

CHURCH of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

11, Church Hill, EPPING, Essex CM16 4RA

Feast of The Epiphany of The Lord

3rd January 2010

Dear Friends,

Our Christmas celebrations are brought to a conclusion with the Feast of The Epiphany: the revelation of The Lord to the gentile nations in the persons of the Wise Men.. Wise men and women still follow the Lord. Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit, which is acquired slowly through prayer, reflection on the scriptures, and works of charity. As we enter a New Year it should be our constant endeavour to grow in grace through fidelity to our individual calling or vocation. In the ordinary circumstances of our lives, God touches us and speaks to us. Awareness of his presence and a readiness to do his will should mark each day of our lives.

I thank all those in our parish whose commitment to our parish community has manifested itself in the generous gift of time and talent over Christmas—musicians, servers, ministers, readers, florists and ushers. Over 600 people attended Mass at Christmas. However, I was utterly dismayed by the ‘melt-down’ in attendance on the following Sunday, when there were no more than 150, the lowest number I have known since coming to the parish. Ask yourself: ‘where was I last Sunday?’

I wish you all a blessed New Year

Father James

Parish Priest

Fr James Hawes STL.

Tel: 01992 572516

Parish Deacon

Rev Duncan Whitehouse

Tel: 01992 577173

Hall Bookings

Mr Arnold Verrall

Tel: 01992 573633

E-Mail: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Parish Fax No: 01992 570096

YEAR OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTHOOD

During this year of Special Prayer for the Priesthood, please continue to pray (daily) for our priests...and, particularly in this parish, for Fr James. Your prayers are also asked for those contemplating priesthood. Fr James Mackay and Fr Mark Reilly were ordained for our diocese this year, leaving only Neil Brett, Daniel Kelly and David Pearce still in their 6-year training for the priesthood. We need more candidates...and it would be wonderful to have a candidate from our own parish!!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE 2009 / 2010

The first meeting in the New Year for all children on the course is at 10.30 a. m. on Saturday the 9th January in our hall.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on **Sunday 31st January** in the presbytery at 6.00 pm. Anyone saddened by bereavement will be very welcome to come and have a cup of tea and a chat and benefit from the support of the group. Any queries to Deacon Duncan.

PARISH WHIST GROUP

We meet once a month in members' homes and have a good evening's whist, though we are far-from-serious about it...it's more of a social occasion! We are looking for a few more players (standard not important). Would you like to 'give it a whirl'? Maureen McClean (01992 573292) would be very pleased to hear from you. Our next meeting is arranged for **28th January**

JOURNEY IN FAITH—R.C.I.A

The next meeting is at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 13th January** in the presbytery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DRESSES / SUITS

Barbara Aldridge is starting a 'bank' of dresses and suits which are suitable for First Holy Communion day. If you have any in your wardrobe and would like to raise some money on a 50/50% basis, or are looking for a more economical way of helping your child to look his or her best on this important day, contact Barbara Aldridge on 07954 173683, or email on melaniesdressagency@fsmail.net

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Traditionally, we send our parish Crib Offerings to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society to support their invaluable work with needy and under-privileged children. A basket to receive your kind donations to this worthy cause can be found by the Crib on the Sanctuary. Please be generous.

'TAKE AND READ' SCRIPTURE STUDY DAY

Led by Fr Adrian Graffy and Anne Dixon at St Peter and St Paul's Parish Centre, High Rd, Ilford on **16th January** 10.45 am—3.30 pm. Entrance free. Lunch provided. Donations invited. Register by phone to Fr Graffy on 01277 265289 or email cef@dioceseofbrentwood.org. The day provides an opportunity to gain understanding and confidence in the reading of scripture. You will need a copy of 'Take & Read': Gospel of Luke, which will be available on the day @ £8 per copy.

THE PAMPERED CHEF!!

Calling all those interested in cooking or wishing to improve their cooking skills. Start the New year with an afternoon of fun, food and friendship in our Church Hall on **Saturday 16th January at 2.30 pm**. Debbie, The Pampered Chef, will be demonstrating exciting, easy recipes...with tasters to follow. Modern tools of the trade will be used and will be on sale to help to make your life a little easier. Entry tickets £3 (includes tea and biscuits and food tasting) will be on sale after all Masses this Sunday, or phone Dorothy on 01992 577173. Funds raised will be in aid of our own Church Hall Maintenance Fund. Do come and bring your friends...all welcome!!.

HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The revised date for this meeting is confirmed as **Thursday 14th January** at 8 pm in the Cry Chapel. The Committee is always keen to welcome new Members, who could either just come to the meeting or discuss how the committee operates with Paul Harwood (01992 815437) or Deacon Duncan.

HIRE OUR CHURCH HALL

Available for private events...comfortable, spacious and bright! We offer competitive rates all year round. Contact Arnold Verrall to enquire or to make a booking on Telephone 01992 573633 or Mobile 0776 440 4813

***** NEW PARISHIONERS*****

Please make yourselves known to Fr James or Deacon Duncan, so that we can welcome you to our community and provide you with information about us.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Weekend 2nd / 3rd January 2010 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 2nd January	6.00 pm	Margaret Furlong
Sunday 3rd January	9.00 am	Holy Souls.
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Week commencing Monday 4th January 2010

Monday 4th Jan	9.00 am	Michael O'Rourke RIP
Tuesday 5th Jan	9.00 am	Holy Souls.
Wednesday 6th Jan	9.00 am	Dan & Elizabeth O'Halloran RIP.
Thursday 7th Jan	9.00 am	Gary Russell RIP.
Friday 8th Jan	9.00 am	Fr Geoffrey Jarvis RIP
Saturday 9th Jan	6.00 pm	David Jolly RIP
Sunday 10th Jan	9.00 am	Holy Souls
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Morning Prayer Precedes each 9.00 am week-day liturgy at 8.45 am

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 Deveraux; Jennifer Peacock; Tullia Borelli and Bet Dudley-Smith.

Holy Hour — Re-commences on Monday 11th January

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament — Re-commences on 5th January.

Rosary Group— 5.00 pm Friday 8th January at the home of Mr Charles Ward,
22 Vicarage Road, Coopersale.

Last Week's Offertory Collection: £1186.26

Christmas Offering to Fr James: £1962.07

Last Week's C.A.F.O.D. Collection: £ 272.79 Thank you.