



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Thirty First Sunday of the Year

3rd November 2013

Dear friends,

last weekend for the first time since the foundation of the parish in 1932 there was no Sunday Mass in Epping and I am grateful to Deacon Duncan for presiding at Services of the Word with Holy Communion. Months ago I had committed myself to speaking at the priestly golden jubilee of my life long friend, Fr Michael Butler, at Old Harlow. The priest who was to have supplied for me here was ill and I tried six other priests, without avail, to fill the gap. Finally, I rang the bishop who agreed that I should keep to my original commitment. I am explaining all of this because I think it brings home to us all just how acute the shortage of priest is now becoming. Fr Michael Butler enters his 80th year next week. I am now in my mid seventies. Most men of our age have long since retired. Who will replace us? Epping is the sort of parish that should be a seed bed for vocations to the priesthood yet in its 80 year history it has not produced a single priest. We don't grow on trees; we come from normal families. We must continue to pray for vocations but we must also be active in promoting a positive climate for the priestly calling. In a Catholic community it ought to be as serious and as reasonable an option for life as any other.

Today's gospel is pertinent to what you have just read. Jesus called Zaccheus by name and Zaccheus nearly fell out of the tree because it was the last thing he was expecting. We are all called by name and the Lord is still calling for labourers in his vineyard.

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. Five weeks to go. This week's appeal is for a stall which is always popular with our patrons - the Grocery Stall. If each family put 2 or more items in the bag provided the stall will be well-stocked. **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.

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

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.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS: please place your lists in the basket before the altar.

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.

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP: there will be a meeting of the group on Monday 4th November, at 8pm, in the Presbytery. Any interested parishioner is invited to come along.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: will resume on Sunday 10th November during the 11am Mass. This group is for children between the age of 4 to 9 years, however, younger and older siblings are very welcomed. We are currently looking for more helpers for this group to continue. If you are interested please contact Norah on 01992 577932.

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

“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 or telephone 07718858879.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/READERS ROTAS: will those concerned please collect the new rotas from the porch post-box.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE: job vacancy for an Education Adviser. 17.5 hours per week, based in Eccleston Square, Victoria, London. Salary is £25K per annum. For further information about the CES visit: www.catholiceducation.org.uk

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 or phone 0207 3525298.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT GROUP: this group will meet in Brentwood on Friday 29th November at 7.30pm with Fr Martin Boland as speaker. The group is friendly, welcoming and open to all aged 17-35. For more info call Fr Dominic on 01268 281732 or e-mail frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org.

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

2nd & 3rd November 2013

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| Sat 2nd Vigil Mass | 6 p.m. | Thecla Floor RIP |
| Sun 3rd | 9 a.m. | Gloria Gee RIP |
| | 11 a.m. | People of the Parish |

Week Commencing 4th November 2013

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| Mon 4th | 9 a.m. | Special Intention (M.S.) |
| Tues 5th | 9 a.m. | Terry Higgins RIP |
| Wed 6th | 9 a.m. | Fr Francis Feely RIP |
| Thurs 7th | 9 a.m. | Palmer/Saunders RIP |
| Fri 8th | 9 a.m. | Special Intention (J.R.) |
| Sat 9th Vigil Mass | 6 p.m. | Frances Richards (RIP) |
| Sun 10th | 9 a.m. | People of the Parish |
| | 11 a.m. | Sean Garwood |

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, Sean Garwood and Gus Broks.

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| <u>OFFERINGS:</u> | Offertory Envelopes | 120.50 |
| (£) | Offertory Loose Plate | 345.49 |
| | CAFOD | 62.18 |