



# Newsletter

## The Immaculate Conception Epping

**Thirtieth Sunday of the Year**

**27th October 2013**

Dear friends

the leaves are quickly falling, the clocks have gone back, suddenly the days have shortened and the onset of winter beckons. At this time of year the atmosphere of transience is very evident. Later in the week the two feasts of All Saints and All Souls will point us beyond this present life to the kingdom that lies beyond and for which we pray whenever we recite the Lord's Prayer. As travellers towards the Kingdom of God we are constantly encouraged not to trust overmuch on our own resources but rather to trust in the mercy and grace of God. Today's parable makes a comparison between a very self assured man rejoicing in his own righteousness and another who simply commends himself to God's compassion and love. Every time we celebrate Mass we begin with a humble acknowledgement of our own faults and our need for God's saving grace. The penitential rite at the start of the Eucharist is a communal expression of our need for forgiveness but it also needs to be supplemented from time to time by a personal and individual act of reconciliation in the Sacrament of Penance.

This weekend Fr Michael Butler, parish priest of Old Harlow, is celebrating his golden jubilee of priesthood. He and I first met in the autumn of 1958 and have been close friends ever since. We offer him our warmest congratulations for his priestly ministry that spans half a century.

***God bless you always  
Fr James***

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**A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY - SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED:** this year's Service for the Bereaved will take place on Sunday 17th November at 3pm. The service is arranged specifically for those who have lost loved ones - spouses, parents, children, relatives or friends, whether recently or some time ago. Further information towards the end of October.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** Date December 7th. Six weeks to go. Generous donations of bottles are required for the Bottle Tombola. Wines and spirits are especially welcome, but soft drinks, sauces, perfumes, anything in a bottle, is needed to fill the stall. **Raffle Tickets** will be given out this weekend after each Mass. Please take a few and sell them to your friends.

**PIETY STALL:** there is a selection of religious Christmas cards at a reasonable price. Also other Christmas bits and pieces. Please come and have a look.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** We are pleased to invite all those who will be alone on Christmas Day to a traditional luncheon in our Hall. Couples and carers are also most welcome. If you are able to HELP in anyway or to reserve your place, please ring Mary Morgan on 01992 574719.

**BBCS-ROMFORD DOGS CHARITY NIGHT:** The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society will be hosting a Charity Night at Romford Greyhound Stadium on Friday 1st November. Tickets are priced at £24. More info at [jabott@bccs.org.uk](mailto:jabott@bccs.org.uk) or 01268 784544.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS:** Monday 4th November at 6pm.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Mr Richard Byrne whose requiem will be on Wednesday 30th October at 10.30am. May he rest in peace.

**FEAST OF ALL SAINTS:** Friday 1st November is the Solemn Holy Day of All Saints with Mass at 10am and 8pm. The following day Saturday 2nd November there will be Mass for all the Holy Souls at 9am.

**CAFOD HARVEST DAY COLLECTION:** thank you for your very generous response of £648.40.

**ALTAR SERVER TRAINING:** a short course for the training of new altar servers will begin at 5pm on Friday 8th November in Church. Those interested are invited to contact Fr James.

**PARISH NATIVITY/CAROL CONCERT:** Rehearsals for the nativity/carol concert will begin soon. There are enough roles for all our young children and we hope that all past and present First Holy Communicants and the children of the children's liturgy classes will participate. Parents and volunteers needed - A BIG PRETTY PLEASE! Watch this space for further details and keep this date free: Sunday 22nd December.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS OF THE CHURCH?** The Parish Council is organising a new website and we are short of suitable images. If you have a photo in electronic format that you would be happy appearing on the site, please get in touch. This might be an image of outside (on a bright day), the inside (when the Church is lit), or of an event in the Hall, for example. Please contact Debbie Harrison on [dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com)

**BRIGHT & LIGHT PARTY:** Churches Together in Epping & District is organising its annual Bright & Light Party in St John's Church on Thursday 31st October from 5pm to 6.15pm. This lively party is a good Christian substitute for the usual Halloween events and parents of primary school children are encouraged to take their children to this free party (which was enjoyed by 150 families last year). For full details please see the notice on the Church noticeboard.

**"HE'S BEHIND YOU!":** Yes, Panto season is just around the corner and it would be great to arrange a parish outing for all our young people (or young at heart) to see Woodford Pantomime's Sleeping Beauty at the Sir James Hawkey Hall in Woodford Green. This excellent production stars one of our very own parishioners! Can you please let me know how many of you are interested ASAP so that I can make a block booking probably for Friday or Saturday night 3rd/4th or 10th/11th January 2014. Please contact Maggie Keeling at [maggie@keelingphysio.com](mailto:maggie@keelingphysio.com) or telephone 07718858879.

**CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS:** the photographs of the recent Confirmations will be available to purchase in the Hall after the 9am and 11am Masses.

**PARISH CAFOD CONTACT:** a new Parish Contact is needed to receive newsletters, notices and letters from the CAFOD Regional Office at Chigwell and to act as the representative of the Parish in matters concerning CAFOD. If you can help, please have a word with Fr James or Deacon Duncan.

**MANY STREAMS ONE RIVER:** don't miss this historic, unique and exciting meeting. In this Year of Faith join Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Archbishop Vincent Nichols and the Movements and Communities in the Church in the UK. The date is 9th November 10.30am to 5pm Methodist Central Hall, Westminster SW1H 9NH. Tickets £12. Further details at [www.manystreamsoneriver.org](http://www.manystreamsoneriver.org) or phone 0207 3525298.

**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**

### **26th and 27th October 2013**

Sat 26th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Thecla Floor RIP
Sun 27th	9 a.m.	Fr Michael Butler (Golden Jubilee)
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

### **Week Commencing 28th October 2013**

Mon 28th	9 a.m.	Bill McEvoy RIP
Tues 29th	9 a.m.	George Rimmer RIP
Wed 30th	10.30 a.m	Requiem: Richard Byrne RIP
Thurs 31st	9 a.m.	Peggy Flanagan 80th birthday
Fri 1st Nov - <b>All Saints</b>	10 a.m.	Special Intention (MC)
	8 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sat 2nd - <b>All Souls</b>	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Thecla Floor RIP
Sun 3rd	9 a.m.	Gloria Gee RIP
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

**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, David Sebire and Gus Broks.

<b><u>OFFERINGS:</u></b>	Offertory Envelopes	249.00
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	395.05
	CAFOD	648.40