



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9th November 2014

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

‘Be wise...think and act in ways that are pleasing to God’, we are advised in the 1st Reading today. As a main objective, as we read in today’s Gospel, **‘we should always be alert and ready to respond favourably to what God wants us to do’**. But we need to remind ourselves that we are not puppets who are controlled by God...we have been given Free Will and are able to decide for ourselves what we will or will not do with our lives. With such freedom goes a great responsibility for the decisions we make and, whilst God is loving, merciful and understanding, he will expect us to decide to live lives of which he will approve. The readings invite us to ask ourselves whether we are always wise and thoughtful in the decisions we take – in all aspects of our lives – and whether we will be able to justify these decisions before God when we are called to account in due course.

Today is Remembrance Sunday, when we reflect on, and give thanks for, the ultimate sacrifice made by so many in the two World Wars and in other conflicts. In particular this year we are celebrating the centenary of the outbreak of hostilities in World War I, when the loss of life was measured in millions...a loss of life which now seems to have been so avoidable, but has contributed in great measure to the freedom we enjoy today. May the souls of all those killed in conflict Rest in Peace and rise in glory.

God Bless.

Deacon Duncan

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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Bazaar date December 6th. 4 weeks to the Bazaar (the first Saturday in December.) This week's appeal is for a stall which is always popular with our patrons. If each family puts two items in the bag provided the stall will be well-stocked.

Raffle tickets will be given out at Masses this weekend. Please take a couple of books.

SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED: Our annual Service for the Bereaved is arranged for **3.00 pm on Sunday 16th November**. Everyone is invited to pray for their beloved dead. The service will include some hymns, remembrance of the loved ones by name as a candle is lit, a short sermon and prayers for the bereaved. Refreshments will be available in the church hall afterwards. All welcome, including your friends.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS: The next classes will be at 5.30pm on Monday 10th November. A session for Parents will take place on Tuesday 11th November at 8pm.

SISTERS OF THE NEEDY who made an appeal some months ago request the return of the blue boxes at your earliest convenience.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS: please place your lists in the basket below the altar for remembrance in all our Holy Souls Masses.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: Once again the Churches Together in Epping and District will be hosting Christmas Day lunch and entertainment for those alone at Christmas. The lunch will take place in our Hall from 1pm onwards on Christmas Day. Transport will be provided if needed. A couple or a carer and dependent may apply. If you able to help in any way or provide entertainment or if you wish to give a donation of food, decorations etc then please call 01992 574719.

CHARITY CHORAL CONCERT - 8pm on Saturday 29th November in The Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay. Singers from the local area will join the MHR Choir for "A Requiem of Peace" by Andrew Wright. Tickets: Adults £7.50 ~ Concessions £5 are now available via the MHR Parish Office on 01277 624891. All proceeds from this special occasion will go to the charity CRY - Cardiac Risk in the Young, in memory of James Patterson.

Miss Beth Davie R.I.P - Many parishioners will remember Beth Davie, who until a few years ago was an active member of our parish community. She has been living in sheltered accommodation in Chingford and died a few days ago. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Grace & St Teresa of Avila, Kings Road, Chingford E4 7HP at 9am on Wednesday 12th November. Please contact Deacon Duncan or Dorothy with any queries.

‘IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON’:- *Preparing for Advent and Christmas.* **Mgr David Manson** will lead this session on **Tuesday 18th November 7.30pm-9.30pm** at Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood. Readers, Liturgy groups, Catechists and Pastoral Assistants are invited to attend. *All are welcome.* **Cost:** *A Donation.*

500 CROSSES FOR LIFE - ECUMENICAL PRAYER PROCESSION FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE- 15TH NOVEMBER 1.30PM WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL PROCESSING TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY:

Every day more than **500*** children die by abortion in England, Scotland and Wales, hence this ecumenical initiative is called **“500 crosses for life.”** Plenty of fliers with more details available in church porch - please take one! Please join the procession or if you can’t then please pray for an end to abortion. * Department of Health statistics state total abortions were 202,577 in 2013.

ST TERESA OF AVILA - 500TH ANNIVERSARY: to mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of St Teresa of Avila there is an exhibition touring the country and, as part of the celebrations, Brentwood Cathedral will be hosting the exhibition from 8-23 November. Information can be found on www.teresaofavila.org.

EPHING CATHOLIC CHURCH YOUTH EVENT: Saturday 13th December 1pm - Top Golf Chigwell - Lunch & Golf with Santa. Ages 2-14 recommended - Price £6 per child. Limited spaces available, please contact Justin Willis 01992 812924 or Brenda Hyland 01992 572851 for more information.

QUIZ NIGHT: Our Lady of Fatima Hall, Howard Way, Harlow CM20 2NS. Saturday 22nd November 7.30pm-11pm. Tickets £5 each. Proceeds to their church sound system.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY: the BCCS will be holding an exclusive ladies-only luncheon at the Rayleigh Club, Rayleigh on Friday 5th December 2014. A delicious two course Christmas lunch with tea, coffee and minced pies will be served at 12.30pm. Tickets £20 per person. Places are limited to 80 so please contact Julie Abbot on 01268 784544/jabott@bccs.org.uk if you would like to book.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES SUMMER 2015: Bishop Alan will lead the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage on Sunday 26th to Friday 31st July 2015. From £649 by air with full board for six days or £429 by coach. For more information visit www.brentwoodlourdes.org.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please make yourselves known to Father James or Deacon Duncan, so we may welcome and inform you about our parish life.

