

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS – 22nd to 30th April 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

SATURDAY 22nd 6.00pm Mary Canny RIP (Canny)

SUNDAY 23rd 9.00am The People of our Parish

11.00am Des Toohey RIP Anniv. (Toohey)

12.15pm Rose Abel - Baptism

MONDAY 24th St George, Martyr & Patron Saint of England

9.00am Veronica Beard RIP (Beard)

TUESDAY 25th St Mark, Evangelist

9.00am Fr James Hawes RIP (Anon)

WEDNESDAY 26th 9.00am Mary Harte RIP recently (Darcy)

THURSDAY 27th 9.00am Private Intention

FRIDAY 28th 9.00am Private Intention

SATURDAY 29th St Catherine of Sienna, Virgin & Doctor. European Feast.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) – 30th April 2017

SATURDAY 29th 6.00pm James Sullivan RIP 1st Anniv (Sullivan)

SUNDAY 30th 9.00am Frank Fernandes RIP (Murray)

11.00am People of our Parish

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturday 11am to 12 noon & 5.15pm and by request MORNING PRAYER is offered at 8.45am, before weekday Masses in Church DIVINE OFFICE Psalms in Easter Week are from Sunday Week 1 of Breviary ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT MONDAY to WEDNESDAY after 9am weekday Masses for one hour.

PARISH MASS BOOK: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER A Sunday 23rd April 2017

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL Hilda Silver, Brenda Sebire, Mark Toohey, Jim Parello, Giovanni Borelli., Ann Dowd, Marcheta Swift-Daley, James Bullen, Hannah Robinson, Paula Hall, Daphne McAdam, Tony Mullan, Roger Minnis, Sean Clohessy.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: to support the Holy Places in Jerusalem and the Holy Land raised £447.05

OFFERINGS: Offertories: Standing Orders £700. CAFOD £42.86, Thank you for your generous offerings.

EASTER OFFERINGS Fr John expresses his gratitude to parishioners for their very generous Easter Offerings at the Offertory Collection at Easter. In this Diocese it is a personal offering by parishioners to support their priest.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

Address: 11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Email: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

Hall Bookings: e-mail: arnold_verrall@email.com

Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or

01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – DIVINE MERCY DAY 23 April 2017

My dear People,

Jesus said to Thomas “Put your finger here: look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe” (Jn. 20 19:31). The apostles and women did not believe Jesus would rise from the dead, which makes them credible witnesses to his resurrection. Thomas the most credible witness, refused to believe the testimony of others, and said “unless I touch his Lord’s wounds I refuse to believe”. Jesus appeared again to his disciples eight days after his resurrection, and challenged Thomas’ lack of faith and asked him to touch the wounds. Jesus wounds were wounds of love that came from faithfulness to the truth and sacrificing himself for love of God and people. Because Jesus, the new Adam, was obedient to God as opposed to the Adam who was not, he was raised from the dead to new life.

St Paul tells us Jesus resurrection is the foundation of our faith and “if Christ is not risen from the dead our faith is in vain”. Thomas had a conversion when the risen Lord spoke to him and invited him to touch his wounds. When the risen Christ gives himself to us in Holy Communion, our prayer to adore him could be the same as doubting Thomas who humbly said, “My Lord and my God”.

Squeamish people find it difficult if not impossible to deal with the wounds or hurts of others - that can apply to emotional and mental wounds as well as the bodily ones. Jesus does not hide his wounds from his disciples or from us, but asks us to look at his wounds as the price of love for God his Father and us. The greatest love involves great sacrifice and Jesus offered his life as the perfect sacrifice to take sins away. By shedding his blood he brings us into a life-giving relationship with God. When we receive his Body & Blood at Mass, we receive the Risen Lord who gives us new and eternal life. We need to reflect on Christ’s sufferings and wounds and those of other people, and pray that through his sufferings, death and resurrection people may be healed and raised up to share in the glory of God.

Thank you for your generous Easter Offerings, and to everyone who gave of their time and talents to celebrate Holy Week & Easter in our Church. Special thanks to Mrs Dorothy Whitehouse who did an enormous clean of the Church early Easter Sunday, following the Easter Fire at the Easter Vigil. **May God bless your Fr John**

EASTERN AFRICAN FAMINE CRISIS: People still wishing to contribute to the East African Famine Appeal can do so by using the special donation envelopes or a CAFOD envelope marked **African Famine Appeal** and place it in our **CAFOD Box**.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: The present course for people who wish to understand our faith, support the faith of a family member or become Catholic has now finished and will re-start in September, on Tuesdays at 8.00pm. Anyone interested is most welcome and is invited to contact Fr John to discern the way forward in their faith journey.

