



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

23rd February 2014

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our liturgy this week encourages us to enliven four Christian practices:

- Be holy.
- Love your neighbour.
- Pray for those who 'persecute' you.
- Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect.

'Yes,' you may reply. 'I try to do all these things, because I love God and that is what he asks of me; but I keep failing; I keep getting it wrong; I have to keep apologising to God for my failures'.

God recognises our weaknesses (as well as he recognises our strengths). We will please him if **we too recognise our weaknesses**, which become obvious at times when we try to do what God wants of us and fail in the process. **We must keep trying to be holy**, to love **all** people (our neighbours) including those who upset us. We should make it an ongoing priority in our lives **always to try to be perfect' in God's eyes.**

Fr James returns to us this weekend refreshed in body, mind and spirit after his week on the Diocesan Clergy Retreat. We look forward to his inspiring guidance to help our thoughts and actions bring us towards 'perfection' before God.

God bless you all.

Deacon Duncan

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes

Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse

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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.

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 setting 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.

SENSE AND NONSENSE ON “ASSISTED DYING”: an Assisted Dying Bill to legalise assisted suicide is currently before Parliament. There is often confusion about what “assisted dying” means. The briefing note explains simply and clearly what the issues are, and what the Church says. Copies of this short briefing note from the Bishops Conference of England and Wales are available at the back of the Church or on the website www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide-information.

URSULINE PREPARTORY SCHOOL ILFORD: Open morning for prospective parents on Thursday 27th February 2014 between 9am and 12 noon. This is an Independent Roman Catholic School for Boys and Girls aged 3-11. The nursery is open from the age of 3.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS: the next meeting will take place on Monday 24th February at 6pm in the Church Hall.

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 at 1pm (tea and cake before the service) at the Baptist Church, The Green, Theydon Bois. All welcome.

On the same evening CTED invite you to join them in worship at the United Reformed Church, Lindsey Street, Epping at 7.30pm. All very welcome. Please stay for refreshments afterwards.

On Friday 28th February at 7.30pm there will be a preparation meeting at the United Reformed Church. Anyone wishing to participate in the Service will be most welcome. Readers, ushers, tea makers etc are all needed.

LENTEN LECTURES AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: this year's theme is the *cost of discipleship*. The first lecture will take place on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm. For further details please see www.cathedral-brentwood.org.

REQUIEM MASS: there will be a Requiem Mass for Francis Daly RIP on Tuesday 25th February at 11am. This Mass replaces the normal 9am Mass.

QUESTIONS OF FAITH: you are warmly invited to attend an evening to ask questions on living the Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on Marriage and Family Life, on Wednesday 10th March 2014 at Saint Peter and Paul Parish Centre, Ilford High Road from 7pm. Further details on 020 84780583.

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
22nd and 23rd February 2014

Sat 22nd 6 p.m. Claire Lafford RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 23rd 9 a.m. People of the Parish
 11 a.m. Sean Garwood & Family

Week Commencing 24th February 2014

Mon 24th 9 a.m. Mrs Ruby RIP

Tues 25th 11 a.m. Requiem Francis Daly RIP

Wed 26th 9 a.m. Angela Beckett (sick)

Thurs 27th 9 a.m. Pdraig O'Riada RIP

Fri 28th 9 a.m. Mgr Ralph Brown RIP

Sat 1st March 6 p.m. Patrick Lennon (sick)
Vigil Mass

Sun 2nd March 9 a.m. Christina Donaghoe
 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, Sean Clohessy and Tom Clark.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	235.50
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	374.88
	CAFOD	31.11
Standing orders	January/February	2941.12