



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st December 2014

Dear friends,

on this my golden jubilee weekend I am struck forcefully by the response of the psalm used on the 4th Sunday of Advent - **I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.**

As I reflect upon half a century of priestly ministry I am filled with immense gratitude to Almighty God for more blessings than I can remember. I am also overwhelmed by the affirmation, affection and support that I have received from so many of you both here in Epping and throughout the diocese, particularly the parishes where I have previously served. I am not usually lost for words but on this occasion I find it very difficult to express my gratitude adequately. I am struck by another phrase that occurs in today's scripture, just three words - the **obedience of faith.** The obedience of faith challenges every disciple of Jesus to seek the Father's will just as our Lord himself did. As we stand on the threshold of Christmas, let us go forward together as a faithful community seeking to do whatever God asks of us. Let us celebrate the birth of his beloved Son with gratitude and joy and let us sing forever of his love. God grant a blessed Christmas to us all.

God bless you always
Fr James

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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 on 574719.** Your generosity and kindness is deeply appreciated.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS can be collected from the hall after all Masses. Help is needed for the distribution of other cards in your area where people are unable to get to church.

CHRISTMAS CARD AMENDMENT: Please note Mass for Christmas Eve night will be at **10pm** and not at **10.30pm**. We apologise for this error.

CRIB OFFERINGS will be donated to the Brentwood Children's Society.

CHRISTMAS EVE CONFESSIONS: 11-12 noon. The last opportunity for celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is discontinued until Monday 5th January 2015.

Proclaim'15: New National Initiative In 2015 To Support Parish Evangelisation

'Proclaim '15: BUILDING MISSIONARY PARISHES' is the name of a new national Bishops' initiative being launched in 2015 to support the development of parish evangelisation. It is inspired by Pope Francis' writings and has five parts which include: the provision of free parish small group materials; the organisation of a National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham on 11 July 2015 for 850 evangelisation representatives from across England and Wales; an invitation to parishes to host a parish Prayer Vigil on the night of 11 July 2015 with free prayer materials provided; the invitation to dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own Proclaim '15 event in autumn 2015; the publication of new evangelisation resources as a fruit of the National Conference to equip local evangelisers. Please do get involved in what is a significant new step in service of the proclamation of the Gospel in our area. More information will be available in our newsletter / newspaper / website over the coming months.

Website: www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15 Facebook: [facebook.com/cbcew](https://www.facebook.com/cbcew)
cbcew Twitter: [#proclaim15](https://twitter.com/catholicew) Email: proclaim15@cbcew.org.uk Diocesan contact: *Sylvia Lanz/Lucy Studham on 01277 265 289* CEF@dioceseofbrentwood.org

“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.

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 Mrs Marie Verrall one of our oldest parishioners who has just died at the age of 95. We offer to her son Arnold our deepest sympathy. RIP

THE URSULINE ACADEMY ILFORD: PRINCIPAL -
Salary Range: £90k - £100k required from September 2015

Due to the retirement of the current Principal, the Governing Body is seeking to appoint an outstanding, inspirational leader to the post of Principal. Information on www.uai.org.uk or email teacherapplication@uai.org.uk *Please note unable to accept CVs.* Completed application forms should be returned to the HR Officer by **Closing Date: 12 noon Wednesday 28 January 2015.**
Interviews: w/c Monday 2 February 2015

CAMPION ALUMNI: The Champion School was first opened in 1962 and since then thousands of students and staff have passed through its doors. so where are they now?

In an effort to establish a fully functional Alumni association, a website has been established where Old Boys and Girls can register their details. Please contact oldchampions@thecampionschool.org or go to the website and fill out the membership form. www.oldchampions.org.

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
20th and 21st December 2014

Sat 20th 5 p.m. Jubilee Mass II
Vigil Mass

Sun 21st 9 a.m. James Marshall RIP
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Week Commencing 22nd December 2014

Mon 22nd 9 a.m. Mark Toohey

Tues 23rd 9 a.m. Holy Souls

Wed 24th 6 p.m. Patrick Lennon RIP
Christmas Eve 10 p.m. People of the Parish

Thurs 25th 9 a.m. Fr James' Intentions
Christmas Day 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Fri 26th 10 a.m. Altar Servers' Guild

Sat 27th 6 p.m. Christine Donohoe RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 28th 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, Gina Pelosi, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, David Sebire, Rosemary Freeman, Keith Miller, Mark Toohey, Jennie Downs and Sean Clohessy.

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £ 205.00
(£) Offertory Loose Plate £ 254.45
 CAFOD £ 25.13
Bazaar Takings £1947.30