



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Twenty Fourth Sunday of the Year

15th September 2013

Dear friends,

of all our Lord's parables the story of the prodigal son is probably the best known and loved. Jesus told it to bring home to us the unconditional love that God our Father has for all his children. The father in the parable forgives unhesitatingly his wayward boy when the lad returns home, shameful and repentant, having messed up his life totally. The third protagonist in the story is the elder son, a law abiding youth of impeccable behaviour. Unlike his father, he is totally judgemental and unwilling to be reconciled with his feckless sibling. This human drama is very true to life and is being played out all the time in so many families. It challenges us to examine all our relationships. Forgiveness and reconciliation lie at the heart of Christian living but all too often division and recrimination are very hard to dislodge.

This is Home Mission Sunday, a day of prayer in this country to promote ministry and outreach to non Churchgoing Catholics. People lapse from the practice of the faith for all sorts of reasons. It is not for us to judge them but we should take every opportunity to reach out to them and encourage them to return to take their rightful places amongst us around the altar in God's house.

God bless you always

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2013-14: The First Communion class for the children will take place at 6pm on Monday 23rd September.

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.

EPPING 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.

A DAY FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH: led by Fr Daniel O'Leary, a renowned author and theologian on Saturday 28th September 2013 10am - 4pm at Cathedral Conference Centre. Cost £10. Call 01277 265255/219 to book.

PRAY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE BEING CONFIRMED

At 6.45pm on Friday 20th October, our 38 Confirmandi will be leaving Epping on a coach bound for Walsingham House, Canvey Island. This is the Diocesan Youth Retreat Centre and is undertaking the preparation of our candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation on 6th October. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE 38 CANDIDATES, THEIR CATECHISTS, SPONSORS, AND GROUP LEADERS.

*****SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MASS ON 5th/6th OCTOBER*****

The size of our Confirmation Group makes it necessary to make special arrangements for Mass at **11am on Sunday 6th October**, when Bishop Thomas will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our 38 candidates. The cooperation of all parishioners is sought for what will be a wonderful ceremony for our parish. Please pray especially for the 38 Confirmandi.

- There will only be space in church for the 38 Confirmandi, their sponsors and parents. **Special identity cards will be used for those who are allocated seats in church.**
- A live video link is being provided in the Church Hall for the whole Mass, for all other parishioners and relatives and friends of the Confirmandi. Holy Communion will be distributed in the Hall simultaneously with distribution in the Church.
- There will be a short reception in the Church Hall after Mass, at which the Confirmation certificates will be presented to the Confirmandi and refreshments will be served.
- **In view of the exceptional numbers involved, it would be very helpful if as many parishioners as possible please could attend the 6pm Vigil Mass or 9am Mass on this weekend.**

JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 28th September at 2pm in our Hall. There is a list in the Church porch for helpers. We always need lots of help please.

APF BOXES: If you hold an APF red box, please bring it as soon as possible for emptying. The boxes may be left at the Presbytery or handed to John Gee. Emptied boxes will be left in the Church porch for collection. We are seeking additional collectors. If you would like to have a box, please take one marked "New Collector" from the porch and complete the label with your own name and address. **This is a highly commended way of supporting world-wide missionary action.**

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.

WHIST DRIVE: on Thursday 19th September at 7pm at 62A Bower Hill. Admission £2 including refreshments. New and old players welcome.

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 will be displayed throughout the exposition as an aid to prayer.

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

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
14th and 15th September 2013

Sat 14th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Michael Wilson RIP
Sun 15th	9 a.m.	James Farrell RIP People of the Parish

Week Commencing 16th September 2013

Mon 16th	9 a.m.	Cross Family
Tues 17th	9 a.m.	Remedios Ricarte RIP
Wed 18th	9 a.m.	Marie Helaine Fahy
Thurs 19th	9 a.m.	Marian and Charles Ward RIP
Fri 20th	9 a.m.	Special Intention (MC)
Sat 21st Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Margaret White RIP
Sun 22nd	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	People of the Parish Ellen Day 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, John Hannis, Amy O'Day, Mike Collett, Gina Pelosi, Marie Verrall, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, Fr Bill Nix, Gus Broks, Annie Doohan and David Sebire.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	223.50
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	377.25
	CAFOD	86.69

Baptism: Connor Durge - congratulations!