

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 30 September - Sunday 8 October 17

TWENTYSIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 1st October 2017

SATURDAY 30 Sept 6.00pm Sylvia, Doug & Family's intentions (Murray)

SUNDAY 1st 9.00am People of our Parish

October 2017 11.00am Rodolfo Laxamaha RIP (Kelly)

Monday 2nd October The Holy Guardian Angels

9.30am Veronica Beard RIP (Beard)

Tuesday 3rd 9.30am Marian Ward RIP (FM)

Wednesday, 4th St Francis of Assisi, Religious & Patron Saint of the environment

9.30am Intentions of Cecilia Joseph (Joseph)

Thursday, 5th 9.30am Ratchaney Daraka Sue (Thanksgiving)

Friday, 6th St Bruno, Priest. CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

9.30am Stan Holder RIP recent (Whitehouse)

27th SUNDAY OF YEAR A Day of Prayer for Prisoners & their Families

SATURDAY 7th 6.00pm Denis Murrihy RIP recent (Flanagan)

SUNDAY 8th 9.00am Stan Holder RIP recent (Clohessy)

October 2017 11.00am People of our Parish

SACRAMENT of PENANCE will not be available in our church this Saturday

DIVINE OFFICE MORNING PRAYER 15 minutes before weekday Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT: Prayer & Adoration after morning Mass on weekdays

PARISH MASS BOOK: TWENTYSIXTH SUNDAY of Year A 1st October 2017

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

OFFERINGS: Offertories: Envelopes £335, Loose £352.54, Standing Orders £700, Thank you for your generosity.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE YOUTH CENTRE COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND The BCYS, Brentwood Diocesan Youth Centre is moving from Canvey Island to Abbotswick near Navestock side, near Brentwood. This weekend we have a speaker who will encourage us to support the funding that is required to support this important new project in the diocese. There will be a retiring collection after all Masses.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY: The Harvest Family Fast collection will be taken at all Masses this weekend.

Fr John thanks people for their prayerful support and good wishes. He is recovering well from the cellulitis but is sorry that he is not yet back to normal – whatever that is!

Please note the time of weekday Masses this week

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

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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)**

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1st October 2017

THOUGHT(S) FOR THE WEEK

- The readings at Mass this weekend challenge us to review our way of life and to make a determined effort to avoid all actions which will be displeasing to God. Our loving and forgiving Father encourages us to renounce any sinful ways in our life, big or small. By doing this we can be assured of eternal life with God in heaven. Spending eternity in heaven must surely be our main priority in life and is much more important than the short-term satisfaction of behaving badly by ignoring good Christian values. In modern parlance, the choice is surely a 'no brainer'!!
- Fr John has asked me to give a short summary of the Clergy Retreat to Ars (near Lyons in France) in early September, as part of the diocesan centenary celebrations throughout 2017. Led by Bishop Alan, 82 Priests, Deacons, Religious and Seminarians stayed at a seminary which is dedicated to the memory of St John Vianney, also known as Curé d'Ars. He was a particularly holy 19th century Parish Priest, whose pastoral gifts are a legacy for all parish priests today: a legacy of loving, of feeling for the parishioners and of following the word and direction of God. Bishop Alan gave three very encouraging talks and there were several visits arranged to local places of spiritual significance. The whole retreat was spiritually and socially uplifting and a great success..
- Dorothy and I have just returned from a 9-day holiday at Villa Palazzola, near Rome, which was a gift from parishioners to celebrate the silver jubilee of my ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. Thank you all so much!! You were remembered in our prayers in the Palazzola chapel. The whole holiday was a great success, but the highlight was being invited to join a small group at Pope Francis' morning Mass and to meet the Pope and talk to him afterwards....what a privilege! He asks for our prayers.

God Bless you all.

Deacon Duncan

PARISH AGM (formerly PARISH ASSEMBLY) and NEW PARISH COUNCIL

CONSTITUTION: All parishioners are warmly invited to the Parish AGM (formerly known as the Parish Assembly), **at 8pm in the Hall this Tuesday 3rd October**. We will review the past parish year and help to plan the coming year. If you would like to be considered as a member of the Pastoral Parish Council, please speak to Fr John or Deacon Duncan. There is to be a new Constitution for the Parish Council for which approval will be sought at the Parish AGM. There are copies of the draft Constitution in the porch. Please take one and send any comments to parishcouncil@eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk, or leave a message in the porch 'letterbox' for Melanie Hollinshead, the outgoing Chairman.

