



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Third Sunday of Lent

23rd March 2014

Dear friends,

for the next three Sundays the gospel will be a lengthy excerpt from St John, beginning today with our Lord's encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Their conversation is about thirst which she perceives simply at the physical level. Very gently Jesus leads her to consider thirst of a deeper dimension: thirst for God and things of the Spirit. Jesus speaks of those who worship "in Spirit and in truth". Time and again in scripture we are warned against worship that is little more than lip service and mechanical ritual, going through the motions without any real engagement of the heart and mind. Indeed in the psalm today we hear the words "harden not your hearts." In the second reading St Paul writing to the Romans says that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of sincere and genuine worship and when we do not know how to pray as we ought the Spirit within us makes good our deficiencies. Frequent invocation of the Holy Spirit with words like **come Holy Spirit** will invigorate our prayer and our worship and maintain in us a thirst for the things of God.

Tuesday next, March 25th, is the feast of the Annunciation. It was encouraging to have good congregations last week for St Patrick and St Joseph. I hope that Lady Day as the Annunciation is sometimes called will also have a good attendance.

God bless you always
Fr James

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS: Monday 24th March 2014 at 6pm.

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. An information evening will be held in the Church this Sunday 23rd March at 5pm. A second information session will still be run at 5pm on Sunday 6th April for those who are 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.

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION: This collection will take place outside Tesco, Epping on 26th March 9am - 6pm. Volunteers are needed for one hour slots during the day. Please ring Mary Morgan on 574719 if you can help.

CAFOD: are you over 16 years and adventurous? If so then join Team CAFOD and take the plunge! The annual abseil down Harlow Water Tower takes place on Sunday 4th May. The event is organised by Harlow Tye Rotary Club, registration fee £30. For more details call 0208 5029722. Places are limited.

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

TEACHING VACANCY: Trinity Catholic High School wishes to appoint a Teacher of Religious Studies with effect from September 2014. Permanent, full time. (A TLR £2561 or £4269 available for a suitably qualified applicant). The successful candidate must be a practising Catholic. Full details available from margaret_keegan@fc.tchs.uk.net or the school website fc.tchs.uk.net. Closing date Monday 7th April 2014.

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.

HOME CLEANER WANTED: a parishioner is looking to employ a paid cleaner for his home. 3 hours a week. £30 per week (£10 an hour). Timing can be flexible. Please call John Gee on 01992 577742 if interested.

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 29th March at the United Reformed Church Hall, Lindsey Street, Epping

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 25th March at 8pm in the presbytery, following Mass (The Annunciation) at 7.30pm. ALL WELCOME. If you cannot attend, but would like to raise an issue, please contact the PPC secretary, Debbie Harrison, on 01992 575900 / dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com.

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.

'40 Days for Life' Half-Way Event! Please join this group at Ealing Abbey Hall on Tuesday the 25th March at 7pm for an evening of prayer, brilliant pro-life speakers and refreshments. Hear about the 9 women who have chosen life for their children during this prayer campaign so far. For more information about '40 Days for Life' please see <http://40daysforlife.com/london-ealing.html>. All are welcome.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA, PORTUGAL: St Helen's, Westcliff-on-Sea have a few places remaining on this pilgrimage on October 8th-14th 2014. Full board - airport transfers, flights and a visit to Santarem (Miracle of the Eucharist). Cost £650 per person. Contact Patricia Burzotta on 01702 432458 for further 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
22nd and 23rd March 2014

Sat 22nd 6 p.m. Maurice O'Regan RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 23rd 9 a.m. People of the Parish
 11 a.m. Anne Marie Bowles RIP

Week Commencing 24th March 2014

Mon 24th 9.15 a.m. Speny de Silva RIP

Tues 25th 9.15 a.m. Tony O'Loughlin RIP
Annunciation

Wed 26th 9.15 a.m. Roger Thurlow RIP

Thurs 27th 9.15 a.m. Ray Ferguson RIP

Fri 28th 9.15 a.m. Fr A Arrowsmith RIP

Sat 29th 6 p.m. Vera Doherty RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 30th 9 a.m. Mgr Laurence Henry RIP
 11 a.m. 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 and Tom Clark.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	189.80
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	345.32
	CAFOD	595.06
Standing orders	February/March	2821.12