

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th May 2017

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 21st May 2017 Day of Prayer for Human Work

Saturday, 20th May 6.00pm Kieran McClean RIP 20th Anniv (Schofield)

SUNDAY 21 May 2017 9.00am Mark & Maggie Keane RIP (Clohessy)

People of our Parish 11.00am Going Forth Mass for First Communion children

MONDAY 22nd May 9.00am The Intentions of Sr Susan (Floor)

TUESDAY 23rd 9.00am Barbara Vitoria RIP anniversary (Cullen)

WEDNESDAY 24th 9.00am Douglas Bere RIP (FM)

THURSDAY 25th 9.00am St Bede, the Venerable, Priest & Doctor – National Memorial

40th day after Easter 9.00am Private Intention

FRIDAY 26th 9.00am St Philip Neri, Priest

Private Intention

Saturday 27th 9.00am St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop – National Feast

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD A 27 May 2017 World Communications Day

Saturday 27 May 2017 6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 28th May 2017 9.00am Maureen Gomer RIP recently (Heughan)

11.00am Mathias McGrath RIP anniversary

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturdays 11.00am to 12 noon & 5.15 to 5.40pm
MORNING PRAYER is offered in the Church at 8.45am, before weekday Mass
DIVINE OFFICE: Psalms for Week 6 of Easter are from Week 2 in The Breviary
BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after 9am weekday Mass

PARISH MASS BOOK: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A Sunday 21st May 2017

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WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL Giovanni Borelli, Hilda Silver, Mark Toohey, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Hannah Robinson, Daphne McAdam, Roger Minnis, Paula Hall, Sean Clohessy, Tony Mullan, James Bullen, Rhoda Limbear, Ann Dowd and parishioners, family and friends who are ill at this time.

OFFERINGS: Offertories: Envelopes **£258.50**, Loose Plate **£275.03**, Standing Orders **£700**. CAFOD **£15.09**. First Holy Communion **£477.31**. *Thank you for your generous offerings.*

MISSION APPEAL: Sr Ruth of The Medical Missionaries of Mary, who made an appeal in our parish for the Missionary Sisters recently, has written to thank parishioners for their amazing generosity and the **£1,250** she received from our parish following the Appeal for sisters working in missionary areas. There is copy of her letter on the Church noticeboard.

BAPTISM: Congratulations to the families of Finley Filan Manning who was Baptised in our Church on Saturday, 13th May, and Benjamin Dudley Goldsworthy who was Baptised in our Church on Sunday 14th May. We pray that the Lord may bless these families and help to bring up their children in the knowledge and love of God.

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/Lebohong

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)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

21st May 2017

My dear Friends,

Jesus said, “In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live”(Jn.14: 15-21). On Thursday, forty days after our Lord’s Resurrection at Easter, we remember his Ascension into glory in heaven. The Church has transferred the celebration of this feast and mystery of our faith to the following Sunday, so that it can be celebrated by more people and have a wider impact in the Christian community. Jesus prepared his disciples for his Ascension, so that they would not feel abandoned and he told them, “I am not going to leave you orphans; I will come back to you”. He will come back at the end of time, but he is always with us in the present moment, and has told us, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them”. Whilst he was taken up out of the sight of his disciples, they and we recognise his presence and see him with the eyes of faith. We know he lives amongst us and in our hearts through his Spirit. By the power of the Holy Spirit he is present in us and the world.

The apostles spent the nine days between Christ’s Ascension and Pentecost with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, waiting and praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Nine days of prayer, or novenas, are not always fashionable today, yet the nine days from next Thursday are important for all of us. During those days we need to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and his gifts to empower and sanctify our lives and our community. Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to come and renew mankind with the power and love of God. We can use hymns to the Holy Spirit like: “Come Holy Ghost, Creator come” or “Come down, O Love Divine”, or “Love Divine” or “Spirit of the living God” or the traditional prayer calling the Holy Spirit to come to us.

Congratulations to the children and families on receiving Christ in their first Holy Communion in our parish on Saturday, 13th May. This Sunday at 11am we will celebrate their “Going Forth Mass”, when they will be presented with their Certificates and have a celebration afterwards. Baptism, Holy Communion, and indeed all the Sacraments are an engagement with God and people in the Christian community. That is why it is important for parents & children to nurture and sustain their Christian life in the Church, through prayer, the Mass and the Sacraments.

May the Lord greatly bless you in these days to Pentecost. Fr John

EASTER DUTIES: Catholics have a duty to receive Holy Communion between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday – and if necessary to go the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

ORDINATION of BISHOP: Pope Francis has appointed Fr John McWilliam of the Missionaries of Africa, (White Fathers) as Bishop of the Diocese of Laghouat-Ghardaïa in Algeria. Fr John had been a British Army Officer who was ordained priest in 1992. He has spent most of his priesthood in Algeria – in dangerous areas and times when 19 priests and religious were murdered. I am attending his Ordination as Bishop at Worth Abbey, Sussex, this Saturday, 20th May. Please pray for Fr John and Christians who are living in perilous situations that the Lord may bless, guide and protect them.

CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Bishop Alan asks that we have a great Brentwood Pilgrimage, to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, on **Saturday 22nd July**, to celebrate of the Centenary of the founding of our Diocese of Brentwood, on 20th July 1917. He asks each parish to have at least one coach. He will preside at the Centenary Pilgrimage Mass at Walsingham, with the priests and people on that day. There will be no Saturday evening Masses in parishes in the Diocese on that day. **Details of the coach travel from our parish will be announced.**

STUDY DAY ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE: A study day on The Deacon in the Church will be held at the Church of the English Martyrs, Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, RM12 6BJ on Saturday 3rd June 2017 from 9.30 to 1.00 (preceded by Mass at 9.00). It will consider the history of the diaconate from the ordination of the first deacons (Acts 6) to the present day, with a special focus on the restoration of the permanent diaconate by the Second Vatican Council and the life and ministry of deacons in today's Church. Aimed at all those with an interest in the breadth of ministries in the Church in changing times, and those who have seen a deacon in action but would like to find out more, there will also be an opportunity to hear about the formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate, and to meet with some of our diocesan deacons and their wives. All are welcome

REPRESENTATIVE to Churches Together in Epping & District: We need a parish representative(s) to Churches Together in Epping & District. It involves attending up to 4 meetings a year and reporting to Parish Council on what is happening with churches in the area. You must be a practising Catholic, regularly attending Mass here and have an ecumenical outlook. If you can help please contact Fr John, Deacon Duncan or Parish Council Chairman, Melanie Hollinshead.

APPLYING FOR SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018: Parents & carers who want a priest's reference to support an application for a school place for their child in September 2018 must be attending Sunday Mass consistently. When people are not attending Mass regularly there is no point in seeking a priest's reference this Autumn.

JOHN JOSEPH GORDON RIP late of Dortmund, Germany, who died on Friday, 17th March. He will be received into our Church at 12 noon on Friday, 2nd June, for the celebration of his Funeral Service, which will be followed by interment at Epping Cemetery. **May he rest in peace.** We offer our prayers for the repose of his soul and the comforting of all who mourn for him at this time.

JUMBLE SALE: A big thank you to everyone who gave goods for the Jumble Sale, all who helped prepare and run the stalls and provide and serve the refreshments.

DIOCESAN CENTENARY LECTURE: “The Foundation & Early Years of the Diocese (1917-1951)”. **Wednesday 7th June at 7.30pm.** Cathedral Hall, Ingrave Rd, Brentwood CM15 8AT. Speaker: Father Stewart Foster, Diocesan Archivist. Free admission

EPHING FOREST FOODBANK (an extension of Loughton Foodbank) **at The Box**, St John's Road, Epping is open on Mondays from **3.30-5.00pm**. **Helpers are needed to work on a rota basis** (after training). Please give your name to John McCredie (an Epping Foodbank co-ordinator email: johnmccredie92@gmail.com), or Tel. 01992 577943; Fr John or Deacon Duncan if you could join an enthusiastic team to help in this charitable work. If you know anyone in need of short-term help from the Foodbank, then ask them to contact Paul Ives (01992 577104) or the SVP.

QUIZ NIGHT: Ecce are holding a quiz night on Saturday 10th June, in our church hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £7.50 each but please bring own nibbles, drinks and food. Tables of 8 max. To book a table ring Janet on 578262.

GENERAL ELECTION HUSTINGS All our political candidates have been invited by Epping Churches Together to make their positions known at a **Hustings Meeting in St John the Baptist Church, Epping on THIS TUESDAY 23rd MAY AT 8pm**. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting (admission is free). If you have questions which you would like to have presented to the panel, please email them to hustings@gmail.com by 20th May. Details are on the noticeboard.

THANKS TO 'WHISTERS' Many thanks to members of the Whisters Group, which meets monthly to enjoy an evening's not-too-serious-Whist. During the financial year ended 5th April 2017, the Group has contributed £154 to Parish funds. New members are always welcome. if you are interested and you would like to come to the June meeting,and we hope you are(!!!), contact Arnold Verrall (details on cover page).

PENTECOST GAMES AND PARTY To celebrate the 'Birthday' of the Christian Church, Churches Together in Epping and District has organised another **Pentecost Event on Pentecost Sunday commencing at Lower Swaines Recreation Park, Epping. From 2.30pm – 4.30pm there will be Games for most who are 'able'**, with drinks available; Children are particularly welcome to show us their prowess!! **From 4.30pm – 5.30pm, the fun moves to Costa Coffee in the High Street, where there will be Table Games and Children's Activities** (The first 40 to arrive get a free muffin!!!). Everyone well be very welcome at both celebrations....please come and bring your friends (Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult). Details are displayed on the noticeboard in the Church porch.