



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Sixth Sunday of Easter

25th May 2014

Dear friends,

last year a few months into his pontificate Pope Francis issued a powerful message to the whole Church entitled ***The Joy of the Gospel***. He reminds us that the message of Jesus is a treasure which we are not meant to keep to ourselves but to communicate to a spiritually starved world with conviction and enthusiasm. In many ways laymen and women are better equipped to do this than the clergy. The laity through their places of work and recreation as well as the neighbourhoods in which they live have access to numerous people who have never had any contact with the clergy. Indeed clergy, if they are considered at all, are viewed with suspicion like politicians as professionals paid to plug the party line. Non believers are often intrigued to know why ordinary folk like themselves pray and go to Church. If they ask you just tell them what your faith means to you. If they share some hurt or trouble, tell them that you will keep them in your prayers. Do not be embarrassed to use simple phrases like *God bless you* or *thank God*. Small seeds will often produce rich fruit. Today's reading from St Peter says it all: ***“have your answer ready for people who ask you for the hope you all have.”*** We witness to Jesus not in our own strength but in the power of the Holy Spirit who guides us to the truth.

***God bless you all
Fr James***

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JUMBLE SALE: many thanks to Janet Abbott and her team of helpers who raised the splendid total of £775. Well done everybody and thank you.

BAPTISMS: Finnley Baldwin and George Clarke. Congratulations.

THE HOLY FAMILY SISTERS OF THE NEEDY thank us for £885 raised in last weekend's appeal. As much again was given from the parish funds.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY SEMINAR: Monday 9th June 7.45pm - 9.30pm. Sister Nuala of the Brentwood Religious Education Service will conduct a session for those involved with the children's liturgy at Sunday Mass. Existing helpers are encouraged to attend and newcomers will be warmly welcomed.

EMAIL ADDRESSES, PLEASE: . Please ask if you would like a permission slips to complete. Paper copies of the weekly Newsletter will continue to be available for those who need them.

MISSIONS APPEAL: Missio who organise the appeal for the missions through the Red Boxes thank us for our support throughout the year. Our local organiser is Mr John Gee on telephone 01992 577742 who will gladly provide a box for anybody asking for one.

COULD YOU TEND OUR NEW GARDEN BORDER? We're looking for a volunteer who is prepared to keep the new border, in front of the front door of the church, free of weeds. The church flower arrangers will be using/pruning the shrubs so it probably needs about 2 hours a month of hoeing the weeds. If you can help with this labour of love then please let Fr James or Deacon Duncan know.

EPPING CHURCH UNITY- A DIARY DATE: Epping Churches invite everyone to a Unity Service on the Green outside our Church on Sunday 8th June at 3pm. There will be worship, Bible stories, picnic etc. Please note in your diary or on your calendar and come to join all the Churches in Epping and District to celebrate and give witness to the unity of faith we share.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Ushers are required, especially for the 11am Sunday Mass. 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.

JOB VACANCY: Trinity Catholic High School wishes to appoint a Finance Officer from June 2014. Closing date for applications is Monday 2nd June. For further details please see the school website at <http://fc.tchs.uk.net> or email Margaret Keegan at margaret_keegan@fc.tchs.uk.net.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS: First full Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 1- 9th July 2015. Visit the sites in Jerusalem and Galilee as well as visits to the Christian communities. Cost £1595. Please contact Fr Paul Fox at St Mary's Hornchurch on 01708 447761 or hornchurchstmmg@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

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

ST VINCENT de PAUL/ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP - ALDHAM, ESSEX: this annual camp for boys aged 8-13 and girls aged 9-12 is full of fun filled activities in a beautiful 43 acre site, fully supervised in a caring atmosphere (see poster on porch notice board) for £140 (subsidised depending on circumstances). For more information please contact Paul 01992 577104.

'Chill & be Filled with the Lord!' – You are welcome to join a day of discovery in prayer on 7th June 2014 from 10.30am-4pm at Abbotswick, the Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood. This guided retreat led by Sr Ann O'Sullivan (Sisters of St Gilda's), will focus on the essential and walking with the Lord. A suggested donation £18 per person includes a light lunch and all refreshments. Please call Abbotswick on 01277 373959 or Sr Ann on 07752563520 for further information. Booking is essential and all are welcome!

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
24TH AND 25TH MAY 2014

Sat 24th 6 p.m. Christina Donohoe RIP

Sun 25th 9 a.m. David Clancy RIP
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Week Commencing 26th May 2014

Mon 26th 10 a.m. Mary Furlong RIP
Bank Holiday

Tues 27th 9 a.m. Margaret Wilson RIP

Wed 28th 9 a.m. Anthony Joseph & Family

Thurs 29th 9 a.m. Kathleen Thurlow's Intentions

Fri 30th 9 a.m. Chris Campbell's Intentions

Sat 31st 6 p.m. Christopher Joseph
Vigil Mass

Sun 1st June 9 a.m. Kieran McClean
 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, Rosemary Freeman and Sean Clohessy.

OFFERINGS:	Offertory Envelopes	234.50
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	220.01
	Second Collection	885.03
	CAFOD	40.00