



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Fourth Sunday of Easter

11th May 2014

Dear friends,

this fourth Sunday of Easter is being observed throughout the Church as a **Day of Prayer for Vocations.** The harvest is great and the labourers are few. Priests are becoming fewer and fewer: the need is urgent. Last week I attended the golden jubilee celebrations of Fr Michael Stokes parish priest of Frinton and Dovercourt. I have known Fr Michael nearly seventy years ever since we were in the reception class of St Mary's primary school, Hornchurch. From our generation there five other boys ultimately became priests. There was in that era a culture and nurture of vocations that is now totally lacking: the need to rebuild it is vital. At Mass today you are invited to take a booklet entitled *Praying For Vocations* and to use it in your personal devotions. The parish of Epping dates back to 1932. During all that time it has never produced a single priest and that is a very sobering thought. Today's gospel ends with the words: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." I can honestly say that I have found fulfilment in my half century of priesthood and if I had my time over again I would choose exactly the same path.

Please pray for Mr Tom Clark who has just died in his 90th year. He and his late wife Nora were indefatigable in their service of the parish for nigh on fifty years. In 2010 he received the papal reward Bene Merenti for his services to the Church. His Requiem will be on Wednesday 21st May at 1.30pm.

God bless you all
Fr James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
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JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 17th May 2014 at 2pm in our Hall. Please place any items in the church porch where there is also a list of helpers.

GIFT AID 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 on the above telephone number or e-mail epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES, PLEASE: Thanks to the 148 parishioners who have provided email addresses and will now receive their Newsletters by email each week. A few of these email addresses have bounced back as undeliverable therefore if you have not received your electronic copy but were expecting to please email Margaret Lechley at the Parish email address. Paper copies will continue to be available for those who need them. Please ask if you would like a permission slip to complete.

SPRING YOUTH GATHER: The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service would like to invite anyone in school years 7-9 to join us for a day of outdoor activities at Stubbers Adventure Centre in Upminster on 17th May. The cost of the day is just £20 and includes all activities. More information can be found at www.bcys.net/events or call 01277 265286

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: congratulations to the children making their first Holy Communion this Saturday 10th May. Please pray for: Jacob Armstrong, Sophie Burdett, Luke Doyle, Keira Ferns, Isabelle Gooding, Lewis Lethbridge, Poppy Maguire-Cox and Luca Mathias.

MISSIONS APPEAL: Missions 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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: please pray for Tom Clark and Frank Fernandez, brother of Mrs Mary Murray. RIP.

HOLY FAMILY SISTERS OF THE NEEDY will speak at all Masses next Sunday and make an appeal for their work.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Marie Verrall for her 95th birthday on 15th May.

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.

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

THANK YOU "WHISTERS": thanks to the members of the monthly Whist Group for the £119 donated to the Parish Fund in the financial year to 5th April 2014. New members are always welcome to this (non-serious) social event. Watch the Newsletter for details of the dates and venues.

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.

CAFOD FAMILY BIKE RIDE - Sunday 18th May - through the scenic Lee Valley Park and along the canal to Broxbourne for a picnic before cycling back. Choose from the short 10 mile ride or the longer 18 mile route. £6 entry per person, children under 18 must be accompanied. For more details visit www.cafodbrentwood.wordpress.com/ or email brentwood@cafod.org.uk or telephone 02085029722.

CATHOLIC SINGLES is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

TEACHING VACANCY: The Ursuline Preparatory School Ilford: Governors are seeking to appoint a dedicated, talented, enthusiastic and caring well qualified PE teacher to join their happy, successful school. Applications are welcomed from new entrants to the profession and experienced teachers. Please see www.urspsi.org.uk for more details.

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

10th and 11th May 2014

Sat 10th	11 a.m.	First Communion Mass
	6 p.m.	David Clancy
Sun 11th	9 a.m.	Les Wilson
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

Week Commencing 12th May 2014

Mon 12th	9 a.m.	Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tues 13th	9 a.m.	Doug Bere RIP
Wed 14th	9 a.m.	Margaret Wilson RIP
Thurs 15th	9 a.m.	Mary Furlong RIP
Fri 16th	9 a.m.	David Clancy RIP
Sat 17th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Frank Fernandez RIP
Sun 18th	9 a.m.	Bridie O'Loughlin 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, John Hannis, Amy O'Day, Mike Collett, Gina Pelosi, Marie Verrall, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, David Sebire, Sean Garwood and Sean Clohessy.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	267.00
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	526.83
	CAFOD	46.30

Thank you