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| TIMES OF MASSES AND SERVICES THIS WEEK 18th to 26th December 2021 |
| FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT C EXPECTANT MOTHERS’ DAY 19December 2021 |
| Saturday 18th  |  6.00pm | The People of our Parish |
| Sunday 19th  |  9.00am | Giovanni Borelli RIP Anniv (Mansell) |
| December 2021  |  11.00am | Madeline Murphy RIP (McDonagh) Live streamed |
| Monday 20th   |  9.15am | Special Intention (Palmer) |
| Tuesday 21st  |  9.15am | Holy Souls RIP |
| Wednesday 22nd  |  12 noon | Elliot Moore RIP Recenty (Darcy) |
| Thursday 23rd  |  9.15am | Special Intention (Palmer) |
| CHRISTMAS EVE | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST - SOLEMNITY |
| Friday 24th | 12 noon | Special Intention (Palmer) Live Streamed |
| December |  6.00pm |  Lennon/Lechley deceased RIP (Lechley) Live streamed  |
| 2021 |  8.00pm | Private Intention Live streamed |
| CHRISTMAS DAY  | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST - SOLEMNITY |
| SATURDAY 25th  |  9.00am | Our sick & infirm Parishioners Live streamed  |
| December 2021 |  11.00am | The People of our Parish Live streamed |
| THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 26th December 2021 |
| Saturday 26th  |  6.00pm | Neil Teixeira RIP Annniv (Hollinshead) |
| Sunday 26th  |  9.00am | The People of our Parish |
| December  |  11.00am | Maggie O’Donnell’s intentions (O’Donnell) Streamed |
| 2021 |  3.00pm | LATIN MASS in Tridentine Rite |

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION, PENANCE or Confessions this week:**

 **Saturday 18th December: 11am to 12 noon; After the weekday Mases from Monday to Thursday; and on Christmas Eve 11am to 11.45am and at other times on request.**

**READINGS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C 19th December 2021**

**MICAH 5:1-4 Out of you, Bethlehem, will be born the one who is to rule over Israel**

**PSALM 79 God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us & we shall be saved**

**HEBREWS 10-5-10 God, her I am! I am coming to obey your will.**

**LUKE 1:39-45 Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?**

**DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD WEBSITE:** [https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net//](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/)

**DAILY SERVICES WITH MASS:** [**www.churchservices.tv/timetable/**](http://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/)

**Daily Mass at Westminster Cathedral:** [www.churchservices.tv/westminster/](http://www.churchservices.tv/westminster/)

**Daily Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea:** <https://lourdesleigh.org/>

St Joseph English Martyrs Bishops Stortford [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford/](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford/)

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings: £800 in standing orders and on 12 December £229.01 in loose plate, £120 in envelopes and £116.56 for CAFOD. CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUES ARE AVAILABLE IN CHURCH. You can give in Offerings to the Priest’s House and for charities our parish supports online at: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////)

**USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES: We need more ushers for Christmas. Please let Margaret know in the Parish Office, Fr John or Deacon Duncan.**

 **The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church** **11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA**

 **Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516**

  **Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992** **577173**

  **Email:** **epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org**

 **Website**: [**www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk**](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)

 **Registered Charity Number: 234092**

 **Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang**

 **Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT C Expectant Mothers 19 December 2021

*Dear Friends and Parishioners,*

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave a loud cry and said, “Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?” when she heard Mary’s greeting and the child in her womb leapt for joy (Lk.1:39-45). On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the church honours Expectant Mothers and asks to remember and pray for them. In the Gospel we hear of the meeting of two holy women who are cousins and expectant mothers. Elizabeth the elderly woman who never expected to have a child, was carrying John the Baptist in her womb, when she was visited by Mary, the young virgin and mother carrying the child Jesus in her womb. The two mothers, of different generations, were filled with joy, and the children in their wombs jumped for joy at their meeting. They were cousins and Elizabeth’s child, John the Baptist, was destined to prepare the way for Mary’s child, Jesus, and for his mission to proclaim the kingdom of God.

Christ said on coming into the world, “God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will” (Heb.10) and in his agony in the Garden, he prayed “Father, not my will, but thine be done” (Luke 22:42). Mary accepted God’s will, when the angel Gabriel came to tell her that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Saviour and responded to that invitation by saying, “I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done unto me according to your Word” (Luke 1:38). The Word of God took on flesh and blood, life itself in Mary. She models the sacredness of virginity, motherhood and caring and we look to her as the Mother of the Church and the virgin mother in heaven who looks to us and intercedes for us in our needs.

“Come home - to church - for Christmas” was a call made to Catholics, by the Bishops of England & Wales, some years ago. The pandemic and measures to limit its spread have caused separation in family life and the life of the Church. Whilst complying with safe public health advice, I call on you to come home to Church and the Christian family for Christmas this year. Some of us have lost contact with family and friends over the past two years and also lost contact with the Church family, that comes to pray together and strengthen one another in community. Our five Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day should help spread numbers in our Church at any one time. There are also opportunities for people to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, Reconciliation or Confession in our Church, this week - one of the best ways of “Preparing a Way for the Lord”.

*May God bless and protect you and your families this Christmas. Fr John*

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES** as we are limited on the numbers in our church. **Please contact Deacon Duncan on 01992 577173 or at** **duncanjcjwhitehouse@gmail.com****.** It is important that those who attend Mass regularly, and whose names are automatically included on the Steward’s normal weekly list, contact Deacon Duncan to book their seat(s) for a Mass at Christmas.

