



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

First Sunday of Advent

30th November 2014

Dear friends,

used with care the lovely season of Advent is an antidote to mid winter blues and the brazen clamour of the secular run up to Christmas. The message of Advent is to watch and pray. We try to practise the presence of God who is closer to us than we sometimes realise. The message of Christmas is that God entered our world in human form in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is present to us in the Eucharist and in the Holy Scriptures. He is present to us in the least of his brethren. Many people, who stand at the margins of society, dread this time of year when their sense of loneliness and alienation is heightened. Part of our Advent watchfulness is to recognise them and to meet their needs and respect their dignity in so far as we can. We are told in Scripture that it is more blessed to give than to receive. God grant us all a spirit of generosity as we prepare for Christmas.

This weekend the Rev Jonathan MacNeaney will be ordained as an Anglican priest at St John's, Epping. Pray for him that God may grace his ministry. Continue to pray also for an increase of vocations to our own diocese of Brentwood.

God bless you always
Fr James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: *BAZAAR IS NEXT SATURDAY!!!* Young muscle is urgently needed on Friday 5th (afternoon). Late goods may be left in the porch during the week. Please spend the latter part of the week baking cakes, pies, tarts and puddings for the cake stall.



Everyone is invited to this big Parish community effort in the Church Hall on Saturday from 10.30am - 2.30pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS: The next class will be at 5.30pm on Monday 1st December.

NEW ROTA: please can all Readers and Eucharistic Ministers collect a copy of the new rota from the porch.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: Christmas Day Luncheon. Churches together in Epping invite anyone in the Epping area, who will be alone, on Christmas Day, to a traditional Christmas lunch in our Church hall. No charge will be made. Transport can be provided if necessary. Couples seeking company are also welcome. Please telephone Mary Morgan on 01992 574719. Our Church Hall will be open from 10.30am. until 12.30pm. on Christmas Eve to receive gifts food etc. We need drivers, on Christmas Day, to bring our guests and to take them home from 3.30pm onwards. If you are able to help in anyway, please telephone Mary. Your generosity and kindness is deeply appreciated.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting takes place on Monday 8th December in the presbytery at 7.30pm, following the 7pm Mass (The Immaculate Conception). All welcome. If you cannot attend, but would like to raise an issue, please contact Debbie on 01992 575900 or email dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com.

“In Conversation with Bishop Alan” – an evening for young adults aged 17-35, with a unique opportunity to hear Bishop Alan share his vocational journey. **Thursday 18th December, Cathedral House Conference Room, 7.30-10.00pm** including fish & chip supper. Full details at www.brentwoodvocations.org or on the Brentwood Vocations Facebook Page. The evening is free, but registration is required – call Fr Dominic, Vocations Director, on 01268 281732 or email frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org

ADVENT SERVICE OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION:- Monday 15th December at 8pm.

MISSION RED BOXES: Please bring in as soon as possible for emptying. Emptied boxes will be left in the church porch for collection. This is a highly commended way of supporting world-wide missionary action.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY: on sale now £2.75.

EPHING CATHOLIC CHURCH YOUTH EVENT: Saturday 13th December 1pm - Top Golf, Chigwell - Lunch & cake decorating with Santa (includes a gift also) Ages 2-14 recommended - Price £6 per child. Limited spaces available, please contact Justin Willis 01992 812924 or Brenda Hyland 01992 572851 for more information.

*****ARRANGEMENTS FOR Fr JAMES' ANNIVERSARY**

CELEBRATIONS*** **Please note in your diary** that there will be a **Mass at 5.00 pm** (Note NOT 6pm) on **Saturday 20th December 2014**, which will be **followed by a Buffet Reception and Parish Party in the Church Hall to which ALL parishioners are invited** (whether or not they attend the 5.00pm Mass). At this Reception, it is planned that a presentation will be made to Fr James to mark the celebration of 50 years of devoted service as a priest. **Please do come and join the party!!** Any queries to Deacon Duncan, please.

"HE'S BEHIND YOU!" Following last years success, I have bought 25 tickets for Woodford Pantomime's ' Cinderella ' at the Sir James Hawkey Hall in Woodford Green on Friday 16th January 2015 at 7.30pm. Please contact Maggie Keeling at: maggie@keelingphysio.com or telephone 07718858879, or I'll be in the choir loft after 11.00am masses. All tickets are £12.15 each. First come first served.

Parish Nativity and Carol Service Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm.
Come and be part of this lovely event:

Casting for parts in the parish nativity and carol service will be on Sunday 7th December after the 11.00am mass. Narrators / readers will need to collect their readings to practise. The service is on Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm but we will need to have children in the church hall at 14.45pm on the 14th to get costumes on and be ready. Please bring your children along on 7th December after 11.00am mass so they can be involved in this beautiful event!

PRAYER VIGIL: During Advent why not come to pray for mothers with crisis pregnancies at Marie Stopes, Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill on Saturdays 7.45am - 11.00am? There will be a peaceful (i.e. **not** a protest) prayer vigil and mothers who wish will be offered counselling and practical help to keep their babies. See poster in church porch for more details or to arrange a lift call Paul on 01992 577104.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for Mr Denis Earl who died recently. We offer to his son, Steve, our prayerful sympathy. Please pray also for Mr Peter Dowling, RIP.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please make yourselves known to Father James or Deacon Duncan, so we may welcome and inform you about our parish life.

