



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Twenty Third Sunday of the Year

1st September 2013

Dear friends,

for most people the holidays are now over and the schools reopen this week. The parish too resumes its normal activities after the quiet days of August. We have a very busy programme ahead of us with preparation for Confirmation and First Holy Communion and the Journey in Faith. The forty hours of Eucharistic adoration takes place at the end of the month. As followers of the Lord all that we try to do is meant to give glory to God and to promote the common good. In today's gospel we are reminded that discipleship is costly. To serve and to follow Christ in this life entails a share in his cross if we are to share in his glory in the life to come. Today's psalm includes the words: *make us know the shortness of our life, that we may gain wisdom of heart*. No matter how busy we are and how great the demands upon our time, we must always keep the final goal in view. We are all on a journey back to God. This weekend let us ask a blessing on our parish community of faith that we may be preserved from all harmful and divisive influences and constantly built up in the peace and power of the Holy Spirit.

God bless you always

Fr James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall
E-mail: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org
11, Church Hill, Epping CM16 4RA

Tel: 01992 572516
Tel: 01992 577173
Tel: 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813
Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 234092

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2013-14: The programme will commence with an information evening for parents at 8pm on Monday 9th September.

2013 CONFIRMATION GROUP: the next meeting of the Confirmation Group will be in the Church Hall from 7.00pm - 9.00pm this Tuesday 3rd September. Please bring a note of your Confirmation names to this meeting. Thanks to those families who have sent contributions towards the £79 per head cost of the weekend at Walsingham House on 20-22 September. Any other contributions will be gratefully received (in an envelope to Fr James, please).

PARISH ASSEMBLY: The annual assembly of the Parish Council takes place on Tuesday 10th September, 7.30pm for 8pm, in the Presbytery. This is a lovely social event as well as a meeting and has been well-attended in the past. There will be "finger food" and drink, plus great company, so do come! It's your chance to get to know the Parish Council team and to discuss your views about the Church, its activities, and how we might make improvements. Topics will include a discussion of potential initiatives to encourage greater participation in Church community activities. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie on 01992 575900 or email dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR SR AGATHA McEVOY: a Memorial Mass will be celebrated for Sr Agatha McEvoy RIP at **Abbotswick House of Prayer on Saturday 7th September 2013 at 2pm. (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME).** Refreshments will be available from 11am. Prayer and praise at 11.30am. Please bring a picnic lunch or enjoy an Abbotswick cream tea from 12.30pm before the Mass at 2pm. Refreshments will be available again after the Mass. All are welcome.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS:

Our Finance and Development Committee has decided with regret that we shall **discontinue the sale from church of Catholic Newspapers and Periodicals from 8th September 2013.** Over the last 2 years sales have reduced to a minimal level (and costs have increased) as parishioners have switched progressively to either direct postal delivery or delivery by their newsagent. By placing a standing order with your newsagent, Catholic newspapers and /or periodicals can be collected each week from the newsagent or delivered to your door, whichever you prefer. We hope that the transition can be carried out smoothly and that the Catholic press will still have a place in the homes of Epping.

FINAL ECUMENICAL STUDY DAY FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH: will take place on Saturday 12th October from 10.30am until 3pm at Brentwood Cathedral Hall. The Rt Hon John Battle will be speaking on the subject "Vatican II and beyond". Please book your place by e-mail to cef@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

EPHING RE-USE CENTRE: there are currently opportunities for both volunteering and paid work at the Epping Reuse Centre. Please contact Dave Lawrence, the manager there, on 01992 578222 for further information.

JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 28th September at 2pm in our Hall.

JOURNEY-IN-FAITH (RCIA): Do you know someone who would like to know more about the Catholic Church, possibly with a view to receiving the Sacraments at Easter? Our Journey-in-Faith Group will meet fortnightly from late September until Easter and Fr James or Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) will be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join us. There will be an information evening on Wednesday 11th September in the Presbytery - it would help if we could know in advance who is expecting to come to this meeting. We would love to hear from you!

40 HOURS EXPOSITION - 27th- 29th SEPTEMBER

Our annual 40-Hours Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place during the last weekend in September. **Please add your name to the Watching Rota on the Porch Notice Board. We are particularly appealing to men for evening and night-time watching.** If you would like to dedicate a candle to a deceased loved one, please place their name in an envelope marked '40 Hours', with a donation of £2 per candle and put it through the presbytery letter-box - names of the deceased .

ECCA QUIZ NIGHT - SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

In our Church Hall 7pm for 7.30pm start. Entrance £10, includes Jacket Potato Supper. Bring-your-own drinks, glasses and nibbles. Tables of up to 8 (10 maximum). For tickets or queries, please ring Janet on 01992 578262

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - Run for a

Child: This is a 5K run taking place on Wednesday 4th September at 7pm at Westley Heights Country Park, Basildon with the support of Pitsea Running Club. More details from Julie Abbott on 01268 784544/ jabot@bccs.org.uk.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday 14th September 2013 - 8.00 pm at The Church of the Holy Redeemer, Billericay. The Barcelona Tour Choir will perform their repertoire from its recent highly successful Spanish tour. Entry is free, with a retiring collection for charity. Everyone is invited.

COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: will be held on Saturday 5th October from 10am to 1pm in the Conference Hall, Cathedral House, Brentwood. Fr Stephen Wang, Dean of Studies at Allen Hall seminary, is the keynote speaker. More information from Elizabeth Abbott on 01277 265236. Everyone welcome.

NEW PARISHIONERS:- please make yourselves known to Father James or Deacon Duncan, so we may welcome and inform you about our parish life.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
31st August and 1st September 2013

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| Sat 31st Vigil Mass | 6 p.m. | Fr Sean O'Driscoll RIP |
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| Sun 1st | 9 a.m. | People of the Parish Ellen Day RIP |
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Week Commencing 2nd September 2013

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| Mon 2nd | 9 a.m. | Parello Family |
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| Tues 3rd | 9 a.m. | Mary Furlong RIP |
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| Wed 4th | 9 a.m. | Canon Timothy Russ RIP |
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| Thurs 5th | 9 a.m. | Teresa Heath (sick) |
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| Fri 6th | 9 a.m. | R & J Richardson |
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| Sat 7th Vigil Mass | 6 p.m. | Denis & Mary Moriarity RIP |
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| Sun 8th | 9 a.m. 11 a.m. | Celia Joseph's intentions People of the Parish |
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Morning Prayer will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9 am Liturgy

Confessions: 11.30am -12 noon and after 6pm Mass.

Please pray for the sick:

Yvonne Morrall, Doris Scott, John Hannis, Amy O'Day, Mike Collett, Gina Pelosi, Marie Verrall, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, Fr Bill Nix, Gus Broks and David Sebire.

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| <u>OFFERINGS:</u> | Offertory Envelopes | 144.50 |
| (£) | Offertory Loose Plate | 300.94 |
| | CAFOD | 49.09 |

Baptisms: Pierce Moran and George Wright - congratulations!