



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Second Sunday of Easter

28th April 2014

Dear friends,

the gospel today tells of Our Lord's first appearance to the disciples on the first Easter Evening. His first word to them was **peace** and their first reaction was **joy**. Peace and joy are the necessary characteristics of Christian living. Their source is the Holy Spirit, the first gift of the Risen Lord to his followers. The Holy Spirit, given also to us, at Baptism and Confirmation equips and empowers us as the community of faith (the Church) for our mission to communicate Jesus and his teaching to others. When we renewed our baptismal promises on Easter Sunday we committed ourselves anew to that task. We are given a description of the very first community of faith in the second reading taken from Acts. We are told that the whole community was i) faithful to the apostles' teaching; ii) that it expressed fellowship; iii) that it prayed; iv) that it broke bread. Two thousand years later those are the continuing signs of the worldwide community of faith that is the Church. We break bread every time we celebrate the Eucharist and in the coming days our children will be initiated into this practice at their First Holy Communion.

Thank you for our Easter celebrations and a special thank you to all those directly involved in their preparation. Although the Easter morning Masses were packed out, attendance on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday were below average. The great vigil of Easter was celebrated in a half empty church. Thank you for your generous Easter offering and for the collection for the Holy Places in Palestine. Deacon Duncan and I have written to the Council expressing disquiet that a number of worshippers on Good Friday afternoon were given parking tickets. We hope that our letter will have an effect.

God bless you all
Fr James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
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JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 17th May 2014 at 2pm in our Hall. Please place any items in the church porch.

GIFT AID END YEAR TAX LETTERS: if you require a letter, for tax purposes, stating your total contribution to Gift Aid for the year 13/14 then please let Margaret know either on the above telephone number or e-mail epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES, PLEASE: Thanks to the 140 parishioners who have provided email addresses and will now receive their Newsletters by email each week. Paper copies will continue to be available for those who need them. Permission slips and biros will be placed in the church benches and a basket will be left in the church porch to receive them. Thanks to all those who support this parish initiative.

SPRING YOUTH GATHER: The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service would like to invite anyone in school years 7-9 to join us for a day of outdoor activities at Stubbers Adventure Centre in Upminster on 17th May. The cost of the day is just £20 and includes all activities. More information can be found at www.bcys.net/events or call 01277 265286

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHEARSALS: Monday 28th April at 5.30pm and Tuesday 6th May at 5.30pm.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY PLACES COLLECTION: amount raised £326.47. Thank you.

SCIENCE AND ETHICS AT THE START AND END OF LIFE:

An Ecumenical Study Day organised by the Commission for Evangelisation and Formation will take as its topic 'Science and Ethics at the Start and End of Life'. The day, which will take place on Saturday 7th June at Brentwood Cathedral Hall, beginning at 10.30 and ending at 3 p.m., will be given by Dr Gavin Jarvis, lecturer in Pharmacology and Veterinary Anatomy at Cambridge University. There is no admission fee and a buffet lunch will be provided. Please book your place by contacting cef@dioceseofbrentwood.org or by phone to 01277 265289.

BCCS Charity Golf Day – Monday 23rd June 2014:

BCCS will be hosting a Charity Golf Day at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge on Monday 23rd June 2014. Ticket prices are at £45 per person. Places are limited to 80 players so please book early in order to avoid disappointment. Contact: Julie Abbott 01268 784544 / 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: St Pius X Primary School, Chelmsford are looking to appoint a Headteacher to start asap. Please contact Vicky Thorpe on 01276 674149 or vthorpe@eteach.com for details.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Ushers are required, especially for the 11am Sunday Mass. With sufficient volunteers each would only be needed around 6 times a year. Individuals can join with other people. Help is also needed on Saturdays to prepare the Church for Mass by putting out the newsletters, hymn and prayer books. Please phone Michael on 01992 574719 or give your details to Fr James or Deacon Duncan if you are able to help with either or both of these roles.

CHRISTIAN AID: is there a generous person in the parish who will take on the organisation of our share of the street collection? Dorothy Whitehouse is willing to guide and assist (tel 577173). Meantime the list for recruiting collectors will be made available for the gallant volunteers

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 24th May 2014: Come and meet our new Bishop, Fr Alan Williams, current director of the Shrine to Our Lady at Walsingham. Join this pilgrimage by booking a place on the coach asap. Places limited. £15 per person. For further details visit info@abbotswick.org or call the Diocesan House of Prayer on 01277 373959

ST VINCENT de PAUL/ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP - ALDHAM, ESSEX: this annual camp for boys aged 8-13 and girls aged 9-12 is full of fun filled activities in a beautiful 43 acre site, fully supervised in a caring atmosphere (see poster on porch notice board) for £140 (subsidised depending on circumstances). For more information please contact Paul 01992 577104.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE: Join our new Bishop on his first Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. As Director of a Marian Shrine, we could ask for no better spiritual guide than Bishop-elect Alan Williams in this 25th Anniversary Year of the Brentwood Diocesan Pilgrimage. Leaving on Saturday 26th July, returning Thursday 31st. Hotels are very central, and a high standard, and the price includes all meals. From £618 by air (from Stansted), and £418 by coach – full details at www.brentwoodlourdes.org or call Cathy O'Connor about booking, 01206 501146

PARISH HALL: our Parish Hall is available for bookings. Special rates for charities and parishioners. Phone Arnold Verrall on 01992 573633 or mobile 0776 4404813.

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

26th and 27th April

Sat 26th 6 p.m. Private Intention L.M.

Sun 27th 9 a.m. Holy Souls
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Week Commencing 28th April 2014

Mon 28th 9 a.m. Marie Starr's intentions

Tues 29th 9 a.m. Margaret McCarthy (sick)

Wed 30th 9 a.m. The Wells Family

Thurs 1st May 9 a.m. Thanksgiving (T.B.)

Fri 2nd 9 a.m. Holy Souls

Sat 3rd 11 a.m. First Holy Communion Mass
Vigil Mass 6 p.m. David Clancy RIP

Sun 4th 9 a.m. Holy Souls
 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, Sean Clohessy, Patrick Lennon and Tom Clark.

OFFERINGS:	Offertory Envelopes	569.10
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	924.28
	CAFOD	22.66
Standing Orders March/April		2816.12

Thank you