

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th December 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 10th December 2017 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 Adele De Giorgi
Monday 11th	9.00am	Felix Friel (recovering from an operation)
Tuesday 12th	9.00am	Georgina Fernandes RIP - Anniv (Murray)
	8.00pm	Parish Advent Reconciliation Service with Confessions
Wednesday 13th		St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
	9.00am	Marie Verrall RIP - Anniv (Verrall)
Thursday 14th		St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor
	9.00am	David Jolly RIP - Anniv (Jolly)
Friday 15th	9.00am	Peter Beard's intentions on 90 th Birthday (Whitehouse)
GAUDETE or REJOICING, THIRD SUNDAY in ADVENT (B) 17 December 2017		
SATURDAY 16th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
SUNDAY 17th	9.00am	Tullia Borelli RIP (Borelli/Mansell)
December 2017	11.00am	Sperry De Zilwa RIP (Sr Susan)

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: SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT Year B 10 December 2017

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

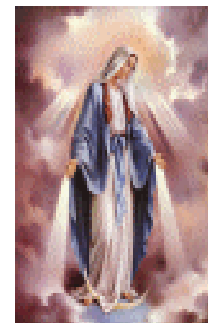
OFFERINGS: Offertories: Envelopes £342.50, Loose £357.22 Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £15.08 Thank you for your generous offerings.

FIRST RECONCILIATION Congratulations to the children who celebrated their first Reconciliation in our parish last Wednesday. First Holy Communion preparation will begin with a parents meeting on **Tuesday 9 January 2018** at 8pm in the Hall.

CHRISTINGLE: Next at Sunday Children's Liturgy, children will make Christingles in the Hall, and then come into Church with their Christingle.

CONCERT FOR BOSCO: Exceptionally talented young adult musicians are offering an evening of classical music to raise money for St John Bosco SVP children's camp on Saturday 3rd February 2018 - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Wine & refreshments included. Advance tickets £8; on the door £11. Book by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings & concert programme: www.concertforbosco.com.

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

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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) BIBLE SUNDAY 10.12.2017

Dear Parishioners,

"A voice cries out in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:1-8). In the wilderness or desert one can imagine the situation in which St John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 40:1-11, calling people to conversion of life through repentance and baptism. The Old Testament prophets and holy men and women in the Church, went to a lonely places, but the people sought them out to hear the message of God that they were proclaiming and living. God calls us to listen to his Word in today's Scriptures, not only in the wilderness, but in the busyness and wilderness of our own life, where we may need for conversion of mind and heart, due to a lack of love for God and people.

"The Cloud of Unknowing", an important book in English Catholic tradition, shows the need to know ourselves and our need of God. We depend on him for the forgiveness of our sins and the grace to save us from death and have eternal life. That is why Jesus says "Blessed are the poor in spirit (those who know their need of God) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"(Matt.5:1). The busyness of this time of year, and can distract from our responsibility of building right relationship with God and people, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in preparation for Christmas. In this Sacrament of love we respond to God's call spoken by St John the Baptist, to "Prepare a way for the Lord and make a straight path for God". In looking at our inner life, we come to God with humble and contrite hearts and seek forgiveness for our sins. We ask him to give us a pure heart, so that we may be freed from our sins and be worthy to welcome Christ into our life in a new way at Christmas.

Many people do not receive God's love and forgiveness in this Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis. To grow in love we need to come to the Divine Physician with our failings and weaknesses, and seek forgiveness and healing. If we don't, we could be fooling ourselves in presuming we are worthy to receive Christ, and fail to understand the words we say before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word (of forgiveness) and I shall be healed".

May Christ give us the grace to listen to his call & repent of our sins. Fr John

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES In Advent we hear the call to prepare a way for the Lord and make a straight path for him to come into our life. We do that by receiving the Lord's forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is important for us to celebrate it in Advent, and particularly at our Advent Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, 12th December, so that we be ready to welcome him at Christmas.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES IN WEST ESSEX DEANERY

The Immaculate Conception Epping	12 th December 8.00pm
Our Lady of Fatima Harlow	17 th December 7.30pm
Holy Cross, Harlow	18 th December 7.30pm
St Edmund's Loughton	19 th December 8.00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES IN OUR PARISH

Saturday, 23rd December Mass at 6.00pm for 4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday 24th December 9.00am and 11.00 am for 4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve Masses at 6.00pm and 9.00m for CHRISTMAS
Christmas Day Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am
Boxing Day Mass 9.00am

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: We express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to and worked so hard for the success of our Christmas Bazaar last weekend. Thank you for making and donating gifts, for selling raffle tickets, obtaining sponsorship, becoming patrons, setting up, running and taking down the stalls. Special thanks to local businesses who contributed very significantly to the success with advertising and offering gift vouchers as prizes. The total raised was £3,200 which is excellent. Thank you so much.

ANNUAL PARISH NATIVITY & CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm: We invite all children who go to Children's Liturgy, preparing for First Holy Communion and children aged 4-11 years are encouraged to take part in our Parish Nativity & Carol Service. Please come to the church hall at 4.30pm on Sunday 17 December to be fitted into costumes and have a practice. Older siblings or young adults are needed as narrators & readers - please make yourselves known this weekend - don't be shy! Contact Maggie Keeling on 07718 858 879 or maggie@keelingphysio.com Parishioners or all ages are warmly welcomed to support our children and join in the carols at this beautiful parish gathering which lasts approximately ½ hour. *Mulled wine & Mince pies will be served in the hall afterwards. A wonderful way to start your Christmas preparation.*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPPING CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: We invite everyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to a traditional luncheon in our Hall. Couples and carers are welcome. Please telephone **Mary Morgan** or give your details to Fr John or Deacon Duncan at the Priest's House. We need drivers to pick up our guests around 12.30pm and to 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 on 01992 574719.**

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.

THE BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2018 giving information on our diocese, the parishes and schools is on sale 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.

TALKS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH: If you wish to find out about our faith, become 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, not been practising or wish to renew or rethink their faith. Please contact Fr John if you are interested.

SACKCLOTH & ASHES: Please join us for an EXTRA day of Prayer & Fasting, on Monday the 11th December, the vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really saves lives. **Please pray especially that politicians and councillors won't hinder the pro-life presence outside abortion clinics and that buffer zones won't be introduced.** For information on days of Prayer and Fasting see: www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

UNDERSTANDING THE CREED On Wednesdays 24 & 31 January from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. Fr Adrian Graffy will explore the Nicene Creed recited at Sunday Mass. These 'Gidea Park Faith Evenings' will take place in the hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission is free.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT RELIGIOUS LIFE? the Congregation of Jesus is hosting a discernment weekend in York for women considering religious life in February. The weekend offers guidance on how to discern a vocation, and discern which congregation would suit. It is open to women of any age, and there is no charge - though you are welcome to make a donation. If you are interested, please contact us first, via vocations@congregatiojesu.org.uk, so we can make sure the weekend is appropriate for you, and ensure a room is available. The weekend will be held on the 9th-11th February 2018, at the Bar Convent in York.

PARISH CONCERT/SOCIAL NIGHT with the ELEVATORS a band with two very talented parishioners, Sheila & Steve Earl, on **Saturday 20 January**. Doors open **7.15pm for 8pm** start. Tickets £7 and £3 for under 16s. Dance the night away to classics by Bowie, Blondie, the Beatles, Bryan Adams & many more. Please bring your own food & drinks. Details of tickets later. **All proceeds to the parish.**

"HE'S BEHIND YOU!" Our very 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.