

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Registered Charity Number: 234092
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

'I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.'

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

28th April 2024

Today's readings remind us that when, like St Paul, 'we believe in the name of Jesus Christ', we accept the intimate relationship to which God invites us. We become branches of the true vine, Jesus Christ.

The Gospel shows the amazing intimacy that Jesus offers through the wonderful image of the vine and branches. Having Jesus, the true vine, live within our hearts, we as his disciples, the branches, will bear fruit; cut off from Jesus, we can do nothing at all. Jesus reveals his Father as the vinedresser, tending to us with love, and sometimes pruning us so that we can produce more plentiful fruit.

In the Second Reading, John reminds us that by believing in Jesus Christ, and loving one another, we are doing what God wants, and that God lives in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. He also reassures us that we have nothing to fear in God's loving presence. We get an indication of the fruit that Jesus speaks of when John tells us that our love needs 'not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active.' We see an example of this in the First Reading, where Saul proves his love for Jesus by preaching about him to the community. The apostles come to accept him and the local churches begin to put down roots and grow, drawing now from a new source of life: the Holy Spirit.

The Psalm, part of which we heard on Palm Sunday, and which Jesus prayed on the cross, closes today with words of the Lord's love, generosity and faithfulness. We are all invited to worship and serve him. During the week, I may like to ponder the relationship God longs to have with me, and the fruit he enables me to bear.

Masses & Services Saturday 27th April to Sunday 5th May 2024		
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 28th April 2024		
Saturday 27 th	6.00pm	Patrick Lennon RIP Anniv (Lechley)
Sunday 28 th	9.00am	Graeme Hollinshead RIP Recently (Christie)
April 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
	3.00pm	Traditional Latin Mass
Monday 29 th	9.15am	Franko Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
Tues 30 th	9.15am	Fr Bill Pearsall RIP
Wed 1 st May	12 Noon	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Thursday 2 nd	NO MASS	
Friday 3 rd	12.30pm	Graeme Hollinshead REQUIEM MASS
Saturday 4 th	12 Noon	Baptism of Blossom Stockwell
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 5th May 2024		
Saturday 4 th	6.00pm	Patsy Fernandes RIP (Murray)
Sunday 5 th	9.00am	Intentions of Grace Kelly's Family (SB)
April 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish

HOSPITAL: If you are going into hospital this week for surgery Fr Martin will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick after all weekend Masses.

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD WEBSITE:
<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/>

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £125.50 in Envelopes, £360.42 in loose cash, CAFOD £5, £800 Standing Orders. You can give donations to the Priest's House and online for our parish or charities our parish supports at:

www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping//////////

IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: Father Martin will usually have his day off on Thursdays. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either St Edmund's, Loughton – Tel: 0208 5089438, Holy Cross, Harlow – Tel 01279 425776 or The Assumption, Harlow – Tel 01279 429388. This would also apply if Fr Martin is on holiday.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED: If anyone would like to be an altar server, please see Fr Martin or contact the Parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: Masses can be booked through our parish office.

HALL HIRE: Our Hall is available to hire at very competitive rates and a discount for parishioners. Please contact our Parish Office for further details and to book.

CLARE PRIOY PILGRIMAGE: In honour of Mother of Good Counsel.

Sunday 12th May 2024. Please see poster in church porch for details.

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of Kiera Tentis, baptised in our Church on Saturday 20th April. May the Lord bless them and their family and help them bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.*

RECENTLY DECEASED:

GRAEME HOLLINSHEAD, a longstanding parishioner here, who died on 8th April. May he rest in peace, His Requiem Mass will take place here on **Friday 3rd May at 12.30pm**. We offer his wife, Melanie and his family our heartfelt sympathy.

MICHAEL MORGAN, another of our longstanding parishioners, who died on Monday 15th April. May he rest in peace. His Requiem Mass will take place here on **Thursday 9th May at 11am**. Michael is now reunited with his beloved wife, Mary, who passed away on 31st January this year.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to families and all who mourn. May the Lord send his Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and give them with the hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: To celebrate the **Feast of the Ascension** we will have a Vigil Mass here on **Wednesday 8th May at 7.30pm** and then Mass at **9.15am on Thursday 9th May**, the feast day.

COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS: The opportunity to receive communion under both kinds began last weekend. Many parishes in the diocese have already restored the opportunity to receive from the chalice.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The crowning of our Lady's statue will take place at the 11am Mass on **Sunday 12th May**, during which the children of the first Holy Communion group will crown the statue of Our Lady and present flowers to her. This is truly fitting as the month of May is dedicated to Our Lady. There will be a rehearsal, in the church, for the first Holy communion children on **Wednesday 8th May at 5.30pm**.

On **Tuesday 7th May** there will be a meeting for the parents, at **7.30pm**, in our hall. It is imperative that at least one parent from each family attends this meeting.

CLERGY CONFERENCE: **NEXT WEEK**, from **30th April to 2nd May**, Fr Martin will join other priests of our Diocese at a three day Clergy Conference. All active priests of the Diocese have been called to this Conference with the Bishop. Please keep them all in your prayers.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES:

Lord Jesus Christ, our Most Holy Redeemer, by the grace of your Holy Spirit, grant comfort and healing to all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. Through Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES: Denis Tedder (27/4), Daphne McAdam, Fr Brian O'Higgins, Jeannie Enright, Jim Sullivan, Maria Pascale (29/4), Fr John Kennedy James O'Sullivan, Esther Daly (30/4), Pamela Anderson, Cleonagh Jolly (1/5), John Curran, (2/5), Margaret Smith-Galer, Tom Clark, Duncan Wilkie, Morgan Gardiner (3/5), Patrick Butler, Fr Andrew Dorricott, Fr Feargus Saurin, Canon Thomas Norris, (4/5), Canon Patrick Palmer, Canon Basil Booker, Thomas Clark, Albert Bazzoni, Fr John O'Callaghan, Tommy Holmes, Grace Kelly (5/5), *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

USHERS/WELCOMERS: We have a small, dedicated team of ushers who, on a rota basis, welcome parishioners to our weekend Masses. We are in desperate need of more parishioners to join this team.

GARDENER REQUIRED: We are looking for a volunteer to help with the cutting of the grass and general garden/grounds maintenance. Please let Fr Martin or the Parish Office know if you can help.

CHURCH CAR PARK: Due to a marked increase in unauthorised parking in our car park, we have decided to put notices on cars parked there that we do not recognise, reminding drivers that this is not a free parking facility. Parishioners are, of course, allowed to park here but as we do not know everyone's registration numbers we are having to target all cars. Please do not take offence if you receive a parking notice. We would ask that if you intend to leave your car for a longer period of time you let the parish office know your car registration number. Hopefully, these measures will go some way in tackling the problem.

ST BON'S RECONNECT EVENT: **11th July 2024**. St Bonaventure's Catholic School in Forest Gate is holding a special event to bring together former students and staff to celebrate their life achievements and to reconnect. Please see poster in church porch for further details.

EPHING FOREST FOODBANK: Thank you to our generous parishioners for giving for people in need through the **FOODBANK! WE CAN REFER PEOPLE WHO MAY BE IN NEED OF HELP TO THE FOODBANK.** Please contact our Parish Office.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL: "St Michael the Archangel, defend us in this day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen."

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE:

God of peace,
Whose son Jesus Christ taught us
To love our neighbour as ourselves
Give your strength to the people of Ukraine.
Give your wisdom to the leaders of the world.
Give your love to all of us who pray for peace –
Peace that will transform,
Peace that will heal,
Peace that will last.
For the sake of the same Jesus Christ.
The Prince of Peace, Amen