



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Twentieth Sunday of the Year

17th August 2014

Dear friends,

In today's gospel we find our Lord well outside his usual places of ministry. He is not in Galilee nor in Judea but the region of Tyre and Sidon. The woman who seeks his help for a sick child is a pagan and at first Jesus seems to have distanced himself from her. But his apparent reluctance does not deter her and Jesus recognises her as a woman of great faith. It is helpful for us to realise that faith transcends denominational labels and at a personal level is known only to God. At times our own faith is sorely tested when our prayers seem to go unanswered. Perseverance is of the utmost importance: we must continue to seek and never stop knocking on the door.

In today's Old Testament reading we hear the words *"my house will be a house of prayer for all peoples."* The refurbishment of our church is now all but complete and on Monday 18th August normal worship will be resumed. We should never take for granted the great gift we have in freedom of worship and easy access to our house of prayer. Our hearts go out to the Christians and other persecuted minorities of Iraq at this time. Their plight should be a major concern of the international community.

God bless you always
Father James

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2014-14: This year there are seventeen applicants. An information session for parents will be held at 8pm on Monday 22nd September in the hall. The enrolment Mass for the children will be on Sunday 27th September at 11am. Classes will commence at 5.30pm on Monday 29th September. NB - no further applications can be considered.

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMITTEE: 8pm on Tuesday 16th September in the presbytery. Anyone with a concern for social issues is warmly welcome to join this group.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY: 7pm on Wednesday 17th September.

CHILDMINDER is needed o pick up a child daily from Ivy Chimney's Primary School and to remain with the child until 5.15pm daily. Please call 07512 653 407. References required.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - GOLF CLASSIC: BCCS is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year . The Golf Classic is an annual event and this year will be held on Friday 19th September at Ilford Golf Club. The price is £45 non Ilford Golf Club members and £25 for members. This includes competitions plus a 3 course evening meal. Contact John Buckley on 01708 455887/j.buckley@hotmail.co.uk.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM - *The Joy of the Gospel* - Pope Francis on proclaiming the Gospel in today's world. Wednesday 17th September - 7.30pm at the Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood. Speaker Fr James Hanvey, SJ - Campion Hall, Oxford. Lecturer and Author. A suggested donation of £5 per person.

JOB VACANCIES AT THE BOX - We have vacancies for paid sessional staff on our alternative education programme starting in September this year for general learning support. We are also looking for anyone with specialist knowledge in maths, science, sport/fitness or cookery. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for any of these positions, please visit our website (www.theboxepping.org.uk) for more details and to obtain an application form, or call Tim Dolan on 01992 577 300. Closing date for applications: Friday 29th August.

UPDATE ON THE RE-DECORATION OF THE CHURCH:

The re-decoration is NOW COMPLETED. The church has had a builders' clean and the sanctuary carpet has also been cleaned. At the time of preparing this notice, we are awaiting the return of the curtain in front of which the crucifix is displayed—this is promised for Friday 15th August.

After the 11 am Mass this Sunday (17th August), we will be returning all the Mass Books, Hymn Books and all the sacred vessels and books, Pascal Candle, vestments etc to the church. We shall also return all the chairs and tables in the Hall to their storage place on the stage. The help of everyone to complete this task will be much appreciated.

Daily 9 am Mass will now return to the church from Monday 18th August, preceded by Morning Prayer at 8.45 am

As we saw when moving from the church to the Church Hall, '*many hands make light work*'. It was a magnificent response — thank you! It would be wonderful to get the same level of help for the return journeys. It should only take a few minutes if everyone helps.....**please!**

RED MISSION BOXES: There was a good response to the recent appeal. Twenty five new boxes have been taken. These will be counted twice annually. Existing boxes are to be handed in as soon as possible. More boxes are available to those who would like one; please contact our parish promoter Mr John Gee on 01992 577742.

GIFT AID OFFERINGS: HM Revenue have refunded us £10927 from our gift aided offerings. A big thank you to all who participate in the Gift Aid Scheme and thank you also to Mrs Margaret Lechley who is always pleased to encourage other tax-paying parishioners to join the Scheme at no extra cost to themselves.

ANNUAL CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2014 - Saturday 27th September, 2014 – Chelmsford Cathedral. Message from the Royal School of Church Music, Essex and East London Area. Do join us for a day of music making, culminating in Evensong sung in the beautiful setting of Chelmsford Cathedral. All the music is in one single book this year – cost £5. To book and order your music please contact Shirley Timmins, 156 Warley Hill, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5HF, or shirleytimmins@btinternet.com. 01277 233302.

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

16th and 17th August 2014

Sat 16th 6 p.m. Private Intention
Vigil Mass

Sun 17th 9 a.m. People of the Parish
 11 a.m. Day family deceased

Week Commencing 18th August 2014

Mon 18th 9 a.m. Geoffrey Joel RIP

Tues 19th 9 a.m. Des Toohy RIP

Wed 20th 9 a.m. Irene O'Neill (sick)

Thurs 21st 9 a.m. Sr Catherine Quigley (Silver Jubilee)

Fri 22nd 9 a.m. Fr Michael Archer RIP

Sat 23rd 6 p.m. Geoffrey Potter RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 24th 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, Mike Collett, Gina Pelosi, Marie Verrall, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, David Sebire, Rosemary Freeman, Keith Miller and Sean Clohessy.

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes 239.80
(£) Offertory Loose Plate 332.85

Thank you