

**MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS**  
**5th and 6th December 2015**

Sat 5th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Jeanette Mulligan RIP
Sun 6th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Jovita Darbyshire RIP People of the Parish

**Week Commencing 7th December 2015**

Mon 7th	9 a.m.	Tullia Borelli
Tues 8th <b><u>Immaculate Conception</u></b>	10 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	David Jolly RIP People of the Parish
Wed 9th	9 a.m.	Irene Negri RIP
Thurs 10th	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Fri 11th	9 a.m.	Bill Collier RIP
Sat 12th	6 p.m.	Fr Celestine & Family
Sun 13th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Cleonagh Jolly RIP People of the Parish

**Morning Prayer** will be said in the week, 15 minutes before 9 am Mass

**Confessions:** Saturday 11.30am -12 noon and after 6pm Mass.

**Please pray for the sick:**

Doris Scott, Paula Hall, Tony Mullan, David Kenworthy, James Bullen, Hannah Robinson, Sean Clohessy, Daphne McAdam, Mima Vitello and Catherine Steel

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<b><u>OFFERINGS (£):</u></b>	Offertory Envelopes	224.00
	Offertory Loose Plate	259.18
	CAFOD	7.74

***Thank you for your generosity***



# Newsletter

## The Church of the Immaculate Conception Epping

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**    **6th December 2015**

Dear friends,

John the Baptist features prominently in the liturgy of Advent. Scripture describes him as a voice crying in the wilderness: ***prepare the way of the Lord***. As we Christians struggle to make our voices heard in the pre Christmas clamour of the commercial world, we too feel very much in the wilderness of indifference and incomprehension. Nonetheless, we must continue quietly to proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Saviour in our Advent journey. Please continue in your daily devotion to use the two booklets distributed last week. We are now in the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. I have just made my Advent confession and would encourage you all likewise to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The second significant figure in Advent is our Blessed Lady. Tuesday is the feast of her Immaculate Conception, which is of course our parish feast. I have decided to have 2 Masses on that day at 10 am and 7.30pm. The morning Mass is an hour later than usual in the hope that it will attract some who find 9 o'clock too early. The school run will be well over by then. The evening Mass will precede the meeting of the parish council which is open to all.

Once again I would remind all those wishing to prepare for Confirmation to write a letter of application to me before the end of the month. The course will begin early in the new year.

God bless you always

***Fr James***

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes	Tel: 01992 572516
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse	Tel: 01992 577173
Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall	Tel: 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813
E-mail: <a href="mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org">epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk">www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
11, Church Hill, Epping CM16 4RA	Registered Charity No. 234092

**PETITION NOT TO STOP HELP FOR MOTHERS IN CRISIS**

**PREGNANCIES:** Abortion providers led by British Pregnancy Advisory Services are losing business because of the efforts of pro-life pavement counsellors who stand near clinics and offer women free help, **without coercion**, to avoid abortion. This is currently lawful provided there is no obstruction or harassment. Private clinics want to make it illegal (they receive £600 or more per abortion) by creating “buffer zones” around their premises. **Please sign** the petition to the Home Secretary on the notice board in the church porch.

**ECCA CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Ecce are holding their Christmas concert on FRIDAY 18th December at 8pm in St.John's Church Epping. Carols for choir and congregation and seasonal refreshments. Free admission.

**EARN A LITTLE EXTRA:** Anyone over the age of 18 who has around 6 hours per week to spare (evenings and weekends or mixed) to escort a young parishioner, aged 19, for walks, shopping, entertainment etc. Hours are flexible and salary plus expenses paid. For further details please contact 07790 060410.

