

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 7th - Sunday 15th October 2017

TWENTYSEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 8th October 2017

DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRISONERS & THEIR FAMILIES

SATURDAY 7th Oct. 6.00pm Denis Murrihy RIP (recently) (Flanagan)

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

October 2017 11.00am People of our Parish

Monday 9th October Blessed John Henry Newman, Priest

9.00am Holy souls RIP

Tuesday 10th St Paulinus of York, Bishop

9.00am Raphaeline McEwan RIP (Sr Susan)

Wednesday, 11th St John XXIII, Pope

9.00am Bill McEvoy RIP (FM)

Thursday, 12th Ss. Ethelburga, Hildelith & Cuthburga, Religious (Barking)

9.00am Frank Swan RIP (Sr Susan)

Friday, 13th St Edward the Confessor, King

9.00am Private Intention (Canny)

28th SUNDAY OF YEAR A

SATURDAY 14th 6.00pm Sir Evelyn Russell RIP (Hoare)

SUNDAY 15th 9.00am Mary Power RIP (Coyne)

October 2017 11.00am People of our Parish

4.00pm Annual Peace Service

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays 11am – 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm

DIVINE OFFICE MORNING PRAYER 15 minutes before weekday Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after weekday Mass

PARISH MASS BOOK: TWENTYSEVENTH 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 £360.50, Loose £389.89, Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £102.11. Thank you for your generosity.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE YOUTH CENTRE COLLECTION: Thank you for the **£577.46** you contributed last weekend in the retiring collection, to support this project. Further donations can be made either through our parish or the details in the brochure

WORLD YOUTH DAY PANAMA JANUARY 2017 – please see notice in church porch.

CAFOD HARVEST COLLECTION This weekend we thank to God for the Harvest, and we share our blessings with people in poor and developing nations in our donations to CAFOD for those in poverty and great need, following the Harvest Fast Day, last Friday.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



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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)

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

8th October 2017

My dear friends,

“The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel” we say in response to Psalm 79 today. In the Gospel readings, over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus present various images and situations in a vineyard. The vineyard represents the world in which God’s people live and work, with their mixture of good and bad, saint and sinner. The owner of the vineyard is God, who loves all people and asks to be loved, respected and obeyed in return. He does not ask for love for his own sake, even though people owe it to him, but he asks people to love and obey him so that they find fulfilment and happiness in their relationships by living in union with him.

Christ presented a scene where the workers in the vineyard refused to respect the owner of the vineyard. They engaged in acts of rebellion against the Lord of the vineyard, killing his servants and his son. Christ shows us this is a parallel to people who refuse to respect God and obey his commandments. People who choose not to give God the honour and obedience that is due to him, are like tenants in a vineyard, who are in rebellion with the owner and bring about their own downfall. When God finally, sent his only son, Jesus Christ, people did not recognise his purpose was to show God’s love for mankind, and so they seized him in a garden and killed him.

We may think that as this happened in the past, it does not have relevance to us in the present. People rebelled against God in the past and refused to listen to his voice, but we and others do the same today. God revealed his saving love for people in the past and he still offers it to us today. We need to comply with God’s plan for his world, which is his vineyard, through his Son, Jesus Christ. He sent us his only, Jesus, who sacrificed his life and calls us to follow him. We do this by listening to and obeying his word, and taking up our cross, the responsibilities in life each day.

This weekend we welcome Fr Gerald Gostling, a priest of our Diocese, who has worked in our twin Diocese of Dundee, South Africa, for many years. We present him with a gift to support our twin parish of Thistle Grove and Lebohang in that Diocese. We send our good wishes with him to Bishop Graham Rose, the priests and parishioners of our twin parish that the Lord may richly bless and protect them.

May we always welcome the Lord and his word, and choose to obey him. Fr John

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.

QUIZ NIGHT: A big thank you to everyone who came to the Quiz Night, took part and donated prizes last Saturday. It was great to see so many people there for a very successful social evening which raised £538 towards our parish funds. A special thanks to Emma and Simon Armstrong, Adriana and Junior Vianna, Margaret Lechley and the quiz masters who worked so hard to organise a most enjoyable parish event. We hope that this will be the first of many more community events in our parish.

PARISH AGM & PARISH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION: Our Parish AGM, formerly the Parish Assembly, was held in the Hall on Tuesday, the 3rd October. We looked at the past parish year, also to the year ahead. A new Constitution was adopted and approved for our Parish Council. Copies of the Constitution and reports for the AGM are in the church. Gratitude was expressed to Melanie Hollinshead, the outgoing Chair, for the devotion, commitment and leadership she has given to our Parish as a member and Chair of the Parish Council for several years. We are all most grateful to her.

TALKS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH: We are starting a series of talks on the Catholic faith for adults interested in finding out about our faith, becoming Catholic or who wish to understand our faith or support the practice of family members. These will be suitable for Catholic adults who may not have been Confirmed or who have not been practising their faith or wish to renew and rethink their faith. **They will be held in the Priest's House on Tuesdays from 8pm to 9.15pm and will start on Tuesday 17th October and continue until Easter.** There is no commitment involved in attending any or all sessions. We would welcome Catholic parishioners who may wish to be involved in the presentations.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2017-18: Last Sunday at 11 am Mass, 19 families wanting to prepare their child for First Reconciliation & Holy Communion in 2018 presented their children at the Altar. The Children & Parents were presented with their "I Belong" books and the children first session was held last Wednesday, and the next one will be on this Wednesday in the Hall at 5.45pm. It is most important that the children attend all their preparation sessions and that Catholic parents bring their children to Sunday Mass every weekend.

LINKS WITH OUR TWINNED PARISH in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa: Fr Gerald Gostling is visiting our parish this weekend and will speak at the 9am & 11am Masses. If you would like to be a contact person for our parish with our twinned parish of Thistle Grove and Lebohang, please contact Fr John through our 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 is many helpful images and prayerful material.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Please will all Eucharistic Ministers take a copy of Fr John's request for help, from the post-box

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 ***Pax Christi***, an organisation which actively promotes non-violent means of maintaining peace throughout the world. (As a parish, we also already support *Pax Christi* through the money placed in the glass jar by the CAFOD box at the back of the church). There will be a retiring collection for ***Pax Christi***. The Epping Church Choirs Association will be singing and there will be refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards.

Visitation of the World Apostolate of Fatima National Statue and Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco to Harlow on 14/15 October: The visitation begins with Mass celebrated by the Bishop in the parish church of Our Lady of Fatima, Harlow at 2p.m. on Saturday 14 October. The Statue and Relics are being taken to all dioceses as part of the celebration of the centenary of the appearances of Our Lady at Fatima. Parishioners are encouraged to join in this special occasion.

HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE will meet on **Wednesday 11th October** in the Priest's House at 8pm. Following the successful Quiz Night we invite parishioners thinking of another event to come to the meeting and share ideas.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: The Parish Bazaar is on Saturday 2nd Decemberonly eight weeks to volunteer to man (woman!) the stalls and donate goods. Next week we are appealing for White Elephants. You may hate it, someone will love it – donate it! 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. Please see note at the end of each church bench giving you the opportunity to put your name forward. 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.**