Group representatives please send your reports to the Parish Secretary no later than 22nd September.

YOUR ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) NEEDS YOU! Our Parish SVP needs more members. SVP does a wide variety of charitable work internationally and nationally, but in our Parish it is mainly concerned with visiting people, in their homes, residential homes or hospitals, in or around Epping, often just for friendship, companionship and sometimes to lend a helping hand. We are thinly spread and need more members to cope properly with our work and especially to be able to do more. If you have an hour or two a week to spare then please talk to Fr John, Paul Ives or another SVP member.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2017-18

This **Sunday at 11 am Mass**, Parents wishing to prepare their child for First Reconciliation & Holy Communion in 2018 will present their children at the Altar. Prayers and blessings will be offered for the children, their parents and the catechists. Children and Parents will be presented with their books and the first session for the children will be this coming **Wednesday 4th October 2017**. The Catholic parents must attend all parents' sessions, and Sunday Mass constantly with their children. Children must attend all the preparation sessions, on Wednesday evenings at 5.45pm and Sunday Mass every weekend.

LINK WITH OUR TWINNED PARISH: Fr Gerald Gostling will visit our parish next weekend and speak at the 9am and 11am Masses. The parish will present him with a cheque at the 9am Mass. If you would like to be the representative of our parish with our twinned parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa, then please contact Fr John through the Parish Office.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY May is the month of our Lady and October is the month when we, and especially families, are encouraged to pray the Rosary daily – even one decade each day to meditate on the mysteries in the life of our Lord and his holy Mother. It is also well worth Googling, "October is the month of the Rosary" where there are many helpful images and prayerful material.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPPING CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: We are pleased to invite everyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to a traditional luncheon in our Hall. Couples and carers are also most welcome. Please telephone Mary Morgan on 01992 574719 or give your details to Fr John or Deacon Duncan.

ANNUAL SERVICE TO PRAY FOR PEACE

SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER at 4.00 pm IN OUR CHURCH: All the Christian churches in Epping and District come together to **PRAY FOR PEACE**. This is our 10th Annual event and, as we can see from current events around the world, there has never been a more critical time for us to pray for peace. **Please come and bring your friends**. This year we shall be having a speaker from an appropriate charity, but confirmation is awaited of availability at this stage (more information next week!). There will be a retiring collection for the charity. The Epping Church Choirs Association will be singing and there will be refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards.

JUMBLE SALE: We will have parish Jumble Sale in our Hall on **Saturday 28th October**. If you have a large number of items please contact Janet on 01992 571128 so that they can be stored in the shed.

CHURCH CLEANING: When we appealed, in the early summer, for people to carry out the church cleaning, twenty parishioners volunteered. That led us to believe that we had a good number to form a rota when people would only need to clean once a month at most. We then gave notice, as required, to the cleaning company who were due to finish this week. Following the recent meeting we had just over ten people which would have been very demanding for those who were committed. This has been a very disappointing follow up and we have now had to revert to the cleaning company who have very kindly reinstated the contract on the previous terms. Once again, many thanks to those who sustained their commitment.

ADVERTISING FOR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Many of you will be aware of the fund raising idea whereby a local estate agent sponsors a specific event by advertising using their boards. Basically the estate agent uses 20% of the board to advertise their company and 80% to promote the event. An Epping estate agent has indicated that they will sponsor our Christmas Bazaar this year if we can give them a list of up to thirty names and addresses of home owners who have agreed for an advertising board to be put up outside their house. The boards would be put up in mid-November and remain in position for about a month. We then get £10 for each board so potentially £300. If you are interested in helping raise funds for our parish in this way then please either email the parish office or put your name and contact details on the list at the back of the church. If you would like more information on the idea then please email or telephone the parish office. We need to act fast before the estate agents commit to another cause. A meeting will take place to discuss the Christmas Bazaar and any other fund-raising ideas on **Thursday 12th October at 8pm in the Sacristy. Please note change of date.**

APPEAL FOR SMALL GIFTS FOR CHILDREN: Every year, St Mary's Church, Theydon Bois, as part of Operation Christmas Child, sends out over 200 shoe boxes filled with gifts for children overseas, who would not otherwise have a Christmas present. Offers of small gifts (that must fit in a shoebox), such as hair ribbons, bands or bows, small soft toys or cars, new or nearly new (but no military or war-related items and nothing that needs batteries), can be left in the porch for the attention of Melanie Hollinshead. Thank you.