

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

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

Saturday, 27th May 6.00pm People of the Parish  
SUNDAY 28 May 2017 9.00am Maureen Gomer RIP recently (Heughan)  
11.00am Mathias McGrath RIP (Anniv.)

**MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> May Monday Week 7 of Easter**

Bank Holiday 10.00am Private intention

**TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

9.00am Private intention  
Thanksgiving Mass 7.30pm For Deacon Duncan's Silver Jubilee of Ordination  
WEDNESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> Dedication of Cathedral of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood  
9.00am Gabrielle Knauf RIP (Sr Susan)

**THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> June St Justin, Martyr**

9.00am Annie Ryan RIP (FM)

**FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> June 9.00am Veronica Beard RIP**

11.00am Funeral Service of John Easton RIP  
7.30pm Mass offered for the members of our Parish Council

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 6.00pm People of our Parish**

**PENTECOST 9.00am Jim Sullivan RIP (Clayson)**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017 11.00am Mark Keeling RIP (Keeling)**

**BAPTISM 12.15pm Angelica Joy Pamela Magri**

**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 7 of Easter are from Week 3 in The Breviary**  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after 9am weekday Mass**

**PARISH MASS BOOK: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD A Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 **£339**, Loose Plate **£356.06**, Standing Orders **£700**.  
**CAFOD £10.43. Thank you for your generosity.**

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created  
and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*Let us pray. O God who has taught the hearts of the faithful  
by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit  
we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation,  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

**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](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)**

**Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohng**

**Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

**Hall Bookings: e-mail: [arnold\\_verrall@email.com](mailto:arnold_verrall@email.com)**

**Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or**

**01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area)**

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD A**

**28 May 2017**

**My dear People,**

Jesus said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations: baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"(Matthew 28:16-20). As he was about to be arrested and taken from his disciples, Jesus commanded them at the Last Supper, to "love one another as I have loved you". Before leaving them, at his Ascension, he instructed them and us to continue his mission by baptising people and teach the Gospel and the way of truth. We do not see Christ with bodily eyes, but see him with the eyes of faith. He tells us "I am with you always" for he has not abandoned us.

Jesus' instructions to his followers have shaped the Church's mission and purpose down the ages. We fail at times to live according to Christ's command to "love one another", yet his teachings set the standard for how we live human relationships. His being taken up to heaven was preceded by a command to his followers to share his saving love with all peoples and nations. Jesus tells us "all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me", and St Paul says "Jesus is Lord". All who accept his Word, show faith in him and choose him as Saviour by having themselves or their children baptised. Baptism is the acceptance of Christ as the word of God and shows a commitment to learn from "him who is gentle and humble of heart". Jesus tells us to teach his Word, the Gospel, and make disciples or believers of all, so that they may find God's love and mercy through him. He tells us to bring people to Baptism so that they will be saved and counted amongst God's chosen ones.

On Tuesday we join with **Deacon Duncan** in celebrating the **Silver Jubilee** of his Ordination as a Permanent Deacon on the 30 May 1992. We give thanks to God and rejoice with Deacon Duncan as he celebrates this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. He and Dorothy have served our parish with great dedication and enthusiasm for many years, prior to and after his Ordination. He has obviously enjoyed his ministry as Deacon and been most supportive to past Parish Priests as well as myself. Bishop Thomas, who ordained Deacon Duncan, will preside at the Silver Jubilee Mass, which will be followed by a social celebration and presentation in the Parish Hall.  
**As we prepare for Pentecost we pray the Holy Spirit come to us anew. Fr John**

**PRAYING FOR PENTECOST:** The apostles spent the nine days between Christ's Ascension and Pentecost Sunday with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, waiting and praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. We need to pray for a outpouring of the Holy Spirit and his gifts to empower and sanctify our community and our individual life. Let us pray asking the Holy Spirit to come and renew mankind and creation with the power of God's love. We can use hymns to the Holy Spirit like: "Come Holy Ghost, creator come", "Spirit of the living God", or "Come down, O Love Divine", or "Love Divine, all loves excelling" or the prayer to the Holy Spirit on the newsletter.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS:** We are most grateful to our fine team of Catechists: Claire Platais, John Ryan, Julie Ryan, Mary Ryan and Maggie Keeling. They generously devoted their time and talents, in preparing the children in our parish so well for first Holy Communion this year and in former years. We are most grateful to them.

**Claire, Maggie, Julie, Mary & John** would like to thank all the families of the First Holy Communion group and the Parish for the wonderful gifts they received from everyone on Sunday last. We are sure that the children will be a great asset to our faith going forward. Once again, many thanks from the team.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> July**, to celebrate of the Centenary of the founding of our Diocese of Brentwood, on 20<sup>th</sup> 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:** will be held at the English Martyrs Church, Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, RM12 6BJ next Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 wish to find out more. There will 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 up to 4 meetings a year and a report to Parish Council.. You must be a practising Catholic, have an ecumenical outlook and regularly attend Mass here. If you can help please contact Fr John, Deacon Duncan or Parish Council Chairman, Melanie Hollinshead.

**JUMBLE SALE:** A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to help prepare and run the stalls, gave articles, and provided and served refreshments for a very successful Jumble Sale on Saturday, 20 May, which raised £903, the most ever.

**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY** today, the Church prays that modern methods of communication may be used to promote the Gospel and its values..

**JOHN GORDON EASTON RIP** who died in Dortmund, Germany, on Friday 17 March. He will be received into our Church to celebrate his Funeral Service, at 11am on Friday, 2 June, which will be followed by burial 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.

**EPHING FOREST FOODBANK** (a branch of Loughton Foodbank) **at The Box**, St John's Road, Epping is open Mondays from **3.30-5.00pm**. **Helpers will be trained for work a rota basis.** Give your name to John McCredie (Epping Foodbank co-ordinator email: [johnmccredie92@gmail.com](mailto: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 our Catholic Church Hall (venue change) on **THIS MONDAY 29th MAY AT 8pm (rearranged from 23<sup>rd</sup> May)**. 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](mailto:hustings@gmail.com).

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

**GOD AND THE COSMOS:** Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, Director of the Vatican Observatory and 'Tablet' columnist, will lead a free study day on 'God and the Cosmos', on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (coffee from 10.30 a.m.) at the Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Tea and coffee will be provided, but bring a packed lunch. Ample parking (free) is available at the church, which is three minutes' walk from Gidea Park Station. Please book a place by email to [GPstudydays@gmail.com](mailto:GPstudydays@gmail.com) or by phone 01708 449914.

**PENTECOST GAMES & PARTY** To celebrate the 'Birthday' of the Christian Church, Churches Together in Epping & District has organised a **Pentecost Event on Pentecost Sunday starting at Lower Swaines Recreation Park, Epping. From 2.30pm – 4.30pm there will be Games for most who are 'able', & drinks available. 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 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.