

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA
Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516
Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173
Email: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 234092
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Year A SUNDAY 8th January 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

“As soon as Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending on him like a dove, and a voice spoke from heaven saying, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on him’ (Matt. 3:13-17). Jesus’ Baptism marks the beginning of his public life and ministry after the hidden years in Nazareth. The Spirit came down on him and the first place it led him to is the desert where he goes without food for forty days and when he was weak, the devil came and tempted him in three ways. That experience prepared and strengthened him for his ministry to bring the Good News to people that “the kingdom of God is at hand”.

Parents bring their child from the privacy of their home to the church to be Baptised. That marks the beginning of their child’s spiritual life and faith journey in which they are given the same Spirit that Jesus received at his baptism and we are told that “it gave him the power to go about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil” (Acts 10). We too are given the power of the Spirit through our Baptism and other Sacraments, that enable us to make the wise and right decisions and it enables us to go about doing good for the benefit of others.

This Sunday we renew the Promises of our Baptism, made for us by our parents and godparents if we were Baptised as infants or by ourselves if we chose to be Baptised as adults. The sprinkling with Holy Water reminds us of the blessings and graces God gave to us in and through our Baptism and the ways we need to be aware of them in order to grow in a faith relationship with God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Being Baptised or having one’s child Baptised, but then not actively practicing or living one’s faith in relationship with God in the Church is like planting a seed with great potential in the ground but not aiding it to grow by nurturing it. I sometimes think that choosing to be Baptised or have one’s child Baptised is like entering into a marriage relationship – in this instance it is a Covenant relationship with God and the Christian community, God’s family. The same can also be said about any of the other Sacraments we receive, for they are given to us to nurture and strengthen our relationship with God and his people, not to be a one off event or a disconnected experience from a living faith that bring us into relationship with God and people.
May the Lord bless us and renew in us the grace of our Baptism, so that our sins are washed away and we live in grace and holiness with God and people. Fr John.

<u>TIMES OF MASSES & SERVICES: Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th January 2023</u>		
<u>FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Year A) SUNDAY 8th January 2023</u>		
Saturday 7th	6.00pm	Les Banting RIP (Banting)
Sunday 8th	9.00am	The People of our Parish
January 2023	11.00am	Terence Dowling RIP (Dowling) <u>Live streamed</u>
Monday 9th	Week 1 in Ordinary Time Year 1 on Weekdays; Year A on Sundays	
Week 1	9.15am	Dympna Sheehan RIP Recently (Darcy)
Tuesday 10th	9.15am	Mrs Eileen Banting’s intentions
Wednesday 11th	12 noon	Lois Gosnell RIP (FM)
Thursday 12th	St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot	
	9.15am	In thanksgiving (Graves)
Friday 13th	St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor	
	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
<u>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A PEACE SUNDAY 15th JANUARY 2023</u>		
Saturday 14th	6.00pm	Richard Hall RIP Recently
Sunday 15th	9.00am	People of our Parish
January 2023	11.00am	Paddy McEaney RIP Recently (Darcy) <u>Live streamed</u>

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on Saturdays from 11.30am to 12 noon and on request. It was grace-full that quite a number of people came to this Sacrament here recently.

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD WEBSITE: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net//>

CHURCH SERVICES WITH MASSES STREAMED: www.churchservices.tv/timetable/

Sunday Mass at 11am is streamed live from our church on YouTube – details inside

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MASS BOOK Page 125 8th January 2023

ISAIAH 42:1-7 Here is my servant in whom my soul delights: I have given him my spirit

PSALM 28 The Lord will bless his people with peace.

ACTS 10:34-38 God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power to go about...

MATTHEW 3:13-17 After Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit coming down on him.

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 standing orders.

On 1st January Offertories were: Envelopes £220.03, and Loose £125.50. Thank you for your generosity and support for our parish and charities. You can give in donations

to the Priest’s House and online for our parish or charities our parish supports at:

www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////

NEW PARISHIONER OR ADDRESS CHANGE: Welcome to our parish if you moved in recently and please introduce yourself to Fr John or Deacon Duncan. If you changed address in our parish but did not receive a Christmas card, we may not have your up-to-date address. Please email to our Parish Office epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org with your details or complete a Parish Register Form, in the porch, to update.

OUR CRIB OFFERINGS are for the Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society to support their work in helping families and children in East London and Essex. Please be generous with your support for this deserving charity and their good work.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The children's sessions will resume in our Hall with a Wednesday, 11th January at 5.30pm until 6.45pm. The new attendance cards for the stickers are available in church this weekend.

