



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Second Sunday of Advent 7th December 2014

Dear friends,

The prophet Isaiah features prominently in the Advent readings. He describes himself as a voice crying in the wilderness "prepare the way for the Lord." But his cry is also a message of comfort or consolation for those who will listen. Isaiah had to contend with wilderness of burning sands and barren rocks. The wilderness all around us is one of spiritual deprivation as instanced by the frenzy and fever of the shopping spree on Black Friday last week. As Bishop Alan reminded in his Advent letter it is all too easy to be overwhelmed by it all and we need to slow down, to reflect and to listen. Once again I commend our Advent Service of Reconciliation on Monday 15th December. The sacrament of pardon and penance is one of the best ways of preparing for Christmas.

The 50th anniversary of my ordination occurs the weekend before Christmas, a most awkward time to say the least. Because of limited space in both hall and church the organising committee have decided to keep the event over two days. On Friday 19th December at 7.30pm there will be Mass and a reception at Diocesan level for my brother priests and friends from the previous parishes in which I have served, plus a number of people closely involved in parochial life. Then on Saturday 20th December at 5pm there will be a Parish celebration. Ideally one big event would have been better but it is hoped that this compromise will cover everybody.

God bless you always
Fr James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
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NEW ROTA: please can all Readers and Eucharistic Ministers collect a copy of the new rota from the porch.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: Christmas Day Luncheon. Churches together in Epping invite anyone in the Epping area, who will be alone, on Christmas Day, to a traditional Christmas lunch in our Church hall. No charge will be made. Transport can be provided if necessary. Couples seeking company are also welcome. Please telephone Mary Morgan on 01992 574719. Our Church Hall will be open from 10.30am. until 12.30pm. on Christmas Eve to receive gifts food etc. We need drivers, on Christmas Day, to bring our guests and to take them home from 3.30pm onwards. If you are able to help in anyway, please telephone Mary. Your generosity and kindness is deeply appreciated.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting takes place on Monday 8th December in the presbytery at 7.30pm, following the 7pm Mass (The Immaculate Conception). All welcome. If you cannot attend, but would like to raise an issue, please contact Debbie on 01992 575900 or email dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com.

“In Conversation with Bishop Alan” – an evening for young adults aged 17-35, with a unique opportunity to hear Bishop Alan share his vocational journey. **Thursday 18th December, Cathedral House Conference Room, 7.30-10.00pm** including fish & chip supper. Full details at www.brentwoodvocations.org or on the Brentwood Vocations Facebook Page. The evening is free, but registration is required – call Fr Dominic, Vocations Director, on 01268 281732 or email frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org

ADVENT SERVICE OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION:- Monday 15th December at 8pm.

MISSION RED BOXES: Please bring in as soon as possible for emptying. Emptied boxes will be left in the church porch for collection. This is a highly commended way of supporting world-wide missionary action.

ECCA CHRISTMAS CONCERT: ECCA will be holding a Christmas Concert on **FRIDAY 19th December** at 8pm in St.John's Church, Epping. A happy evening is in store which Includes carols for audience participation and seasonal refreshments. Admission is free. Programmes £2.50 to offset expenses and a retiring collection for "The Box". Please come.

CHURCH HALL: a reminder that the parish Hall is available for bookings for private events; special rates for parishioners and charities. Contact Arnold Verrall on 01992 573 633.

EPHING CATHOLIC CHURCH YOUTH EVENT: Saturday 13th December 1pm - Top Golf, Chigwell - Lunch & cake decorating with Santa (includes a gift also) Ages 2-14 recommended - Price £6 per child. **ONLY 4 TICKETS LEFT.**
please contact Justin Willis 01992 812924 or Brenda Hyland 01992 572851 for more information.

*****ARRANGEMENTS FOR Fr JAMES' ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS***** **Please note in your diary** that there will be a **Mass at 5.00 pm** (Note NOT 6pm) on **Saturday 20th December 2014**, which will be **followed by a Buffet Reception and Parish Party in the Church Hall to which ALL parishioners are invited** (whether or not they attend the 5.00pm Mass). At this Reception, it is planned that a presentation will be made to Fr James to mark the celebration of 50 years of devoted service as a priest. **Please do come and join the party!!** Any queries to Deacon Duncan, please.

“HE’S BEHIND YOU!” Following last years success, I have bought 25 tickets for Woodford Pantomime’s ‘ Cinderella’ at the Sir James Hawkey Hall in Woodford Green on Friday 16th January 2015 at 7.30pm. Please contact Maggie Keeling at: maggie@keelingphysio.com or telephone 07718858879, or I’ll be in the choir loft after 11.00am masses. All tickets are £12.15 each. First come first served.

Parish Nativity and Carol Service Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm.
Come and be part of this lovely event:

Casting for parts in the parish nativity and carol service will be this Sunday 7th December after the 11.00am mass. Narrators / readers will need to collect their readings to practise. The service is on Sunday 14th December at 5.30pm but we will need to have children in the church hall at 4.15pm on the 14th to get costumes on and be ready. Please bring your children along on 7th December after 11.00am mass so they can be involved in this beautiful event!

PRAYER VIGIL: During Advent why not come to pray for mothers with crisis pregnancies at Marie Stopes, Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill on Saturdays 7.45am - 11.00am? There will be a peaceful (i.e. **not** a protest) prayer vigil and mothers who wish will be offered counselling and practical help to keep their babies. See poster in church porch for more details or to arrange a lift call Paul on 01992 577104.

ROOM REQUIRED: Young, single man aged 29 is looking for a room in the area for 3 to 4 nights during the week. He has started a new job in the area. Please email Joe Sacarello on sacarellojoe@hotmail.co.uk or text 07979 354399.

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
6th and 7th December 2014

Sat 6th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Rocky Fernandez RIP
Sun 7th	9 a.m.	People of the Parish
	11 a.m.	Soosi & Victoria Joseph RIP

Week Commencing 8th December 2014

Mon 8th Immaculate Conception	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
	7 p.m.	People of the parish
Tues 9th	9 a.m.	Kathleen Wheldon RIP
Wed 10th	9 a.m.	Fr Thomas Flynn RIP
Thurs 11th	9 a.m.	Georgina Fernandez
Fri 12th	9 a.m.	Bill Collier RIP
Sat 13th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	David Jolly RIP
Sun 14th	9 a.m.	People of the parish
	11 a.m.	Denis Earl RIP

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, Gina Pelosi, Marie Verrall, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, David Sebire, Rosemary Freeman, Keith Miller, Mark Toohy, Jenny Downs and Sean Clohessy.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	262.50
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	292.01
	CAFOD	43.08

Thank you