



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Epping

Fourth Sunday in Lent

14th March 2010

Dear Friends,

Of all Our Lord's many parables, the story of the wayward son and his compassionate father is among the best known. Traditionally, it is called the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Prodigality means wastefulness. It is fitting for it to be read on Mid-Lent Sunday or Mothering Sunday. It is in the nature of things for parents to go on loving their children, no matter how those children may have gone off the rails. As today we give thanks for the unconditional love of motherhood, we also include fatherhood in this expression of gratitude.

The prayers of parents for their children are never wasted, no matter what the circumstances. Many parents, as I well know, express genuine bewilderment and anguish when sons or daughters lapse from the faith and embark on life styles that are contrary to gospel values. Today's parable is meant to give those parents consolation and hope. Their own prayerful and persevering example will not go unrewarded. God's grace is powerful, even if at times it operates slowly. This story of repentance and reconciliation prompts me to remind you all of our Lenten Service of Reconciliation on Wednesday 24th March at 8 p.m.

God bless you always,
Father James.

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
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Registered charity No. 234092

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Sunday 14th March, 6 p.m.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION NOTICES:

- (1) **PARENTS' EVENING:** with Sister Nuala from the Brentwood Religious Education Service on **Tuesday 23rd March** at **8 p.m.** in the hall.
- (2) **CLASS:** Next on Saturday **27th March** 10.30 a.m. in the hall.

LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION: to prepare for the great Feast of Easter: at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 24th March, in our Church.

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. **Closing date for all applications is Easter Sunday, 4th April.**

EASTER LILIES:

Donations are invited (£2 a bloom) for Easter lilies in memory of the dead at Easter. Please mark the envelope 'Easter Lily'.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for Mr. Ian Cook, who died suddenly last week, aged 39. We offer to his parents Susan and John our prayerful condolences. *R.I.P.*

CONGRATULATIONS to Janet Abbott and Tom Clarke, who have just received Pope Benedict's 'Bene Merenti' medal. This is an award given for outstanding and life-long service in the Catholic Church.

BAPTISM: congratulations to William and Sienna Moriello, baptised in our church on Wednesday.

IN LENT COME TO CALVARY: It's a matter of life and death. Pope Benedict and the previous three popes made the sanctity of life from conception to natural death the keystone of their pontificates. Never has life in the U.K. been more dangerous for unborn children—one in four is aborted. Many of them end their lives in the Marie Stopes Clinic in Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill. Why not come to pray quietly and peacefully at the clinic for all involved—doctors, nurses, parents and babies. **8 a.m. to 11.30.** Phone Paul 577104 for more info.

CHURCHES TOGETHER DIARY DATES:

Lent Lunches: 12.30 to 2 pm: 20th March at **our Catholic Church.**

Walk of Witness: Good Friday 2nd April 10.45 a.m.

DAY FOR RENEWAL

at SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Saturday, March 27th, 10.00 to 4.30, Theme 'I Thirst', Speaker - Fr Angelus of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Everyone welcome. Please bring a packed lunch.

JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 10th April, in our hall.

HELP, PLEASE! VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!

Our church has been asked to provide some help with this year's Walk of Witness on Good Friday (2nd April). Can anyone take on a (small) speaking part in the playlets which are performed en route? Could some younger parishioners help with carrying the cross? Please let Deacon Duncan know urgently if you can help (01992 577173).

THE LEGION OF MARY

will be conducting a mission in our parish from Saturday June 26th to Sat. July 3rd. They will be about 12 in number, out all day, and will mostly be young college students from Dublin. If you can offer accommodation on a paying bed and breakfast basis, please drop your details into the presbytery in an envelope clearly marked 'Legion of Mary'.

WHIST DRIVE Thursday **18th** March **7 p.m.** £2 with refreshments.
All welcome. At 38A Crows Road, Epping.

OASIS OF PEACE DAY next on Saturday **April 24th**. Come and rest in the Lord with Our Lady for guide! What could be better? 10.30 to 4; Mass 11.50am

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR St. Mark's School, **24th, 25th, 26th March 7.30 pm**. For tickets in advance, **Telephone: 01279 421267**).

PARIS DRESS SHOW Evening of April 22nd. Tickets next week + details.

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

This Weekend 13th / 14th March 2010

Saturday	6 p.m.	Eileen Lennon, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9 a.m.	Beard Family
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

Intentions Week Beginning 15th March 2010

Monday	9 am	Charles Ward, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday	9 am	Irene Jefcoate, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Wednesday	<i>St. Patrick</i> 9 am	John Clohessy, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Thursday	9 am	Jolly Family
Friday	<i>St. Joseph</i> 9 am	Fr. Peter Davies, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Saturday	6 pm	Vera Doherty, <i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday	9 am	M. and F. Fenton, <i>R.I.P.</i>
	11am	People of the Parish

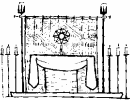
Morning Prayer will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9 am Mass.

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, Richard Fayolle.

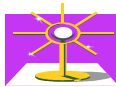
HOLY HOUR

Monday
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 6 p.m. at the
home of Susan Asher,
18 Kendal Avenue.
*In the Rosary, Our Lady
leads us to Her Son*



Offerings

£1545.91

Of which, CAFOD:
£567.57

Thank you