DIOCESAN CENTENARY EXHIBITION at Cathedral House Conference Room, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AT: April-June 2017. Opening Times: Saturday 10am-5pm. Sundays 9am-1pm & 3pm-8pm. Other times by arrangement with: archives@dioceseofbrentwood.org or telephone 01277 265238.

This is an excellent and fascinating exhibition and well worth visiting.

DIocese OF BRENTWOOD CENTENARY BOOK for sale £7 It has numerous photos showing the history of our Diocese over the past 100 years. It is very interesting and informative on the formation and growth of our Diocese since 1917.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Bishop Alan's desire for the celebration of the Centenary of the establishment of the Diocese of Brentwood, on 20th July 1917, is that we have a great Centenary Pilgrimage, to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, on **Saturday 22nd July**. He asks each parish to have at least one coach and he will preside at the Centenary Pilgrimage Mass at Walsingham on that day. There will be no Masses in parishes in the Diocese on that Saturday evening. Details of our coach travel arrangements will be announced.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The boxes of offertory envelopes for 2017/18 are now available, personally addressed, in the church porch. Please collect your box. If you would like to join our Gift Aid Scheme contact Margaret Lechley in the parish office.

COUNTERS NEEDED We urgently need more people to help count our Offertory Collections on a rota with our existing team of counters. It does not take very long but we need to augment the existing team, especially as we are introducing collection bags, which will give greater security and safety in protecting people's offerings.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The next preparation session for the children will be in our Parish Hall on Tuesday next, 25th April, at 5.45pm.

PARISH REPRESENTATIVE Churches Together Epping & District: We need a parish representative(s) to Churches Together in Epping & District. The commitment is to participate in up to 4 meetings per year and report to Parish Council on what is planned and happening with and between churches in the town and district. You need to be a practising Catholic, a regular Mass attender in our parish and have a positive ecumenical outlook. If you are interested, please contact Fr John, Deacon Duncan or Parish Council Chairman Melanie Hollinshead at our Parish Office.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES led by Bishop Alan Williams from the 23rd to 28th July. Details and application forms are in the church.

Meeting the "Living God" Seminars 2017- Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, BRENTWOOD.

Seminar 4: "The Beautiful will save us: beauty in the thought of Pope emeritus Benedict XVI."

Speaker: Fr Martin Boland, Dean of Brentwood Cathedral

Date: Saturday 17th June 2017, 10.30am-12.00noon

Seminar 5: "God has a dream for each one of us."

Speaker: Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon

Date: Saturday 24th June 2017, 10.30am-12.00noon

Seminar 6: "Contemplative Prayer – is it for me?"

Speaker: Bishop Alan Williams, sm

Date: Saturday 15th July 2017, 10.30am-12.00noon

For further information contact: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org Tel.01277265285

ST VINCENT de PAUL RAFFLE WINNERS: The list of prize winners is on the porch noticeboardbut regrettably Epping did not have a winner. However, statistically our chances next year will be better! Meantime thank you to parishioners once again for your generosity in buying tickets and giving donations. The £500 raised goes to, inter alia, international causes such as SVP's Sudan baby feeding appeal and locally to people in immediate need.

JUMBLE SALE: The next parish Jumble Sale will be on Saturday 20th May in our Hall. If you have a large number of items then please contact Janet on 01992 571128 so that they can be stored in the shed.

WASTE NOT WANT NOT SALE AT THE BOX will be held next Saturday 29th April. All items will be £1 and the proceeds will go to The Box. If people have any items of reasonable quality to donate then please contact Louise on 07952 558317 to arrange for collection.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN CENTENARY CHOIRS CELEBRATION:

Saturday 29 April 5.30pm at St Antony of Padua, Forest Gate, London E7 9QB (followed by Vigil Mass for Sunday at 6.30pm). Parish choirs from the London parishes of the diocese will be taking part. All are most welcome to attend.

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS: The upcoming walks are: The King's Good Servant (the story of heroic St Thomas More), Friday 5th May, 2pm, meeting at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer, Chelsea. Details on catholichistorywalks.com.

ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL UPTON PARK: Vacancy for a new Deputy to start in September 2017. Closing date Friday 5th May. More information from the Head, Mr Mabey, on 0208 472 4337.