

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 14th - Sunday 22nd October 2017

TWENTYEIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 15th October 2017

SATURDAY 14 Oct 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

Monday 16th October St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Tuesday 17th St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

9.00am Veronica Beard RIP (Beard)

Wednesday, 18th St Luke, Evangelist

9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Thursday, 19th Ss. John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & Comps. Priests & Martyrs

9.00am Annette Goodchild RIP (Sr Susan)

Friday, 20th 9.00am Mary & Francis Fletcher RIP (FM)

29th SUNDAY of Ordinary Time Year A WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

SATURDAY 21st 6.00pm Deceased members of the Canny Family (Canny)

SUNDAY 22nd 9.00am Intentions of Sr Mary Burke (Clohessy)

October 2017 11.00am People of our Parish

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 £297.50, Loose £347.82, Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £20, FAMILY FAST £349.82. Thank you for your generosity.

CAFOD HARVEST COLLECTION Thank you for the **£349.82** you contributed last weekend in the retiring collection.

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.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



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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)

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

15th October 2017

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

What does the future hold for us? – or more to the point, what does it hold for me? As young children, amidst the excitement of the joyous experience of living in a world which is full of surprises, we wonder what it will be like when we grow up. As teenagers, we are probably too busy with today to worry about tomorrow. As young adults, we focus on the freedom of being able to decide for ourselves – or so we think! As we reach middle age – say from 50 to 80 – we have become mature enough to know that tomorrow will always be a surprise in one way or another. We just do our best to keep up with the twists and turns of life, knowing that the big surprise awaits us when God decides that the time is right for us to sample the fruits of eternity with him in heaven. But such thoughts are rarely our main preoccupation. Mostly we just ‘go with the flow!’

Today’s scripture readings invite us to raise our sights and our hearts to the future. Beyond this present life, there is much more for which to live than what we can see at present. Interesting and challenging though it is. God has planned a wonderful future for each and every one of us – in heaven. Isaiah’s prophecy of the heavenly banquet is an invitation for us to think more actively, every day, of our eternal destiny. Spending eternity with God is far more important than the short term enjoyment we might enjoy during our ‘lifetime’ on earth.

Jesus emphasises that the ‘heavenly banquet’ is available to everyone – and that includes each of us! But there is a condition. We need to remember that the special ‘wedding garment’ to which he refers in today’s parable is ‘the way in which we lead our life on earth’. Surely it must never be an option to be found to be unworthy for heaven when our time comes to meet God.

God bless.

Deacon Duncan

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 this coming week 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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2017-18: The next session for the children will be this **Wednesday 18th October** 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.

ANNUAL SERVICE TO PRAY FOR PEACE: THIS SUNDAY 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.

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

A VERY EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

World Youth Day, Panama - January 2019 We would like to send two or three young people from our parish and it's **not too late to make a booking**. If you will be in year 12, or aged 17-27 in January 2019, you could join the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service Group travelling to Costa Rica and Panama, where you will join 2 million young people from all over the world. Pope Francis has it in his diary to be there to greet you. This is a "once in a lifetime" experience and an amazing opportunity to discover and celebrate faith in Latin America. If you would like to go to the Youth Day, but would like help with the cost, please contact Fr John to discuss how help might be given. Details at www.bcys.net or email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org ASAP or just let Fr John or Deacon Duncan know of your interest. **Calling all young parishioners.....you are the future Catholic Church in UK....this is a wonderful opportunity for you!!**

JUMBLE SALE: We have a parish Jumble Sale in our Hall on **Saturday 28th October**. For large numbers of items please contact Janet on 01992 571128 so that they can be stored in the shed. There will be a list in the church porch for helpers to set up on Friday 27th and to sell on Saturday. The Hall will be open from 2.30pm to 7pm on the Friday. We need many helpers please. Cakes are needed, both to sell and to have with a cup of tea.

WINE TASTING AND CHEESE EVENING – SATURDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER @ 19:30: Following from the success of the Church Quiz Night, please join us for a Wine Tasting and Cheese Evening. The event will be held in the church hall and our resident Master of Wine, Junior Vianna, will be introducing each wine, comparing styles and explaining some of the factors that affect the quality of wines. Aside from the opportunity to get to know other parishioners and help to raise funds for our church, it will be a fun and educational evening. Tickets are £20 per person and there are a limited number of tickets available. Adriana Ruvalcaba will be selling tickets after all Masses this weekend and next. A number of you have already expressed interest, so please act quickly to secure your place.

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 December**. Next week's appeal is for Fancy Goods; handmade if possible but anything fabric will be welcome. Our appeal for parishioners to have an estate agent board advertising the Bazaar came back with 19 volunteers. Stevenette Estate Agents, here in Epping, have very kindly agreed to donate £10 per board to help with our fund raising. A list of the names and addresses has now been sent to them and they will contact those volunteers in the next few weeks. Please see separate flyer listing other ways in which you can help.

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.

LONDON MARATHON 2018: Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the Virgin Money LONDON MARATHON taking place on **SUNDAY 22nd April 2018**. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event, please contact Libby Phillips for further details on 01268 784544 / lphillips@bccs.org.uk. The closing date for completed applications is **Friday 17th November** and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1600 (excluding Gift Aid). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, we would invite you to join us and run for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.