FLAME – RISE UP: Mary arose and went with haste (Luke 1:39) This year's largest UK Catholic Youth Conference will be at Wembley Arena on Saturday, 4th March. Bookings at www.bcys.net. Our parish will pay the cost of tickets for young parishioners to go to this event, which has some wonderful personalities, like Archbishop Tim Costello of Perth, Guvna B, Adenike, Robert Bilott, Faith Child and One Hope Project. Please contact Fr John if you are interested.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES:

Lord Jesus Christ, our Most Holy Redeemer, by the grace of your Holy Spirit, grant comfort and healing to your servants who suffer in mind, body or spirit. When they are afraid give them courage, when they are afflicted give them patience, when dejected lift them up with new hope, when alone, assure them of the prayerful support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

WE PRAY FOR FOR THE SOULS OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI RIP, who died on Saturday, 31st December. His Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Peter's in Rome on Thursday 5th January. We offered Mass for the repose of his soul in our church on Thursday 5th January. Bishop Alan will offer a Solemn Requiem Mass for him at Brentwood Cathedral on this Sunday, 8th January, at 11.30am. **May he rest in peace.**

MRS JUNE BLAKE RIP, formerly an Epping parishioner, who died on Monday, 26th December at Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here in Epping followed by burial in Epping Cemetery. **May she rest in peace.**

RICHARD HALL RIP, Alison Cavadino's father, who died on Sunday, 1st January in Surrey. **May he rest in peace.**

YVONNE STEVENAGE RIP, who died on Wednesday 4th January. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Friday, 3rd February, at 11am. **May she rest in peace.**

ANTHONY TAYLOR RIP who died on 12th December. **May he rest in peace.**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to families and all who mourn at this time. May the Lord send his Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and give them with the hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia McGrath, Canon John Bloomfield (7/1),

John Gallagher, George Hellen, David Asher, Patricia Hair (8/1), Ernesto Bungay (9/1), Anne Condon (10/1), Giuseppe Rizzi, Clifford Boyd, Julie Eke (11/1), Eileen Tyler, Shaun Murdock (12/1), Hilda Priestley, Richard Collar (13/1), Anne Fitzgerald, Stefan Laszczak, Bridget Pettit, Fr John King (14/1) Kenneth Scott (15/1). **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

HALL BOOKINGS contact the Parish Office by telephone or e-mail.
Preferential rates for parishioners & charities.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is holding its Annual White Appeal in our Parish NEXT weekend. It is to protect and respect the human life and dignity of every person from conception until natural death – recognising that all life is gift from God and it is only for him to begin and end it. There will be a retiring collection after the Masses next weekend. Please be generous in supporting SPUC. Any queries to Dorothy Whitehouse at 01992 577173.

MESSAGE FROM BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: We are delighted to invite you to a New Year's Concert here in Brentwood Cathedral THIS Sunday 15th January at 4pm to 5.30pm. Once again, we are delighted to welcome eight year Violinist Hermione Duan who will be accompanied by members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

EPPING CHORUS will perform "*The Armed Man*" by Karl Jenkins on Saturday 21st January at 7.30pm in St. John's Church, Epping. This is a Mass for peace and we will be accompanied by a small orchestra. Admission free but programmes are £2.50 to offset expenses. There will be a retiring collection for the charity 'Free Food For You' as supported by the High Sheriff of Essex who hopes to attend the concert.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023: Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please phone Tangey Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangey Tours \(tangey-tours.com\)](http://Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangey Tours (tangey-tours.com))

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A VOCATION TO BE A PRIEST? Presently we have only five seminarians training to be Priests in our Diocese. Formation is normally six years, but less in some instances. If you are interested or would like to know more, please speak to your Priest or contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

EPPING FOREST FOOD BANK APPEALS FOR: Instant Mash, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Pasta sauce, Jars of Coffee, Jam, Soup, Chocolate, Biscuits, Snack Bars & Breakfast Bars, Custard, Rice Pudding, Rice, Sponge Puddings, Packet Noodles, Tinned Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Crackers, UHT Milk, Long-life Juice, Chocolate Spread, Laundry Tablets, Washing Up Liquid and toiletries. **Goods can be left in our porch by the side of the church.**

WE HAVE FOOD BANK VOUCHERS for anyone who may need them. Please contact Fr John or our Parish Office. In these tough times our parish will do what we can to assist people in financial difficulties. Please contact us and we will respond.

WE LIVE STREAM 11am SUNDAY MASS IN OUR CHURCH on youtube: youtube.com/channel/UCAbSuwE8X5AOaugAT35hREw or search on google: **The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping and visit the channel.** mobile phones scan the QR code to take you to the channel

