

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 2nd to Sunday 10th December 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) MIGRANT'S DAY

SATURDAY 2nd	6.00pm Christy Gore RIP (Recently) (Gotts)
SUNDAY 3rd	9.00am Bridget McGrath RIP
December 2017	11.00am People of our Parish
	12.15pm Baptism of Jake Anthony Izzet
Monday 4th	9.00am Georg Zucker RIP (Recently - Funeral on Friday)
Tuesday 5th	9.00am Pat Fitzsimons RIP (Recently)
Wednesday 6th	9.00am Veronica Beard RIP (Beard)
Thursday 7th	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor
	9.00am Arthur Bousel (ill) (Thomas)
Friday 8th	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	10.00am Patrick McBrearty RIP
	7.30pm People of our Parish

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) BIBLE SUNDAY

SATURDAY 9th	6.00pm Molly Firth RIP Anniv (Maraldo)
SUNDAY 10th	9.00am Holy Souls RIP (Clohessy)
December 2017	11.00am People of our Parish
	12.15pm Baptism of Adele De Giorgi

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays 11am – 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm
MORNING PRAYER of THE DIVINE OFFICE 15 minutes before weekday Mass
BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after weekday Mass

PARISH MASS BOOK: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year B 3rd December 2017

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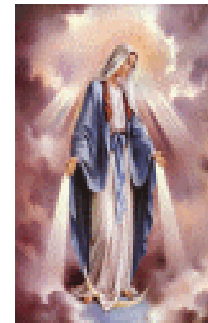
WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL Baby Arthur Bousel, Mark Toohey, Paula Hall, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Hilda Silver, Daphne McAdam, Hannah Robinson, Rhoda Limebear, Ann Dowd, Giovanni Borelli, Roger Minnis, Sean Clohessy, James Bullen, Tony Mullan, Canon Anthony McKenty, Fr Martin Knott, Fr Tom Jordan, and all who are ill.

OFFERINGS: Offertories: Envelopes £261.50, Loose £332.40, Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £65.10 *Thank you for your generous offerings.*

COFFEE AFTER 11am MASS: Please note that there will be no coffee after the 11am Mass **this Sunday** due to a Baptism party being held in the Hall.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNIONS The children's next session will be on **Wednesday 6th December at 5.45pm** in the Church, when the children will celebrate their first Reconciliation and receive God's forgiveness and love.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

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)

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) Migrants Day 3 December 2017

Dear Friends,

“God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved”, we say in response to Psalm 29. Coming to the darkest time of the year, we look to the coming of Jesus, “The Light of the world”. In Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and make ready to receive him at his second coming at the end of time. In preparing to receive a distinguished guest we make sure that our home is a worthy place for our visitor. Isaiah (63 & 64) prophesied the Lord will come to his people and they will need to be cleansed and purified in heart, to be worthy to receive him. He sees people who have lost integrity by rebelling against God, needing to go through a cleansing and purification of their souls, so that they may be worthy to receive the Saviour who will come to them. The final stage of preparing for Christ was St John the Baptist calling people to repent of their sins and be baptised as a spiritual cleansing by repenting. Through Baptism and the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation, we repent and are freed from our sins, and are able to live in a state of grace, where we find favour with God and people.

This week, the children preparing to receive Christ in first Holy Communion next year, will celebrate their first Reconciliation. In this Sacrament they will receive the forgiveness and love of God in a special way. They will be touched by the Lord who loves us, renews us and purifies us with his grace. All of us adults need to realise we are frail human beings, with faults and sins, needing to turn to our Lord and seek reconciliation with him, and cleansing from our sins and their effects. Advent is a season when we hear the call of St John the Baptist to prepare a way for the Lord and make a straight path for him to come into our life – we do that most effectively by receiving his forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Whilst this Sacrament is celebrated in our Church every Saturday, it is especially important for us to celebrate it in Advent, and particularly at our Advent Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, 12th December, so that we receive the Lord's forgiveness and be ready to welcome him with joy and peace at Christmas.

May we let the Lord shine the Light of his face upon us during Advent. Fr John

OUR PARISH FEAST DAY is on Friday 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate

Conception: Mass for the Feast will be celebrated in Church at 10am and 7.30pm. After the evening Mass we will have a Parish Party in our Hall, to which all parishioners are invited. We ask parishioners to bring the food for the party - drinks will be provided by our Parish. Please let Fr John know if you are able to help with organising this day.

