

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**GAUDETE or REJOICING, THIRD SUNDAY in ADVENT (B) 17 December 2017**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup>** 6.00pm People of our Parish  
**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup>** 9.00am Tullia Borelli RIP (Borelli/Mansell)  
**December 2017** 11.00am Sperry De Zilwa RIP (Sr Susan)  
6.00pm Annual Parish Carol Service (4.30pm preparation)

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>** 11.00am Kirk McLaughlin RIP Requiem Mass

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>** 9.00am Holy Souls RIP (Schofield)

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>** 9.00am Daniel Patrick Kettle RIP (Kelly)

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>** 9.00am Cecilia Joseph's Intentions (Joseph)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>** 9.00am Cleonagh Ann Jolly RIP (Jolly)

**FOURTH SUNDAY in ADVENT (B) 24 December 2017 Expectant Mothers' Day**

**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>** 6.00pm Cecilia Joseph's Intentions (Joseph)

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup>** 9.00am Liam Downey RIP

**December 2017** 11.00am People of our Parish

**CHRISTMAS EVE 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**24 December 2017** 6.00pm Deceased members of the Lennon Family (Lechley)

9.00pm Private Intention

**CHRISTMAS DAY** 9.00am Felix Friel

**25 December 2017** 11.00am People of our Parish

**26 December 2017** 10.00am Veronica Beard RIP Feast of St Stephen, First martyr

**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: THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT Year B 17 December 2017**

**Page 7** The Beginning of Mass **Page 52** Preface 2 of Advent

**Page 87** Collect & Readings **Page 25** Eucharistic Prayer 2

**Page 11** The Nicene Creed **Page 43** The Communion Rite

**Page 14** Preparation of Gifts **Page 89** Post Communion Prayer

**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, Fr Martin Knott, Fr Tom Jordan, and all who are ill.

**OFFERINGS: Offertories: Envelopes £142.40, Loose £185.04,**

**Donation of £500. Standing Orders £700, Thank you for your generous offerings.**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS** in the Brentwood Diocese are traditionally a gift from the parishioners to support their priest(s). They are personal to the priest(s) in their parish.

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

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to the family of Adele De Giorgi, who was Baptised in our Church on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December. May the Lord bless them and help to bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.

**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](http://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](mailto:arnold_verrall@email.com)**

**Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or**

**01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area)**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT B Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday 10.12.2017**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

The word 'Gaudete' is the Latin for 'Rejoice' and in today's prayer immediately prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, we ask God 'to see how faithful we are, and ask him to enable us to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them with solemn worship and glad rejoicing'. This is well worth a re-read to put us in the right frame of mind to celebrate Mass. St Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonians, exhorts us to 'be happy at all times, to pray constantly and to give thanks to God for all things'. Are we? Do we?

Isaiah reminds us that we have been anointed by God (in Baptism and Confirmation) and given the responsibility to bring the good news about Christ to all people, but especially to those in need. He says that we are 'wrapped in the cloak of integrity' and 'God will help us to spread the good news throughout the world'. We are God's eyes, his ears and his mouth in proclaiming his wondrous Kingdom to all those with whom we come into contact. What an awesome responsibility each of us has!! Advent is a good time for us to question ourselves about the quality of our response to God's need of us.

Today's Gospel reading introduces us to John the Baptist; a strange character, the cousin of Jesus and of about the same age. John the Baptist was a powerful, religious type; a charismatic character, who collected around him a significant number of followers. He disturbed the Jews, who could not decide whether he was the expected Messiah or just an outspoken prophet: in today's Gospel reading, John states that he is definitely not the Messiah, probably leaving the Jewish authorities even more confused!

This weekend, the priest wears rose-coloured vestments and not purple ones, as a special mark of joy as we prepare not only for the coming birth of Jesus, but as we reflect upon the prime purpose of Advent, which is to wait in joyful hope for the promised second coming of Jesus at the end of time. Plenty upon which to reflect!