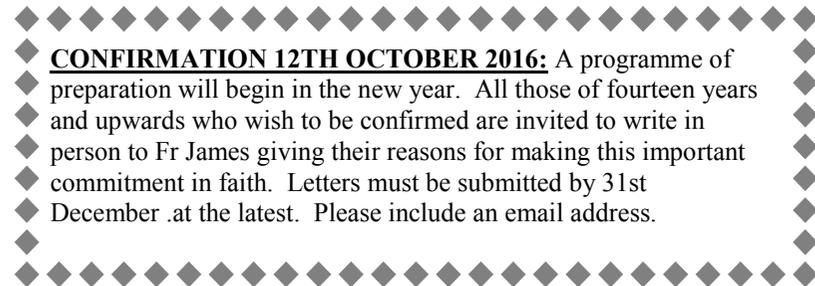
**PARISH COUNCIL:** Our next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 8 December. As it is the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, we will commence with Mass at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please send any items for discussion to Melanie Hollinshead at [melanie@hollinsheadandco.com](mailto:melanie@hollinsheadandco.com), or call 812504.

**APF / MISSIO RED COLLECTING BOXES:** Following the untimely death of John Gee RIP, MRS MOIRA VALLANCE has kindly agreed to take over the task of Parish Organiser for the Red Boxes. Thank you Moira! She can be contacted, if necessary on 01992 560241, particularly by anyone who would like to join the scheme and would like a new Collecting Box.

As it is now **time to empty those boxes which have not been emptied since October 2015**, would **box-holders please return their boxes to the Sacristy as soon as possible**. Moira will empty the boxes, note the contents on the sealing-label and place the boxes in the Church Porch for collection by the owner. **THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL THE BOX-HOLDERS. Your joint efforts result in over £1000 being sent each year to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF), which enables the Gospel to be spread throughout the developing countries around the world.'**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Richard Scott, who was welcomed into our Community at the 9am Mass last Sunday. Richard continues his Journey in Faith, anticipating that he will be received into full sacramental membership of the Catholic Church at Easter 2016. Please pray for him, and his sponsor Stan Holder, that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit as they continue their Journey together?

**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON:** Anyone alone on Christmas Day is invited to join us for a traditional luncheon in our hall. Couples and carers able to help or those who would like company are welcome to join us. Transport can be provided. Please contact Mary Morgan on 01992 574719.



**CONFIRMATION 12TH OCTOBER 2016:** A programme of preparation will begin in the new year. All those of fourteen years and upwards who wish to be confirmed are invited to write in person to Fr James giving their reasons for making this important commitment in faith. Letters must be submitted by 31st December at the latest. Please include an email address.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS:** You are all invited to please collect your copy of the parish Christmas card from the Hall after Mass.

**“HE’S BEHIND YOU!”** Our very own Panto dame will be starring again in the January 2016 Woodford Pantomime ‘Robin Hood’ at the Sir James Hawkey Hall in Woodford Green. All youngsters (and those young at heart) who wish to join us for a fantastic evening of laughter, probably on Friday 15th January at 7.30pm, please contact Maggie Keeling ASAP so that I can order the tickets: [maggie@keelingphysio.com](mailto:maggie@keelingphysio.com) or telephone 07718858879. All tickets are £12.50p each. Thanks

**MASS FOR TRAVELLING COMMUNITY:** As part of the Year of Mercy, Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral would like to invite all members of the **Traveller Community** to come to the Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese, and join the Cathedral parish community at Mass on Sunday 13th December at 6.30 pm. Fr Dan Mason will preach at the Mass.

**PARENT ALERT!! SAFE AT SCHOOL NEWS:** Parents with children of school age (4 upwards) might be aware that a recent government report has confirmed that sex education will **not** be made a compulsory school subject. This means that schools can choose not to teach sex and relationships education (SRE) and parents can withdraw their children from any SRE lessons which are unacceptable to them. It is important that parents are fully aware of the legal status of SRE so to be clear about the issues and for much more information please take a copy of Safe at School News from the back of the church.

**ST JOHN FISHER PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Mrs Bozena M. Laraway writes “I would encourage parents to consider St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School when applying for a place at a primary school. We are proud of our Mission Statement which says: *“The love of God helps us all live, learn and grow to be happy, caring and welcoming”* .... Further information available from the school office on 020 8508 6315 or [admin@st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk).”

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Please make yourselves known to Fr James or Deacon Duncan, so that we may welcome you to the parish and inform you about our parish activities.