



# Newsletter

## The Immaculate Conception

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

16th November 2014

Dear friends,

people of genius are in short supply but every human being, created in God's image, has been gifted by him in one way or another. If anyone says I am useless he or she is insulting our creator. The Catholic Church encourages us to work for and to promote the common good. In order to do this it is vital that each of us recognises what we can offer to the community. It is equally important that we discern the gifts of others and encourage them to put those talents to good use. To stunt the growth of others is to be guilty of envy or jealousy. To let our own gifts lie dormant is to be guilty of laziness or sloth. Today's parable of the talents praises generosity of spirit: it also condemns reluctance to put to good use what God has given us.

Last week I had a wonderful few days in Rome in anticipation of my forthcoming golden jubilee. I was one of 52 priests for all over the country. Some were keeping sixty years of priesthood and the rest of us either forty or fifty years of ministry. We were guests of the Venerable English College and stayed at their beautiful villa of Palazzola situated in Lake Albano just outside Rome. The oldest in the group was a sprightly 90 year old. The ten diamond jubilarians had the privilege of concelebrating Mass with Pope Francis in his private chapel. On our final evening we were entertained to a banquet hosted by the College which currently has 40 young men in training for the priesthood. All in all it was an inspiring experience.

**God bless you always**

**Fr James**

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**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** Bazaar date December 6th. 3 weeks to the Bazaar (the first Saturday in December.) Plenty of goods are needed for the Toiletry Stall. Please make a special effort to sort out unwanted gifts as this stall never has enough stock.

**Raffle tickets** will be given out at Masses this weekend. Please take a couple of books.

**SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED:** Our annual Service for the Bereaved is arranged for **3.00 pm this Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. Everyone is invited to pray for their beloved dead. The service will include some hymns, remembrance of the loved ones by name as a candle is lit, a short sermon and prayers for the bereaved. Refreshments will be available in the church hall afterwards. All welcome, including your friends.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS:** The next class will be at 5.30pm on Monday 24th November.

**NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS:** please place your lists in the basket below the altar for remembrance in all our Holy Souls Masses.

**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON:** Once again the Churches Together in Epping and District will be hosting Christmas Day lunch and entertainment for those alone at Christmas. The lunch will take place in our Hall from 1pm onwards on Christmas Day. Transport will be provided if needed. A couple or a carer and dependent may apply. If you able to help in any way or provide entertainment or if you wish to give a donation of food, decorations etc then please call 01992 574719.

**CHARITY CHORAL CONCERT - 8pm on Saturday 29th November in The Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay.** Singers from the local area will join the MHR Choir for "A Requiem of Peace" by Andrew Wright. Tickets: Adults £7.50 ~ Concessions £5 are now available via the MHR Parish Office on 01277 624891. All proceeds from this special occasion will go to the charity CRY - Cardiac Risk in the Young, in memory of James Patterson.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** please pray for Mrs Mary Ann Mulligan who died recently. We offer to her son, Frank, our prayerful condolences. RIP.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to Fr Michael Butler, parish priest of Old Harlow who celebrated his 80th birthday on 13th November.

**St John of the Cross Advent Retreat' at Abbotswick, Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood 8th - 12th December 2014.** Please join in this Advent retreat led by Fr Matthew Blake OCD to discover more about St John of the Cross and his teachings. Open to residential and day retreatants. All are welcome but places are limited and booking is essential. For more information please visit our web-site [www.abbotswick.org](http://www.abbotswick.org) or call Abbotswick on 01277

**EPHING CATHOLIC CHURCH YOUTH EVENT:** Saturday 13th December 1pm - Top Golf Chigwell - Lunch & Golf with Santa. 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**QUIZ NIGHT:** Our Lady of Fatima Hall, Howard Way, Harlow CM20 2NS. Saturday 22nd November 7.30pm-11pm. Tickets £5 each. Proceeds to their church sound system.

**"HE'S BEHIND YOU!"** Panto season is upon us again. 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm. All youngsters (and those young at heart) who wish to join us for an evening full of laughter, please contact Maggie Keeling at: [maggie@keelingphysio.com](mailto:maggie@keelingphysio.com) or telephone 07718858879, or I'll be in the choir loft after 11.00am masses. All tickets are £12.15p each. First come first served.

**ST MARK'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Sunday 22nd November 12-2pm in the School Hall. If you are interested in having a stall please contact the school on 01279 421267.

**RECITAL:** The Cathedral House Handbell Ringers would like to invite you to their second Lunchtime Recital at Brentwood Cathedral on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, at 1pm. The recital will feature Popular and Christmas melodies. Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection and any profits will go towards the Samaritans. Do come along to support this recital if you are free and help us to fundraise.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING:** On Monday 17th November please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740 or see [www.goodcounselnetwork.com](http://www.goodcounselnetwork.com).

**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**  
**15th and 16th November 2014**

Sat 15th                      6 p.m.              Molly Firth RIP  
**Vigil Mass**

Sun 16th                      9 a.m.              Holy Souls  
                                    11 a.m.              People of the Parish

**Week Commencing 17th November 2014**

Mon 17th                      9 a.m.              John Forde RIP

Tues 18th                      9 a.m.              Elizabeth McEvoy RIP

Wed 19th                      9 a.m.              Frances Richards RIP

Thurs 20th                      9 a.m.              Beth Davie RIP

Fri 21st                      9 a.m.              Palmer/Saunders deceased

Sat 22nd                      6 p.m.              Michael & Brenda Haugh  
**Vigil Mass**

Sun 23rd                      9 a.m.              Michael Murphy RIP  
                                    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, Marie Verrall, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, David Sebire, Rosemary Freeman, Keith Miller, Mark Toohy, Jenny Downs and Sean Clohessy.

<b><u>OFFERINGS:</u></b>	Offertory Envelopes	406.50
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	377.78
	CAFOD	1.11

***Thank you***