



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

The Presentation of the Lord:

Sunday 2nd February 2014

Dear friends

today we keep the feast of the Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas as it is sometimes called. The prayers and readings are on page 300 of the Mass books. In this celebration Jesus is proclaimed as the light to the gentiles and the glory of Israel. Christ is our light and he illumines our path through life. We are all encouraged at this time of year as natural light increases noticeably but far more important is the increase of spiritual light within us as we strive to follow in the footsteps of our Lord. Two elderly people feature prominently in the account of Jesus' presentation in the temple. The first is the prophet Simeon and the other the widow Anna. Both come across to us as people of faith and people of vision. Even now every parish has its Simeons and Annas, our senior citizens whose prayerful lives and fidelity in coming to Mass makes a rich contribution to the life of the community. As physical strength diminishes, spiritual strength ought to grow and the worship of all our elderly relatives and friends rises quietly to the throne of God to the enrichment of us all.

My trip to Las Palmas was a disappointment in terms of weather, little sunshine and lots of rain: nevertheless I return refreshed and I am very grateful to Deacon Duncan for holding the fort in my absence.

God bless you always
Fr James

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
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FIRST COMMUNION Group: participation at the 11am Mass on Sunday 9th February. Next class for the children will take place this Monday evening 10th February at 6pm.

MUSIC GROUP PLEA: We have a very small and friendly music group. Between us we aim to provide some music for all Masses to suit all ages and tastes. WE NEED NEW MEMBERS!! We have a digital music box affectionately known as “Doris” which can be used when no “live” music is available. Volunteers are required to operate Doris and to lead singing at some Masses. It’s easy! Please contact Maggie on 01992 573962; maggie@keelingphysio.com.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS: please collect the new rotas from the post box in the church porch.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY RAFFLE TICKETS - this weekend: Please buy tickets for SVP’s Annual Raffle. SVP does a wide variety of charitable works including helping refugees in Sudan and Syria **with volunteers on the ground** so your money does reach the needy. Prizes are £3,000, £2,000, £1,000 and ten at £100 and £50. The Draw will be held on 1st March 2014.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Mrs Barbara Gois. We offer our sympathy to her daughter, Mrs Adrianna Bothwell.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE: On Monday February 10th, the Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, please join in a day of prayer and fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. See www.goodcounselnet.co.uk for more information.

LOURDES - SUMMER 2014: The 25th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage runs from 26th to 31st July from £618 by air with full board for five nights, or £418 by coach. The pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs. Please visit www.brentwoodlourdes.org for further information.

WHIST DRIVE: on Wednesday 5th February at 7 Lower Bury Lane at 7pm. Admission £2 with refreshments.

WRESTLING WITH ROMANS: the diocesan Commission for Evangelisation and Formation invites you to a study day on St Paul's Letter to the Romans, entitled "Wrestling with Romans", to be held on Saturday 8th March from 10.30am until 3pm at Brentwood Cathedral Hall. The day will be given by Fr Adrian Graffy, director of the Commission. The day is free of charge and a buffet lunch is provided. Please book by phoning 01277 265289 or e-mail to cef@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT GROUP: open to any young adult, male or female, 17-35, in the earliest stages of considering a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life, or further along the journey. All are very welcome to this informal, interesting and relaxed group. The next gathering is on Friday 28th February, in Brentwood, where the speaker will be Fr Hugh Allan, O Praem. He is a warm and humorous speaker, and well worth listening to. For venue details and to find out more please email the Vocations Director, frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org or call him on 01268 281732.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The Churches Together in Epping and District Women's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 7th March. Daytime service at 2pm at St Mary's Theydon Bois. Evening Service at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, followed by refreshments and a natter. If you want to take part in the Epping service then please contact Lindsey on 07801 352340 or email brown.lindsey@gmail.com. A rehearsal will take place on Friday 28th February at 7.30pm. This is a service for all, not just women!

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
1st and 2nd February 2014

Sat 1st	6 p.m.	Bernard Stevens RIP
Vigil Mass		

Sun 2nd	9 a.m.	Fr Brendan Gorman RIP
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

Week Commencing 3rd February 2014

Mon 3rd	9 a.m.	Ron Kamm RIP
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Tues 4th	9 a.m.	Zita and Lisa
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Wed 5th	9 a.m.	Christopher Glanville (sick)
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Thurs 6th	9 a.m.	Edith Fahy RIP
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Fri 7th	11 a.m.	Requiem Mary Tomlinson
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Sat 8thFeb	6 p.m.	Margaret George RIP
Vigil Mass		

Sun 9th Feb	9 a.m.	Barbara Gois 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, David Sebire, Sean Garwood, Gus Broks, Sean Clohessy and Tom Clark.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	205.00
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	302.21
	CAFOD	53.64