



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday 5th January 2014

Dear friends,

our celebration of the Epiphany brings to a conclusion all our Christmas observances. Epiphany is a Greek word and it means manifestation. The new born Saviour is not only King of the Jews but he is revealed to all peoples who are represented by the wise men who came from afar. Those eastern pilgrims are called wise since they were genuine seekers of the one true God: as scripture says: the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. We are told that as the wise men offered their gifts they went down on their knees to worship the child. Their example is one we would do well to follow as we enter a new year. As we return to work and resume our normal routine we need to renew to our Lord our commitment to him. What gifts do I possess that I can profitably use in his service? What is my commitment to him in terms of personal prayer and communal worship? Christ is not simply for Christmas. Jesus, as scripture says, is of yesterday, today, the same and forever. For us gold is in short supply and frankincense and myrrh are not readily available in Tesco. Our personal gifts are far less exotic but none the less valuable for that. We are called upon to use them with generosity and joy for the greater glory of God and for the common good.

***God bless you always
Fr James***

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
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JOURNEY IN FAITH: Meeting on Wednesday 8th January at 7.30pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (Monday to Friday) recommences on Monday 6th January 2014.

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: this group is for children between 4 and 9 years, however, younger and older siblings are very welcome. We are currently looking for more helpers for this group to continue. If you are interested please contact Norah on 01992 577932.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: the next class for the children will take place on Monday evening 13th January 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.

THANK YOU: A big thank you to all the children, volunteers and helpers who made our Nativity and Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December - and the festive cheer in the Hall afterwards - a great success! It was a lovely parish community event and wonderful preparation for our Christmas celebrations. Many thanks to all who made it work.

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS) is going to Rome for the Canonisation of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. 44 places are on offer at a cost of £349 for young people 18-35. We depart on Saturday morning 26th of April, stay at a villa outside Rome, travel in for the Canonisation and then fly back in time for work/college/uni on Monday morning. Prices includes flights, transport within Italy and accommodation. For further details, go to www.bcys.net/events, or email Róisín Lancaster at info@bcys.net

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: Churches Together in Epping and District would like to thank members of the Church of the Immaculate Conception for their wonderful kindness and generosity shown to those alone on Christmas Day. The drivers were amazing, giving so much time to bring and return our guests safely home. A special thank you to Fr James for his attentive consideration in welcoming our many guests.

HELP REQUIRED: to assist with caring for a lady who is undergoing treatment for a brain tumour. No experience or professional care is required. Help is needed with general household chores, reading and providing company. Hours and pay negotiable. Please contact Natalie Goldsworthy on 0787035 50708 if interested.

LOURDES - SUMMER 2014: The 25th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage runs from 26th to 31st July from £618 by air with full board for five nights, or £418 by coach. The pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs. Please visit www.brentwoodlourdes.org for further information.

VALENTINE GALA DINNER: The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society invite you to join them for a fabulous evening at their Valentine's Gala Dinner to be held on Friday 14th February 2014 at Stockbrook Golf & Country Club, Billericay. Tickets are priced at £45 per person to include a drinks reception, gifts, dinner, dancing, live entertainment and much more. Contact Julie Abbott on 01268 784544 to book your ticket.

VACANCY: person required for the paid position of Housekeeper at the Diocesan House of Prayer at Abbotswick. 3-5 hours per week. Timing of work can be negotiated. Please contact Sr Theresa on 01277 373959 or email info@abbotswick.org for a job description and personal specification.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for Mr Sean Hayes RIP.

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

4th and 5th January 2014

Sat 4th 6 p.m. Propagation of the Faith
Vigil Mass

Sun 5th 9 a.m. Holy Souls
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Week Commencing 6th January 2014

Mon 6th 9 a.m. E & D O'Halloran RIP

Tues 7th 9 a.m. Christine O'Donoghue RIP

Wed 8th 10 a.m. Intentions of Mrs B Webber

Thurs 9th 9 a.m. Margaret O'Connell RIP

Fri 10th 9 a.m. Paulette Jarold RIP

Sat 11th 6 p.m. Private Intention (B.M)
Vigil Mass

Sun 12th 9 a.m. People of the Parish
 11 a.m. Edith Fahy RIP

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, Tom Clark and Deacon Duncan.

<u>OFFERINGS: - Christmas</u>	Offertory Envelopes	580.00
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	1376.03
	CAFOD	65.06
	Crib Offerings	115.00

<u>Sunday 29th December</u>	Offertory Envelopes	352.00
	Offertory Loose Plate	299.44