COVID REGULATIONS oblige us to wear face coverings, sanitise our hands and protect each other in church. You do not need to book seats to attend weekend Masses. You are required to give your name and contact details on entering church. Our church is open daily from 8am to 7pm for people to make visits and pray.

**WE LIVE STREAM SUNDAY MASSES at** **11am on youtube: you go to:** youtube.com/channel/UCAbSuwE8X5AOaugAT35hREw or search on google: The Immaculate **Conception Catholic Church, Epping** and visit the channel.

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| **On a mobile phone simply scan the QR code to take you to the channel** **PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES:****May the Lord heal them with power of his Holy Spirit.**  |
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**JOURNEY IN FAITH:** We invite to talks on the Catholic Faith anyone wishing to understand our faith, or who is not Catholic but comes to Mass, or wants to support the faith of family members, or to become Catholic.. These are for adults wishing to return to the practice of their faith, or who were Baptised Catholic but did not receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation. If you are interested, please contact Fr John and come to the Priest’s House **Wednesdays from 8 to 9pm**. We will not meeting this Wednesday and **the next one will be on** **5th January**.

**ANNIVERSARIES: Paulette Jarrold, Irene Bassett Herbert Kellard Julia Farrell (18/12), Giovanni Borelli, Eileen McNerney (19/12),Monica Henderson (20/12), David Sebire, Joseph Hawes, Brigid Nix, Mina v1Min Tello, Elizabeth Evans, (21/12), Margaret Munday, Margaret Hanley (22/12), Len Pegrum (23/12), Betty O’Mahoney Kim Chi, Anthony Matthews, Michael McCormack, Margaret Munday (24/12), Joyce DeBoise, John O’Leary (25/12), John McInerney, Gertrude Hurley (26/12). Eternal rest grant to them Lord. May they rest in peace.**

**A BIG THANK YOU to Pat Dowling, our parishioner, who had the lining renewed in our church car park recently. We are most grateful to Pat for having this done – especially as it was proving difficult to find a suitable firm to do it.**

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS** have now been distributed to all on our Parish address system. They give greetings from our Church to people at home and details of our Christmas Masses. If you did not receive a card, you can pick one up in church, and please let us have your up-to-date address at our Parish Office, so that you will be included correctly in our address system. Our thanks go to Peter, Sarah and Tom Day for all their time and work in preparing and delivering the cards.

**YOUTH 2000** “Try something NEW this New Year? Join Youth 2000 at Trinity Catholic High School in Woodford Green. NEW will be a weekend filled with fun, friendship, inspiring talks and lots of praise as we welcome in 2022. The retreat will be from **Friday 31 December - Sunday 2 January 2022**. To book your space today: [www.youth2000.org/new<http://www.youth2000.org/new](http://www.youth2000.org/new%3Chttp%3A//www.youth2000.org/new)>

**GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MASS:**

Professor John Morrill will lead a Study Day on ‘The Evolution of the Mass’, tracing the development of the Eucharistic Liturgy from the earliest centuries to the present dayon **Saturday 15th January 2022**. He will explore in particular the teachings of Trent & Vatican II and the latest papal instructions on the celebration of Mass. To access this free live stream event, go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The event begins at 11.00 GMT and ends by 13.30. No prior registration is needed.

**ADVENT SERVICE VIDEO** is on Youtube. “The season of Advent, restores the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope that does not disappoint, for the Lord is never disappoints! He does not disappoint! Let us think and feel this beauty.” [***Pope Francis***](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2013/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20131201.html)**Go to *Thresholds of Hope*** on Youtube or <https://youtu.be/c2KQhRXzOFU>

**FAITH TALK ON THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS:** As Christmas draws near we shall read the sections of the gospels known as ‘infancy narratives’ - stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. The three parts of this talk consider Matthew Ch 1-2, Luke Ch 1-2 & John Ch 1. The videos by Fr Adrian Graffy, Parish Priest of Gidea Park, Scripture scholar and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission,.are available free of charge at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**EPPING FOREST FOODBANK urgently needs: tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, tinned peas, tinned carrots, tinned instant mash potatoes, long life milk, small jars of coffee, chocolate spread, snack bars, chocolate bars, small/medium bags of rice, savoury crackers, sponge puddings, shampoo, soap, hand sanitiser (70% alcohol) deodorant, reusable face masks, laundry tablets,! If you know of any people or families needing support at this time, please let Fr John know and we will give them vouchers for the Foodbank or other help as appropriate.**

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2022** is on sale in church at £2.80. It gives details of our diocese, parishes, churches and Mass times, prayer groups, schools, hospitals & chaplaincies, religious orders & Liturgical Calendar

**POSTAGE STAMPS FOR CHARITY** Please save your used postage stamps over the Christmas and place them in the ‘Used Postage Stamps’ box in the Church Porch. We will give them St Clare Hospice at Hastingwood to be sold in aid of Hospice Funds.  Thank you. Queries to Deacon Duncan on 01992 577173.

# CHILDRENS LITURGY: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

# CATHOLIC POST – a new Catholic newspaper is available free in church

# CHRISTMAS POSTERS: Please take one to display in your home

# CAROLS ON THE GREEN will not be held, due to the spreading virus.