God bless, *Deacon Duncan*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** We pray for the repose of the souls of:

**KIRK McLAUGHLIN RIP**, of Loughton, who died on the 21 November. He will be received into our Church on Monday, 18 December, for the celebration of Requiem Mass at 11am, followed by burial at Theydon Bois Cemetery. **May he rest in peace.**

**MRS BEATRICE WEBBER RIP**, of Epping, who died on Monday, 11 December. Funeral arrangements are pending. **May she rest in peace.**

**JOHN HANSHAW RIP**, of Theydon Bois, who died recently, and whose funeral was celebrated at Ss. Mary & St Michael's Church, London E1. **May he rest in peace.**

**CANON ANTHONY McKENTY RIP**, until recently Parish Priest of Colchester, who died on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December. He will be received into St James the Less and St Helen Church, Priory Street, Colchester CO1 2QB, on Thursday, 21 December, at 4.30pm. Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am on Friday, followed by committal at Three Counties Crematorium, Braintree CM7 5PB. **May he rest in peace.**  
*We offer our sympathy and prayers for their families and the repose of their souls. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them at this time.*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER DAY**, our parish MC, who was presented with the Gold Medal of the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers, at 11am Mass last Sunday, in recognition of his being a member of the Guild and serving Mass for over 50 years.

**STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL:** The first proposals for the future of our Diocese & parishes are on: <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/> Page 27 in particular shows the proposals for the arrangement of parishes.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES** We respond to the call to prepare a Way for the Lord in Advent by receiving his forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES IN WEST ESSEX DEANERY**

Our Lady of Fatima Harlow	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm
Holy Cross, Harlow	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm
St Edmund's Loughton	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 8.00pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES IN EPPING PARISH**

**Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December: Mass for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent at 6.00pm**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Mass for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent at 9.00am & 11.00 am**

**CHRISTMAS EVE: MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS at 6.00pm and 9.00m**

**CHRISTMAS DAY: MASSES at 9.00am and 11.00am**

**FEAST of St STEPHEN, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December: Mass at 10.00am.**

**ANNUAL PARISH NATIVITY & CAROL SERVICE Sunday 17 December at 6pm**

We invite all children who go to Children's Liturgy, are preparing for First Holy Communion and aged 4-11 years to take part in our Parish Nativity & Carol Service. Please come to our church hall at **4.30pm this Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**, to be fitted into costumes and for a practice. We need older siblings or young adults as narrators & readers - please make yourselves known this weekend - don't be shy! Contact Maggie Keeling on 07718 858 879 or [maggie@keelingphysio.com](mailto:maggie@keelingphysio.com) Parishioners of all ages are welcome to support the children and join in the carols at this beautiful parish gathering which lasts about 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 people who will be alone on Christmas Day to a traditional luncheon in our Hall. Couples & carers are welcome. Please phone **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 about 12.30pm & take them home at 4pm. Gifts of toiletries, groceries & gloves are needed. If you can help, phone **Mary Morgan on 01992 574719.**

**EPPING FOODBANK CHRISTMAS APPEAL THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you to parishioners who responded so generously to the appeal for Christmas treats for the clients of Epping Foodbank. You made a very big difference to many local families. Happy Christmas to you all.

**NINE LESSONS & CAROLS** takes place this Sunday at 4.00 pm in Brentwood Cathedral. It is a beautiful service and a perfect way to enter the spiritual mysteries of Christmas. Nine Lessons and Carols will be led by Bishop Alan, the Cathedral choir and readers from across the diocese. This year, it will be recorded by BBC Radio Essex and broadcast on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness to the wider community in Essex and beyond. All welcome.

**Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Crib Donations:** The Crib Collection proceeds are donated each year to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society to support children and families who need their help. We ask you to take a moment to pray for those children and families for whom Christmas may be a difficult time. On behalf of the trustees, staff, and children and families whom we are privileged to help, we thank you for your support and wish you a very Happy Christmas.

**IT'S GALLOPING TOWARDS YOU!!**



**Everyone** is invited to our exciting parish **RACE NIGHT on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018**. More details in the New Year, but **KEEP THE DATE FREE**. Why not **become a Horse Owner @ £5 each**, (there's a prize for the winning horse owner in each race). **Contact Teresa Cullen, Peter Day, Margo Flack, Norah Poole, John Ryan, or Dorothy Whitehouse, or phone 01992 577173** to lasso your horse and give it a name.

**USED POSTAGE STAMPS** Please keep used postage stamps and put them in the box under the Parish Letter Tray in the Church Porch. They will be welcomed by St Clare Hospice at Hastingwood where we take them after Christmas & in June each year. Volunteers at the Hospice sort them and receive cash for the Hospice Funds.

**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 star 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 a fantastic evening on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 4.30pm**. Please contact Maggie Keeling ASAP to reserve seats: [maggie@keelingphysio.com](mailto:maggie@keelingphysio.com) or telephone 07718858879. All tickets are £13.50p (+ a small booking fee). Thanks.