JIRI ZICHA R.I.P The Funeral Service of Jiri Zicha, a.c.a.Georg Zucker, of Epping who died on 5 August will be celebrated in our church on Friday 8th December at 12 noon. Georg was pre-deceased by his wife, Maria, earlier in 2017. Arrangements for the Funeral Service have been protracted for a variety of reasons, and only now are we able to proceed, albeit with only few, if any, members of his Czech family present. We offer our prayers for the repose of his soul and our sympathy to his family & friends. Eternal rest grant to him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: We are invite children & young people to train as altar servers, especially those who received First Holy Communion in May. Training will be on Friday evenings at 5pm and started on **Friday 1st**. The next session will be on **Friday 8th December**. We ask parents to encourage their children to serve Mass, as a way of strengthening their faith by serving God at the altar, and offering a service to the Church and the community. Please contact Fr John or Peter Day if you would like to serve.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES with Confessions in the DEANERY

Waltham Abbey	5th December	7.30pm
Epping	12th December	8.00pm
Fatima	17th December	7.30pm
Holy Cross	18th December	7.30pm
Loughton	19th December	8pm

There will be visiting priests at each Church for this celebration of the Sacrament.

TALKS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH: If you are interested in finding out about our faith, becoming Catholic or wish to understand our faith or support the faith or practice of family members you are welcome to some talks at the **Priest's House**. These are suitable for Catholics who have not been Confirmed, or have not been practising or wish to renew and rethink their faith. Please contact Fr John if you are interested.

GOODBYE WALSINGHAM HOUSE, CANVEY ISLAND AND THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES! Saturday 9th December at Walsingham House

On **Saturday 9th December** we will say goodbye to Walsingham House, Canvey Island, before we move to Abbotswick in January. There will be Adoration in the Chapel, an exhibition of Walsingham House over the years from Chingford and Canvey Island and refreshments available in the dining room. The house will be open from 12 noon to 4pm and all are warmly invited and welcome to attend.

THE BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2018 giving information on our Diocese, the parishes and schools is available in the Church, at £2.75. Please put money in the box marked "Papers & Books".

THE BRENTWOOD NEWS, December issue, is available in the Church free.

PARISH FINANCE: Our thanks to Richard Steggle, Chair of our Parish Finance Committee, who spoke at all Masses last weekend to update parishioners on Parish Finances and our future needs. We thank Margaret Lechley who was our Gift Aid Organiser for several years until recently, and worked so hard and effectively in this important aspect of our parish life. We are grateful to Michelle Murphy who has taken on this important responsibility as Parish Gift Aid organiser and was there to assist people who responded last weekend. We thank everyone and all who have joined our Offertory Envelope scheme, have taken out Standing Orders to the Parish, and joined the Gift Aid Scheme. If you haven't done so already you can still do so, by **contacting Michele Murphy at The Priests House on 01992 572516.**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: We express our thanks to everyone who contributed to and worked so hard this weekend to make our Christmas Bazaar a success. Thank you for the all the gifts given, for the efforts, time, energy and commitment shown by so many parishioners to create a profitable and enjoyable event.

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 welcome. Please call **Mary Morgan on 01992 574719** or give your details to Fr John or Deacon Duncan. We need drivers to pick up our guests around 12.30pm and particularly take them home at 4pm. Gifts of toiletries, groceries and gloves would be deeply appreciated. If you can help in any way then please phone Mary Morgan.

EPPING FOODBANK CHRISTMAS APPEAL Epping Foodbank hopes to add some Christmas treats to the regular food parcels for its clients & would appreciate donations of packaged mince pies, Christmas puddings & cakes (any size), biscuits, chocolate, nuts etc. There is a box in the porch for the purpose. Thank you so much.

CHRISTIAN AID TALK by Abraham Mwangi at the United Reformed Church, Epping **Saturday 9th December 11 am. Please note the change of venue.** Abraham works with one of Christian Aid's partners in Kenya. He will talk about his work promoting maternal and child health, and also singing a couple of his Gospel songs. Coffee and Mince Pies will be served.

PARISH CONCERT/SOCIAL NIGHT with the ELEVATORS a band with two of our very talented parishioners, Sheila & Steve Earl, on **Saturday 20 January 18.** Doors open **7.15pm for 8pm** start. Tickets £7 each. £3 for under 16s. Dance the night away to classics by Bowie, Blondie, the Beatles, Bryan Adams & many more. Feel free to bring your own food & drink. Details to purchase tickets to follow soon. **All proceeds will be donated to the parish.**

"HE'S BEHIND YOU!" Our own Panto Dame will be starring again this year in Woodford Pantomime's Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Sir James Hawkey Hall in Woodford Green. All youngsters and the young at heart who wish to join us for a fantastic evening on Saturday 13th January 2018 at 4.30pm, please contact Maggie Keeling ASAP to reserve seats: maggie@keelingphysio.com or telephone 07718858879. All tickets are £13.50p (+ a small booking fee). Thanks.