



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Fifth Sunday of the Year

Sunday 9th February 2014

Dear friends,

when a child is baptised a candle is lit from the paschal candle burning next to the font and then given to the parents and godparents on the infant's behalf. The paschal candle itself first lit during the great vigil of Holy Saturday night represents Christ as the Light of the World. At a requiem Mass that same paschal candle burns next to or very near the coffin. Thus, from cradle to grave, a Christian is accompanied by the light of Christ and is called to walk in that light. Today's gospel reminds us that we should display that light openly and proudly. The world all around us is dark and it is cold and cruel. If we allow the divine light to illumine our path, then in some small way our darkened world becomes a little brighter; our cold world becomes a little warmer and our cruel world becomes a little kinder. In the third Mass celebrated on Christmas morning the words of St John are proclaimed: **the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.** We share Christ's light and in so doing we continue his mission on Earth.

*God bless you always
Fr James*

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall
E-mail: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org
11, Church Hill, Epping CM16 4RA

Tel: 01992 572516
Tel: 01992 577173
Tel: 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813
Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 234092

FIRST COMMUNION Group: the next class for the children will take place this Monday evening 10th February at 6pm.

MUSIC GROUP PLEA: We have a very small and friendly music group. Between us we aim to provide some music for all Masses to suit all ages and tastes. WE NEED NEW MEMBERS!! We have a digital music box affectionately known as “Doris” which can be used when no “live” music is available. Volunteers are required to operate Doris and to lead singing at some Masses. It’s easy! Please contact Maggie on 01992 573962; maggie@keelingphysio.com.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS: please collect the new rotas from the post box in the church porch.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE:

On Monday February 10th, the Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, please join in a day of prayer and fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. See www.goodcounselnet.co.uk for more information.

NEW PARISH WEBSITE: some of you have found the new parish website even before its official launch! If you weren’t one who did, go to <http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk> where you will find details of Mass times, parish group activities, special events, how to hire the hall, and newsletters, current and past. And there is more to come, so make regular visits to see what’s new. Huge thanks go to Debbie Harrison for a great deal of hard work in sitting it up, and to Chris Hoare for his dedication in efficiently managing the website for years, and for assisting Debbie.

ST PATRICK’S CELEBRATION: we are having a “Hooley” at Pelly Court on Saturday 15th March 7.30pm - 11pm. Sing and dance to the best of Irish music, and enjoy a portion of Irish stew. Tickets from Tom McGuirk available from the choir loft at 11am Mass or as detailed on the church notice board.

SVP RAFFLE: many thanks to all who bought tickets and made donations. The draw will be on 1st March. All tickets and monies should be returned (through the Presbytery letter box marked SVP please) on or before Sunday 16th February. The list of winners will be put on the notice board.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT GROUP: open to any young adult, male or female, 17-35, in the earliest stages of considering a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life, or further along the journey. All are very welcome to this informal, interesting and relaxed group. The next gathering is on Friday 28th February, in Brentwood, where the speaker will be Fr Hugh Allan, O Praem. He is a warm and humorous speaker, and well worth listening to. For venue details and to find out more please email the Vocations Director, frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org or call him on 01268 281732.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The Churches Together in Epping and District Women's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 7th March. Daytime service at 2pm at St Mary's Theydon Bois. Evening Service at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, followed by refreshments and a natter. If you want to take part in the Epping service then please contact Lindsey on 07801 352340 or email brown.lindsey@gmail.com. A rehearsal will take place on Friday 28th February at 7.30pm. This is a service for all, not just women!

CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY & PUBLIC POLICY

INTERNSHIPS: for the last eleven years the Catholics Bishops Conference has organised Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships for recently graduated Catholics. This year there will be 8 internships available. All will run from September 2014 to July 2015 and include accommodation and subsistence allowances. Full details can be found at www.cbcew.org.uk/interns. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 26th February 2014.

LENTEN RETREAT: a residential Lenten Retreat led by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham at Abbotswick will take place at their Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood from 7th-9th March 2014. All welcome. Please call 01277 373959 for details.

ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY: "How the Ursuline Sisters came to Brentwood", a talk by Sr Anne Spilberg will take place on Saturday 22nd March 2014 at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood at 2.30pm. All welcome. Further details from Isobel Parks on 01268 289678

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
8th and 9th February 2014

Sat 8th	6 p.m.	Margaret George RIP
Vigil Mass		

Sun 9th	9 a.m.	Barbara Gois RIP
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

Week Commencing 10th February 2014

Mon 10th	9 a.m.	Tim Dickenson RIP
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Tues 11th	9 a.m.	Fr M O'Rourke RIP
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Wed 12th	9 a.m.	Dorothy Robinson RIP
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Thurs 13th	9 a.m.	Daisy Goulder RIP
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Fri 14th	9 a.m.	Fr Joseph Williams RIP
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Sat 15thFeb	6 p.m.	Rita Farrell RIP
Vigil Mass		

Sun 16th Feb	9 a.m.	Thanksgiving (G & M)
	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, Gus Broks, Sean Clohessy and Tom Clark.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	207.00
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	405.16
	CAFOD	21.14