



# Newsletter

## The Immaculate Conception Epping

2nd Sunday of Easter

19th April 2009

Dear Friends,

The risen Lord Jesus said to doubting Thomas: *Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.* A true follower of Jesus is meant to experience joy in his or her faith. Happiness is not to be confused with pleasure, which is a very transient experience. We can derive pleasure from a glass of champagne or a trip to the theatre, but what we enjoy quickly passes away. Indeed, depressed people will often try to smother their sorrow with quick injections of pleasure by means of alcohol, drugs or sex, only to discover that their situation is worse than ever when the effects wear off. Happiness, however, is constant, because it is linked to virtue. Happiness, or joy, derives from doing God's will: it is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. In Eastertide, the Church exhorts us to rejoice because the risen Lord is in our midst and invites us to share in His victory over darkness and sin. It is of supreme importance to grasp this message at a time of economic upheaval. The boom years, with their emphasis on consumerist pleasures, now seem very remote. But the Word of the Lord still holds true: *I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy..* (John 16:22)

Easter, as ever, was an uplifting experience in the parish. 500 people were here to worship last weekend. I thank all those, too numerous to single out individually, who gave of their time and talent to ensure that the Holy Week Masses were both dignified and memorable. I thank you also for the generous Easter offering and the £500 contributed on Good Friday for the upkeep of the Holy Places.

I wish you every happiness and blessing in Eastertide.

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

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Registered charity No.

## **BAPTISM**

Nia Elizabeth Garwood—congratulations.

**BOOKS FOR SWAZILAND:** The Epping Churches are helping to build a library for a rural community in this poor African State. A box is in the church porch to receive good condition second-hand books. Children's books, reference books, up-to-date atlases, medical books and classics—no adult fiction, please.

**CHANGES ON CHURCH SANCTUARY:** Following the largely enthusiastic response to the Benches and Tabernacle & Stand, it has been agreed by the Parish Council that an Ambo and Font, in a style to complement the Altar, should be provided. Whilst this is being done, the sanctuary carpet, which is in a poor state, will be replaced, taking the opportunity to change the colour to a suitable shade of blue. This will then complete all the planned works. Note particularly that it is not intended to re-model the sanctuary floor, nor to replace the crucifix, nor to modify the altar in any way. It has been agreed that the Ambo and Font will be self-financing and, with the help of a very recent bequest and other pledges, most of the funds required are already available. If any parishioner would like to contribute towards this beautification of our church, please let Fr James have your contribution (gift-aided if possible).

## **JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP**

There will be a meeting of the group on Wednesday, 22nd April, at 8pm, in the presbytery. Any interested parishioner is welcome to attend.

**JUMBLE SALE** Saturday 25th April at 2pm in the Church Hall. There is a list for helpers in the porch. We need people Friday afternoon to sort and sellers on Saturday. The hall will be open Friday 3-8 and Saturday 10.30 onwards. Please may we have cakes—big and small.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**—3 weeks away. The parish will be seeking the usual help to collect from the houses in the streets allocated to us by Churches Together in Epping.

## **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND PARADE OF HONOUR**

This Sunday 19th April 1.45 pm from the Civic Offices to the War Memorial, Church Hill. This year, the Parade will be supported by the unit of Marine George Sparks, *R. I.P.*, 42 Commando Royal Marines. Marine Georgie Sparks, baptised in our church, tragically lost his life in Afghanistan in November last year.

## **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.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS:**

Monday 20th April 5 pm; Monday 27th April 5 pm. Parents Session Tuesday 28th April 8pm.

### **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:**

The envelopes for the next year are now available from the back of the Church—please pick up your box. If you want any further information about the envelope scheme or Gift Aid, please contact Malcolm Heughan on 812012.

### **OASIS OF PEACE (MARIAN) DAY:**

Forget your troubles and rest in the Lord on Saturday May 2nd 2009 at our Church, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Includes Mass, Adoration, Rosary and Testimonies. Bring packed lunch – drinks provided.

### **SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION**

for the elderly (60+): Flat 26, St. Anne's, St. Anne's Close (off Whitmore Way), Stifford Clays, Grays, Essex RM16 2AY. A double 1-bedroom 1<sup>st</sup>–floor flat with wet room. Newly-refurbished, modern, self-contained, gas central heating. Passenger and stair lifts available. Warden and careline assisted. CCTV and Secure entry systems. Communal gardens, laundry and lounge. Charity run. Within short walking distance from shops, health centre, buses and church. £136.33 per week, inclusive of services and support charges. Contact Brentwood Branch (CWL) Housing Association Ltd. on 01702 510523.

### **HEADTEACHER REQUIRED SEP 09**

at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Daiglen Drive, South Ockendon, Essex, RM15 5RP. It is a Group 3 School, ISR L18 - L24. Governors wish to appoint an enthusiastic, practising Catholic to lead, motivate and inspire our school community. For details please contact Mrs. P. Morris at the school office, Tel: 01708 853000. Closing date: 22nd April 2009.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** 19th April at St. Peter and Paul's, 342, High Road, Ilford. Starts 1pm with Exposition. Finish with 6pm Mass. Confessions available throughout the afternoon.

### **CATHOLIC SINGLES**

is an organisation which helps single practising Catholics meet up, either one to one or through social events. For more information please tel. **0161 941 3498**, visit the website **[www.catholicsingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicsingles.org.uk)** or email **[info@catholicsingles.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicsingles.org.uk)**

**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 18th/19th April 2009**

Saturday	6.00 p.m. Newly-received Catholics
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Pasqua Capaldi, <i>R.I.P.</i>
	11.00 a.m. People of the Parish

**Intentions week commencing Monday 20th April 2009**

Monday	9.00 a.m. Doug Bere, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday	9.00 a.m. Guy Hawley, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. Maggie Stanton, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Thursday <i>St. George's</i>	9.00 a.m. Thomas Walsh, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Friday	9.00 a.m. Sheila & Louis Ives, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Saturday	6.00 p.m. Elizabeth & John Evans, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9.00 a.m. Paddy & Mary Duffy, <i>R.I.P.</i>
	11.00 a.m. People of the Parish

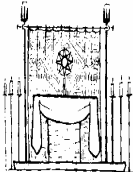
**Morning Prayer** will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9am Mass.

**Confessions:** Saturday 11.30 — 12.00 Noon and 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**

£ 2532.55 (including  
Holy Places offerings)

**of which CAFOD:**

£ 46.50

**Thank you**