



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Epping

Sixth Sunday of the Year

Sunday 16th February 2014

Dear friends,

Christianity offers us a very straightforward directive for happiness and peace of mind: keep God's commandments and try to do what he tells us. For many the word sin is considered unacceptable and out of date, a limitation on personal freedom and self expression. Yet, plain experience clearly demonstrates that where the law of the Lord is infringed much unhappiness ensues. In the psalm today we make the response: *they are happy who follow God's law.* Doing what is asked of us more often than not entails considerable sacrifice and self discipline. If the centre of my own being is Ego I am selfish and self absorbed: my own needs and desires trump everything else. If I make a genuine attempt to place the Lord at the centre of my life then I am enabled to reach out to others and to consider their needs. Sin and selfishness go together: similarly sacrifice is linked to service. Our blessed Lord Jesus is the supreme example of service and sacrifice and it is he who teaches us to pray: *thy will be done.*

I will be away on retreat from Monday to Friday during the coming week. Clergy are expected to make a spiritual retreat annually. It provides us a time to take a serious look at our own lives to see whether we really practise what we preach.

God bless you always
Fr James

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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.

NEW PARISH WEBSITE: some of you have found the new parish website even before its official launch! If you weren’t one who did, go to <http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk> where you will find details of Mass times, parish group activities, special events, how to hire the hall, and newsletters, current and past. And there is more to come, so make regular visits to see what’s new. Huge thanks go to Debbie Harrison for a great deal of hard work in sitting it up, and to Chris Hoare for his dedication in efficiently managing the website for years, and for assisting Debbie.

ST PATRICK’S CELEBRATION: we are having a “Hooley” at Pelly Court on Saturday 15th March 7.30pm - 11pm. Sing and dance to the best of Irish music, and enjoy a portion of Irish stew. Tickets from Tom McGuirk available from the choir loft at 11am Mass or as detailed on the church notice board.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP: Deacon Duncan will lead a Lenten Discussion Group at 3 Lynceley Grange, Epping on March 13th, 20th and 27th and April 3rd and 10th from 2pm - 3.45pm. ***This year’s theme will be “O God, Why?”*** The group will be limited to about 10 members, so please book your place with Deacon Whitehouse or Dorothy on 01992 577173.

RECENTLY DECEASED: please pray for Mr Gus Broks and Mr Francis Daly both of whom died last week. RIP.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY: is recruiting a senior Social Worker to be their new part time (19 hours) Head of Professional Services. More details from Steven Webb on 01268 784544 or swebb@bccs.org.uk.

PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING: at SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood on Sunday 23rd February 7.30pm - 9pm. Everyone welcome.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT GROUP: open to any young adult, male or female, 17-35, in the earliest stages of considering a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life, or further along the journey. All are very welcome to this informal, interesting and relaxed group. The next gathering is on Friday 28th February, in Brentwood, where the speaker will be Fr Hugh Allan, O Praem. He is a warm and humorous speaker, and well worth listening to. For venue details and to find out more please email the Vocations Director, frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org or call him on 01268 281732.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The Churches Together in Epping and District Women's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 7th March at 1pm (tea and cake before the service) at the Baptist Church, The Green, Theydon Bois. All welcome.

LENTEN RETREAT: a residential Lenten Retreat led by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham at Abbotswick will take place at their Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood from 7th-9th March 2014. All welcome. Please call 01277 373959 for details.

JOB - A CANTATA BY MICHAEL STEPHENS: Brentwood Cathedral Music will be hosting a Canatata by Michael Stephens based on the life of Job on Saturday 8th March at 7.30pm, in the Cathedral. The event is in aid of the CAFOD Appeal for the people of Syria. Tickets are £10 adults; £7 Seniors and £1 under 16's. For more information please call 01277 265288.

BRES LENTEN SPIRITUALITY MORNING: Saturday 1st March 9.15am - 12 noon at Conference Centre, Cathedral House, Brentwood. The theme is **Baptism: plunging the depths** and will be led by Fr Martin Boland. For further details please telephone 01277 265285 or mary@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

SVP JOB VACANCIES: the St Vincent de Paul Society currently have vacancies for an Admin Assistant and a Membership Development Officer - South. If interested then please contact Matthew Stockton on 020 7703 3030 or e-mail Matthews@svp.org.uk.

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
15th and 16th February 2014

Sat 15th 6 p.m. Rita Farrell RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 16th 9 a.m. Thanksgiving (G & M)
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Week Commencing 17th February 2014

Mon 17th 9 a.m. Douglas Barker RIP

Tues 18th 9 a.m. Liturgy of Word and Holy Communion

Wed 19th 9 a.m. Liturgy of Word and Holy Communion

Thurs 20th 9 a.m. Liturgy of Word and Holy Communion

Fri 21st 9 a.m. Liturgy of Word and Holy Communion

Sat 22ndFeb 6 p.m. Claire Lafford RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 23rd Feb 9 a.m. People of the Parish
 11 a.m. Sean Garwood & Family

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, Sean Clohessy and Tom Clark.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	260.00
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	341.55
	CAFOD	23.00