



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Epping

Fourth Sunday of Lent

30th March 2014

Dear friends,

Today we hear the second of three great gospel encounters from St John that mark the second half of Lent. Last week Jesus met the thirsty Samaritan woman at the well. Today he meets the man blind from birth at the pool of Siloam. The restoration of the man's vision points to the deeper healing of inward light. Most of us are not visually impaired but we do have mental or moral blind spots preventing us from seeing ourselves as others see us. It is all too easy or too common to be in a state of denial about our real self. Hence the need for a frequent examination of conscience and reflective reading of Scripture. A sincere and heartfelt confession goes a long way in bringing clarity of vision in our lives. To that end I urge you all to mark Lent by coming to the Service of Penance and Reconciliation at 8pm on Tuesday 8th April.

Today is Mid Lent Sunday or Mothering Sunday when we give thanks for all mothers in our community and recognise all that they do for their families and the wider community.

God bless you all
Fr James

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EASTER LILIES: as is usual you are invited to contribute an Easter lily (£2) in memory of a loved one. Please mark the envelope "Easter Lily".

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 6pm each Sunday of Lent.

WANTED TO RENT: mature couple need a property to rent in Epping and environs. 2/3 bedrooms and garage if possible. Additional storage also needed. Totally reliable and considerate tenants. Please telephone 01992 573385.

ADULT CONFIRMATION GROUP: it is intended to run an Adult Confirmation Group leading to Confirmation at Pentecost 2015. At present there are 3 adults who wish to join the group. Any other candidates should contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) to notify their possible interest. A second information session will be run at 5pm on Sunday 6th April for those who were unable to attend the 23rd March session. (Please bring Baptismal Certificates).

IN LENT WHY NOT COME TO CALVARY? Nearly 200,000 healthy babies are aborted in the UK every year, hundreds every week at Marie Stopes, Buckhurst Hill. In Lent why not come there to pray quietly about this tragedy and especially for the mums, dads, babies, nurses and doctors involved? Join the peaceful vigil (NOT a protest - just Stations of the Cross, the Rosary etc) for as long or as short a time as you can. Every Saturday 7.45am - 11.45am. Call Paul on 01992 577104 or Rose 0208 252 3109 or just turn up.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Tuesday 8th April at 8pm.

JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 17th May 2014 at 2pm in our Hall.

PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING: at Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood will take place on Sunday 30th March 2014 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Everyone welcome.

ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL OFFICER: The Diocese of Brentwood and Brentwood Diocesan Secondary Heads' Association are seeking to appoint an Assistant Professional Officer to assist in the work of Succession Planning and Leadership Development at all levels in the 18 secondary schools in the Diocese. This is a self-employed, part-time appointment, initially for a one year period, starting in April 2014, equivalent to 2 days per week. Daily salary rate of £400 per day, including expenses. More information from Tony Schular on 01245 256030.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Envelopes for the next tax year are available in the porch - please collect your set asap. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme then please contact Margaret Lechley on 01992 812935.

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.

CAKE SALE: There will be a cake sale after the 9am & 11am Mass on the 30th March. Coffee & teas will also be served. All donations will go to "for the love of Joni" Fund. Joni is battling a very rare bone cancer for the second time in 2 years. In 2011, Joni had a large tumour in her Femur, this was treated and removed. Joni remained in remission for just over a year when she relapsed. Joni now has tumours in her skull, spine and ribs.. Treatment in the UK is very limited and Joni may have to travel elsewhere for treatment. Help is required in baking cakes/buns/biscuits. Any queries please contact Marie on 07917163284 or Norah on 01992 577932 .

PIETY STALL: Easter cards and First Holy Communion keepsakes are on sale at the Piety Stall.

LENT LUNCHESES: Each Saturday during Lent one of the Churches in Epping will offer a light lunch (soup, bread and cheese, tea or coffee) between 12.30-2pm. Donations requested for Christian Aid. The next lunch will take place on Saturday 5th April 2014 at Epping Green Chapel, Epping Green.

VOCATIONS WEEKEND for young women (20s and 30s)

Theme: Discerning God's Call in my life

Dates: 23rd - 25th May 2014

Location: Broadstairs, Kent.

More information from Sr Lynne at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org.

SVP: The St Vincent de Paul Society are seeking to recruit a part-time Fundraising Officer to join their team at the Society's busy National Office in SE17. For an application pack and further details please contact Matthew Stockton on 0207 7033030 or e-mail matthews@svp.org.uk.

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL LENTEN LECTURE: Archbishop Bernard Longley will give the final lecture on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm in the Cathedral Hall. The title of the talk is "***The Cost of Discipleship***".

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
29th and 30th March 2014

Sat 29th
Vigil Mass 6 p.m. Vera Doherty RIP

Sun 30th 9 a.m. Mgr Laurence Henry RIP
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Week Commencing 31st March 2014

Mon 31st 9.15 a.m. Gloria Gee RIP

Tues 1st April 9.15 a.m. Margaret Barker RIP

Wed 2nd 9.15 a.m. Francis Daly RIP

Thurs 3rd 9.15 a.m. Tommy Callaghan RIP

Fri 4th 9.15 a.m. Canon Charles Loughran RIP

Sat 5th
Vigil Mass 6 p.m. Mikey O'Shea RIP

Sun 6th 9 a.m. Dan Bellomey RIP
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Morning Prayer will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9.15 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 and Tom Clark.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	216.50
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	262.26
	CAFOD	12.00