



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Twenty Third Sunday of the Year

8th September 2013

Dear friends,

the first reading is about the gift of wisdom. Wisdom is a spiritual gift given by the Holy Spirit and has to be distinguished from worldly wisdom which for the most part is simply cleverness. It is one thing to be clever, it is another to be wise. The wise person is essentially a humble person who realises that the source of all knowledge is God alone. The prophet Isaiah says that God's thoughts are not our thoughts. When confronted with the wisdom of God we are to respond with humility, with reverence and with awe.

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. It is exactly fifty years ago since Martin Luther King made his memorable speech "I have a dream" in which he confronted the glaring injustices of racial inequality in his own country. Much has happened since then to address that enormous injustice and to improve the situation not only in the U.S.A. but throughout the world. However, much more remains to be done and we all have a part to play in contributing to a society where the dignity of every human being is safeguarded and upheld.

I draw your attention to two meetings this week. On Monday there is an information session for the parents of the First Communion group at 8pm. On Tuesday at 7.30pm we have our annual parish assembly and it would be good to see some new faces - everybody is invited.

God bless you all

Fr James

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2013-14: The programme will commence with an information evening for parents at 8pm on Monday 9th September.

PARISH ASSEMBLY: The annual assembly of the Parish Council takes place on Tuesday 10th September, 7.30pm for 8pm, in the Sacristy. This is a lovely social event as well as a meeting and has been well-attended in the past. There will be “finger food” and drink, plus great company, so do come! It's your chance to get to know the Parish Council team and to discuss your views about the Church, its activities, and how we might make improvements. Topics will include a discussion of potential initiatives to encourage greater participation in Church community activities. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie on 01992 575900 or email dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS: Our Finance and Development Committee has decided with regret that we shall **discontinue the sale from church of Catholic Newspapers and Periodicals from 8th September 2013**. Over the last 2 years sales have reduced to a minimal level (and costs have increased) as parishioners have switched progressively to either direct postal delivery or delivery by their newsagent. By placing a standing order with your newsagent, Catholic newspapers and /or periodicals can be collected each week from the newsagent or delivered to your door, whichever you prefer. We hope that the transition can be carried out smoothly and that the Catholic press will still have a place in the homes of Epping.

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.

EPHING 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.

LOST & FOUND: a video camera was left in the church after the 22nd June First Holy Communion Mass. Attempts to locate the owner have failed. Can anyone help, please? If the owner is not found by the end of September, it is proposed that the (very nice) video camera will be either auctioned or raffled at the Church Bazaar on 7th December. Please claim ownership from Fr James or Deacon Duncan.

THE LEGACY OF VATICAN II: On Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm at Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood, Mgr David Manson will consider the development of liturgy since Vatican II - “Towards Authentic Liturgy”. No charge and no need to book.

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.

JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 28th September at 2pm in our Hall.

JOURNEY-IN-FAITH (RCIA): Do you know someone who would like to know more about the Catholic Church, possibly with a view to receiving the Sacraments at Easter? Our Journey-in-Faith Group will meet fortnightly from late September until Easter and Fr James or Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) will be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join us. There will be an information evening on Wednesday 11th September in the Presbytery - it would help if we could know in advance who is expecting to come to this meeting. We would love to hear from you!

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

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Saturday 14th September 2013 - 8.00 pm at The Church of the Holy Redeemer, Billericay. The Barcelona Tour Choir will perform their repertoire from its recent highly successful Spanish tour. Entry is free, with a retiring collection for charity. Everyone is invited.

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.

CANDLE-LIT VIGIL: to stop the arms trade at the London Excel Centre, where the world's largest arms fair takes place on **Monday 9th September. Meet in Tidal Basin Road at 6.30pm.** Bishop Thomas will, as usual, be showing his support for peace by attending this Vigil. More info from Pat Gaffney, Pax Christi on 020 8203 4884.

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

7th and 8th September 2013

Sat 7th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Denis & Mary Moriarity RIP
Sun 8th	9 a.m.	Celia Joseph's intentions People of the Parish

Week Commencing 9th September 2013

Mon 9th	9 a.m.	Intentions of Gus Broks
Tues 10th	9 a.m.	Intentions of Richard Byrne
Wed 11th	9 a.m.	Thomas Creighton RIP
Thurs 12th	9 a.m.	Fr Thomas Kiernan RIP
Fri 13th	9 a.m.	Special Intention (MC)
Sat 14th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Michael Wilson RIP
Sun 15th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	James Farrell RIP 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, Gus Broks and David Sebire.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	207.00
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	390.69
	CAFOD	1.65

Baptism: George Noonan - congratulations!