



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year

29th September 2013

Dear friends

in today's Psalm we say: *my soul give praise to the Lord*. I can think of no more fitting a refrain to sum up the purpose of the Forty Hours Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament taking place this weekend. The prime purpose of our silent vigil is the greater glory of God from whom all blessings flow. I would add two further themes for this annual observance. We should be praying with and for our 38 young people due to be confirmed next Sunday. In the first reading today St Paul exhorts us to "fight the good fight of faith". We all need the courage of our convictions, especially our teenagers who have to resist all sorts of invidious peer pressure. Secondly in union with Pope Francis we should be praying for peace in the Middle East and for persecuted Christians in Islamic States. Only last weekend yet another Christian congregation was attacked in Pakistan with horrifying consequences. We should not take for granted our own freedom to worship and we need to show solidarity with those who are suffering persecution for professing their faith in Our Lord Jesus.

I would like to offer warmest congratulations to Melanie and Graeme Hollinshead who celebrate their Golden Wedding this weekend. Both are Eucharistic ministers of long standing and Melanie currently chairs our Parish Council. Congratulations also to Mr Bernard George who celebrates his 90th birthday this weekend.

God bless you always
Fr James

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2013-14: Next class for the children on Monday 7th October at 6pm. The Parents' session will take place on Tuesday 8th October at 8pm.

YOUTH MASS FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: a mini-bus has been hired to take all the Confirmation candidates to Brentwood Cathedral for an 8pm Youth Mass on Wednesday 2nd October 2013. The coach will leave at 7pm near the Church, returning at about 9.45pm. Queries to James Ryan please on 07814 226468.

REHEARSAL FOR CONFIRMATION MASS: calling all candidates for Confirmation to the rehearsal on 30th September at 7.30pm. It will be helpful if sponsors and at least one parent can attend this rehearsal at which special identity cards will be issued to each candidate. It is expected that the rehearsal will conclude by 9pm.

*****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.**

GIFT AID SCHEME: if you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme either by Standing Order or using offertory envelopes then please contact our Gift Aid Co-ordinator, Mrs Margaret Lechley on telephone 01992 812935. Those parishioners who, last weekend, signed up to the Scheme using envelopes will find these personally addressed in the letter rack in the porch. Many thanks.

THEATRE OUTING TO KOLBE'S GIFT - 5TH OCTOBER 2013: A reminder that the coach will leave from near the church on Saturday 5th October at 4.30pm for the curtain up at 7pm. Please contact Deacon Duncan with any queries (01992 577173).

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.**

THE LEGACY OF VATICAN II: on Thursday 3rd October at 7.30pm Michelle Moran will discuss "The Universal Call to Holiness". The talk will take place at the Cathedral House Conference Centre. No charge and no need to book. Refreshments provided.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Tony Morrin and Diane Morrin-White whose marriage was blessed in our church on 21st September. We wish them every future happiness.

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.

DIOCESAN TWINNING PROJECT WITH DUNDEE DIOCESE, SA: we are delighted that Fr Gerald Gostling is visiting us in Brentwood for the next couple of months. Fr Gerald will be hosting an event on Friday 11th October 2.30pm-4pm in the Conference Centre, Cathedral House, Brentwood when he will update us on the latest projects being undertaken in Dundee as well as sharing news from our twinned parishes. After his talk there will be the opportunity to chat informally over tea and cakes. Everyone is welcome. To book your place please contact Davina Bolt on 01277 265234 or davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

VACANCY FOR A PAID CHILD MINDER: Epping Green area. Required to carry out school drop off and pick up. Reliability essential. Start date as soon as possible. Please contact Ruth on 01992 561102 or 07961 837902 for further details.

SION COMMUNITY: Praise & Worship evening at Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood will take place on Sunday 29th September 2013 7.30pm to 9pm. Everyone welcome.

NEARLY NEW SALE: Saturday 12th October 10am-12 noon at Theydon Bois Preschool, the Scout Hut, Loughton Lane, Theydon Bois.

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

28th and 29th September 2013

Sat 28th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Bridie Dineen RIP
Sun 29th	9 a.m.	Ron Wheeler RIP
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

Week Commencing 30th September 2013

Mon 30th	9 a.m.	Celia Joseph's intentions
Tues 1st Oct	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Wed 2nd	9 a.m.	Kennedy Family
Thurs 3rd	9 a.m.	Private Intention (P & K)
Fri 4th	9 a.m.	Special Intention (M.C)
Sat 5th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Johanne Hayes RIP
Sun 6th	9 a.m.	Lena Clohessy RIP
	11 a.m.	Confirmation Mass

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 and Gus Broks.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	259.00
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	401.22
	CAFOD	41.00