



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Epping

Fifth Sunday of Lent

6th April 2014

Dear friends,

do you believe? This is the question put by Jesus to Martha, sister of the dead man Lazarus. It is a question asked also of each one of us. What are we asked to believe? We are asked if we believe in the resurrection to eternal life. Resurrection is something far more than resuscitation. It implies being with God in a state of bliss for all eternity. For the non believer, and non believers are now in the majority in Western society, it is all pure fantasy or childish wishful thinking. But St Paul is quite explicit when he proclaims that Christianity stands or falls by this one central tenet. Without acceptance of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead Christianity has neither point nor purpose.

We are now entering the final phase of Lenten when our prayers and thoughts are to be increasingly centred on our Lord's supreme sacrifice for us upon the cross. I commend to you our Lenten Service of Penance and Reconciliation on Tuesday 8th April at 8pm. Humble confession of our sins and shortcomings is a sure indication of how deeply we accept all that our Saviour has done for us. We are to die to sin if we are to rise with him. Belief in him on the way, the truth and the life is expressed through a humble and contrite Lent.

God bless you all
Fr James

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EASTER LILIES: as is usual you are invited to contribute an Easter lily (£2) in memory of a loved one. Please mark the envelope "Easter Lily".

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 6pm each Sunday of Lent.

WANTED TO RENT: mature couple need a property to rent in Epping and environs. 2/3 bedrooms and garage if possible. Additional storage also needed. Totally reliable and considerate tenants. Please telephone 01992 573385.

ADULT CONFIRMATION GROUP: it is intended to run an Adult Confirmation Group leading to Confirmation at Pentecost 2015. At present there are 3 adults who wish to join the group. Any other candidates should contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) to notify their possible interest. A second information session will be run at 5pm this Sunday 6th April for those who were unable to attend the 23rd March session. (Please bring Baptismal Certificates).

IN LENT WHY NOT COME TO CALVARY? Nearly 200,000 healthy babies are aborted in the UK every year, hundreds every week at Marie Stopes, Buckhurst Hill. In Lent why not come there to pray quietly about this tragedy and especially for the mums, dads, babies, nurses and doctors involved? Join the peaceful vigil (NOT a protest - just Stations of the Cross, the Rosary etc) for as long or as short a time as you can. Every Saturday 7.45am - 11.45am. Call Paul on 01992 577104 or Rose 0208 252 3109 or just turn up.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Tuesday 8th April at 8pm.

JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 17th May 2014 at 2pm in our Hall.

GIFT AID: PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Envelopes for the next tax year are available in the porch - please collect your set asap. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme then please contact Margaret Lechley on 01992 812935.

END YEAR TAX LETTERS: if you require a letter, for tax purposes, stating your total contribution to Gift Aid for the year 13/14 then please let Margaret know either or the above telephone number or e-mail epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES, PLEASE:

As Deacon Duncan announced last week, we are hoping to save time, money and resources by sending out, starting in the next couple of weeks, the weekly newsletter by email. Please complete the 'permission' slip provided, and place it in the box at the back of the church before you leave. Please also remember to add the parish email address (epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org) to your contact list. Thank you!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Ushers are required, especially for the 11am Sunday Mass. With sufficient volunteers each would only be needed around 6 times a year. Individuals can join with other people. Help is also needed on Saturdays to prepare the Church for Mass by putting out the newsletters, hymn and prayer books. Please phone Michael on 01992 574719 or give your details to Fr James or Deacon Duncan if you are able to help with either or both of these roles.

PIETY STALL: Easter cards and First Holy Communion keepsakes are on sale at the Piety Stall.

LENT LUNCHESES: Each Saturday during Lent one of the Churches in Epping will offer a light lunch (soup, bread and cheese, tea or coffee) between 12.30-2pm. Donations requested for Christian Aid. The next lunch will take place on Saturday 12th April 2014 at Epping Green Chapel, Epping Green.

ALTAR SERVERS: please collect a form from the Sacristy regarding the Easter services and return it asap so that a practice can be arranged.

PART-TIME THESPIANS WANTED FOR GOOD FRIDAY: the producer of the dramas on the Epping Walk of Witness on Good Friday is looking for some additional actors and readers. There will be one rehearsal and the Walk itself. If you would like to help please phone Deacon Duncan on 01992 577173 for details.

CONGRATULATIONS to David Sebire who was baptised last weekend.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: the annual Mass for Migrants, in honour of St Joseph the Worker, will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May in Westminster Cathedral, London. Mass begins at 11am and will be preceded by banner procession at 10.30am. More info from Davina Bolt 01277 265234 or email Davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

EPYC SUMMER TERM 2014 - YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MEETINGS

Sundays 5:30pm – 7pm

In The Box

For School Years 3-6

6th April - Session 1

18th April - **Good Friday Walk of Witness**

27th April - EPYC party! **4pm-5:30pm**

25th May - Session 2

29th June - Session 3

20th July - Session 4

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

5th and 6th April

Sat 5th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Mikey O'Shea RIP
Sun 6th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Dan Bellomey RIP People of the Parish

Week Commencing 7th April 2014

Mon 7th	9.15 a.m.	Elizabeth Makepeace RIP
Tues 8th	9.15 a.m.	Fr Geoffrey Webb RIP
Wed 9th	9.15 a.m.	Dan Bellomey RIP
Thurs 10th	9.15 a.m.	Evelyn Faux RIP
Fri 11th	9.15 a.m.	Agnes McPartlan RIP
Sat 12th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Tony Marrinan RIP
Sun 13th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Holy Souls People of the Parish

Morning Prayer will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9.15 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, Patrick Lennon and Tom Clark.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	131.24
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	298.97
	CAFOD	80.31