righteousness; love is the gateway to eternal life.

With the Going Forth Mass this morning, the First Holy Communion programme 2008/09 is joyfully concluded. This year, a record number of thirty children were prepared to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Mrs. Claire Platais, who has directed the course for the past seven years, is now standing down, owing to personal commitments. I would like to express to her, on behalf of the whole parish community, our deep gratitude for all that she has accomplished during that time. Mrs. Keeling, part of the catechetical team for the last few years, is also standing down, and to her also we express our heartfelt thanks.

God bless you always,
Father James.

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
Pastoral Assistant.: Dr. Davnet Barker
Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall
E-mail: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Tel: 01992 572516
Tel: 01992 577173
Tel: 01992 573865
Tel: 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813
Fax: 01992 570096 Registered charity No.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Marie Verrall on her 90th birthday. Marie has been a stalwart parishioner at Epping for half a century. She joins a small but dedicated group of nonagenarians who attend Mass each week in our church.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

(1) needs new members to visit the elderly, people in hospital and anyone who wants a visit. the commitment can be as little as one or two hours a week. Please speak to Fr. James or any S.V.P. member if you are interested.

(2) Please bring your wallets and purses to Mass on the last weekend in May, the 30th/31st, for the SVP retiring collection for international aid. Our parish is twinned with four Indian parishes' SVP Conferences, and your contributions support them financially. Any additional funds will go to the International Disaster Fund to support some 30 baby feeding units in the Sudan.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

is over. For anyone who wishes to donate who hasn't been given an envelope, there is a box in the porch. Will collectors please hand their bags in to Deacon Duncan or Dorothy. Thanks very much.

WHIST DRIVE

Tuesday 19th May at 7 p.m. Admission £2 with refreshments. All welcome. At 36, Morgan Crescent, Theydon Bois.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

All those saddened by bereavement are welcome to a cup of tea and a chat at the presbytery on Sunday 17th May at 6 p.m.

CAFOD

Bike Ride 10 or 19 miles through Lea Valley Park and along the canal tow path. Sunday 7th June. Fun day out for all the family. Phone 0208 502 9722.

PILGRIMAGE TO ARS AND PARAY-LE-MONIAL

October 26 – October 30. £465 for adults and £400 for children of 12 yrs and under.

More information? Ring 020 8550 4540.

ABBOTSWICK HOUSE OF PRAYER

in Doddinghurst invites all young adults (aged 18-38) to spend a weekend of enlightenment and sharing with Fr. William Jerema. After his success last year he is back with a new topic: IN HIS IMAGE: EXPLORING THE SEVEN DWELLING PLACES OF TERESA OF AVILA. Friday 29th - Sunday 31st May 2009. Details available on: www.abbotswick.org on tel. 01277 373959

ABBOTSWICK HOUSE OF PRAYER

is holding a Day on the Eucharist on Saturday 23rd May with Mr Raymond de Souza, an EWTN host (see poster in porch). This important event is geared at helping people throughout the diocese deepen their understanding of this great mystery.

THE SVP ST. JOHN BOSCO SUMMER CAMP is a brilliant holiday opportunity for boys and girls aged 8 – 13. The boys weeks for 2009 are 18th – 25th July; 25th July – 1st August and 1st – 8th August. The girls' week is 8th – 15th August. The camp site is 40 acres with many sporting activities, plus canoeing, archery and much more. Accommodation is in tents; all food and sporting equipment is provided. The full cost is £130, but any family in financial need should speak to Fr James or the Parish SVP representative, Paul Ives, to see what financial assistance is available. Forms and more details can be found on **www.bcys.net/bosco**. **Volunteer helpers** are also needed for the camp – must be aged 16+. It is commitment that is essential to the running of the camp – you will make a difference and have a great time.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPPING AND DISTRICT

Easter note of thanks— Our Church has received a warm 'Thank you' from the Student Cross Pilgrimage Students, who slept in our hall, thanking all those who made their breakfast, and Deacon Duncan for the service he conducted to send them on their way to Walsingham.

We also received a letter from members of the Epping Clergy, thanking us for the coffee and hot cross buns, and use of our hall, for the Walk of Witness. CTED deeply appreciates the help and support given by the Catholic Community.

ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE: A **Marriage Encounter Weekend** gives married couples time to look at their relationship. After each presentation some time is spent together as a couple. It is a private weekend with no group discussions. The Weekend to be held is at Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent, on 26th – 28th June 2009. If you are interested please call Caroline & Michael L'Estrange on 01277 841051 or go to www.wwme.org.uk, through which you can also arrange a booking.

TEACHERS REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

at St. Ursula's Catholic Infant School, Romford. Senior Leadership vacancies - Deputy Head Teacher L8-12, Learning Support Leader TLR2a and Phase Leader (KS1 initially) TLR2a. Further information from Mrs. Noel McNab, Head Teacher, Tel: 01708 345200, e-mail:head@st-ursulas-inf.havering@lgfl.net

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 16th/17th May 2009

Saturday	11 a.m. First Holy Communicants 6 p.m. People of the Parish
Sunday	9 a.m. Les Wilson, <i>R.I.P.</i> 11 a.m. Marie Verrall, 90th birthday

Intentions Week Beginning 18th May 2009

Monday	9 a.m. Bridie O'Loughlin, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday	9 a.m. Intentions of Richard Byrne
Wednesday	9 a.m. Elizabeth McEvoy, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Thursday	9 a.m. Angela Riccoboni, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Friday	9 a.m. Intentions Malcolm Silver
Saturday	6 p.m. Canny Family deceased
Sunday	9 a.m. Kieran McClean, <i>R.I.P.</i> 11 a.m. People of the Parish

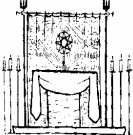
Morning Prayer will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9 am Mass.

Confessions: Saturday after 6 p.m. Mass

Please pray for the sick: Yvonne Morrall, David Jolly, 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, Betty O'Mahoney, Beth Davie,

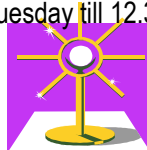
HOLY HOUR

Monday
8 pm in 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

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



Offerings

£ 1879.71

of which CAFOD:

£ 40.05

Thank you