



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

The Baptism of the Lord

10th January 2010

Dear Friends,

The Feast of the Lord's Baptism is an extension of Epiphany. Jesus was revealed as Saviour to the wise men. His baptism reveals Him to all peoples for a similar purpose. The gospels stress this event at the beginning of Christ's ministry even more than His birth at Bethlehem. At the waters of the River Jordan, He was acclaimed as the Father's Beloved Son. Our own baptism, for most of us as infants, marks the start of our journey in faith and shows us to be brothers and sisters of Jesus and children of God our Father. In recent times, a custom has developed, even among devout families, of delaying the baptism of babies by several months: some children are even capable of toddling to the font by themselves. In many ways, this is a practice to be deprecated. The sooner children are sacramentally incorporated into the Family of God the better.

Confirmation is another Sacrament of Initiation. It will be celebrated here when the Bishop visits us on 3rd November. A preparatory course will begin after Easter. All young parishioners aged fourteen and over are eligible. Those wishing to be confirmed are invited to write to me, telling me the reasons for their decision.

God bless you always,
Father James.

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes

Tel: 01992 572516

Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse

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www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN'S CLASS

Next on January 16th (Saturday) in the Hall, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Parents' session: Tuesday 19th January at 8 p.m. Next Mass: Feb. 7th

CONFIRMATION: Bishop Thomas will come for confirmation on Wed. 3rd November at 7.30 pm. Those eligible must have had their 14th birthday by that date. The preparatory course will begin soon after Easter. Those wishing to be involved are invited to write to Fr. James, stating reasons for their decision. Please note that parental pressure is not a sufficient reason.

A WORD ABOUT ECCA: a local ecumenical choir, founded in 1972 by the then RC organist, perform 4 concerts a year—Christmas, main winter concert at the end of January, Good Friday and summer. Admission free, programmes £2 to offset expenses. A retiring collection, at Christmas and Good Friday for charity and the others to help the choir funds. Refreshments available for a small voluntary donation. We are 44 members with a brilliant professional conductor. **Our next concert is on Saturday 30th January at 7.30 pm at St. John's: Rutter Requiem and Gounod's St. Cecilia Mass.**

<u>NOVEMBER FINANCE REPORT</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Offertory - envelopes & standing orders (93%)	3,860	30,946
Offertory from loose change	1,099	8,417
Other income	514	28,946
Total Income	5,473	68,309
Expenditure	6,878	65,346
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,405)	2,936

Gift Aid It

HMRC will add 28% to your offertory contributions when tax payers join the gift aid scheme. Parishioners contributed ca. £15,000 to parish funds last year. Please contact Malcolm Heughan on 812012 for more details.

Loose Change

Cannot be Gift Aided. We can supply a box of weekly offertory envelopes. Contact Malcolm Heughan on 812012.

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

YEAR OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTHOOD

During this year of Special Prayer for the Priesthood, please continue to pray for our priests, esp. Fr James, + for those contemplating priesthood. Fr James Mackay and Fr Mark Reilly were ordained for our diocese this year, leaving only 3 others still in their training. We need more candidates...and it would be wonderful to have one from our own parish!!

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on **Sunday 31st January** in the presbytery at 6.00 pm. Anyone saddened by bereavement is very welcome to 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. We meet next on **28th January**.

JOURNEY IN FAITH—R.C.I.A

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

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!

HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The new date for this meeting is confirmed as **Thursday 14th January** at 8 pm in the Cry Chapel. We are 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.

OASIS OF PEACE (MEDJUGORJE) DAY: Next on **Saturday 30th January** from **10.30 am to 4 pm**. in our Church. **Mass at 11.50 a.m.** Also Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary and discussion. Led by Canon Seamus Keenan. Bring packed lunch; drinks provided. Come for all or part of the day.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

This Weekend 9th / 10th January 2010

Saturday	6 p.m.	David Jolly, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

Intentions Week Beginning 11th January 2010

Monday	9 a.m.	David Jolly, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday	9 a.m.	Mary Kileen, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Wednesday	9 a.m.	James & Elizabeth Farrell, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Thursday	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Friday	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Saturday	6 p.m.	Lois Gosnell, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9 a.m.	People of the Parish

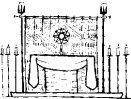
Morning Prayer will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9 am Mass.

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, Tullia Borelli.

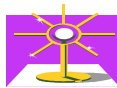
HOLY HOUR

Next on Monday
the 18th January
at 8 p.m.
in Church.
All Welcome



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



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

£ 1354.85

Of which CAFOD

£75

Thank you