

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March '18**

**FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT B – Laetare or Rejoicing and Mothering Sunday**

<b>SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Baptism – Luke Robert Hargitt</b>
<b>SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Vera Doherty RIP Anniv (Doherty)</b>
<b>SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>John Rock RIP (Clohessy)</b>
<b>March 2018</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>People of our Parish</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Sarah Abbs (ill)</b>
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Annie Ryan RIP (FM)</b>
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Teresa Ryan RIP (FM)</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Holy Souls RIP</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Mary Canny RIP (Canny)</b>
<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Mass for Catechists &amp; Children's Liturgy</b>
<b>FEAST OF ST PATRICK, BISHOP &amp; PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>		
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Patrick</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Eileen Lennon RIP Anniv (Lechley)</b>
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>John Clohessy RIP Anniv (Clohessy)</b>
<b>IN LENT</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>People of our Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Baptism – Siena Concadero</b>
<b>March 2018</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross in the Church</b>

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

**MORNING PRAYER of DIVINE OFFICE: 15 minutes before weekday Mass**

**BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after weekday Mass**

**PARISH MASS BOOK: Fourth Sunday of Lent (B) 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

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**WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL** Hannah Robinson, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Ann Dowd, Hilda Silver, Daphne McAdam, Paula Hall, Mark Toohey, Giovanni Borelli, Buddy McGuinness, Sean Clohessy, Roger Minnis, Tony Mullan, James Bullen, Fr Martin Knott, Fr Tom Jordan & all in our parish who are ill. **Catholics who are ill at home or in hospital need our prayer, support and the Church's ministry. Please let Fr John know if you, your relative or a parishioner is ill so they can be visited and receive the Sacraments.**

**OFFERTORY LAST WEEK: Thank you for: Offertory Envelopes: £458.00, Loose: £301.85, Standing Orders: £700, CAFOD: £77.80 Lent Fast Day: £125**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MASS on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30 pm. Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Sundays 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm.** Please join us in prayer and reflection on the Passion & Death of Jesus.

**On Good Friday we will have *Stations of the Cross for children* at 10am.**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Please collect a form from the sacristy regarding the Holy Week Services, and return to Fr John asap so that a practice can be arranged.

**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](mailto: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)**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

***Dear Parishioners,***

Jesus said, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life (Jn 3:14-21). God commands us in the Ten Commandments, not to create images of him. Most people's images of God are not in a statue or object, but a picture of God in their mind, which may help or hinder a relationship with God. Jesus gave us the perfect description of God when he said, "God is love". God's love was shown in sending his only Son, to save all people from condemnation and restore them to his image and likeness. Because God loves everyone, he does not want anyone to be lost, but to save everyone, for each one is precious in his sight. That is why St Paul wrote, "we are God's work of art, created in the image of Christ Jesus to live the good life" (Ephesians 2:4-10).

Imagine if every time we looked at another person or looked at ourselves in a mirror we thought and said, "Thank you, Lord, for making this person, or making me your work of art". To believe this truth would change the way we see other people and ourselves. It would give us a real sense of our dignity as beloved children of God our Father and help alter the way we treat others and ourselves. Our self-esteem would be enhanced, for we would know that no matter how other people see or treat us, God our Father always loves us. Just as parents love to see their son or daughter come home to them, so too God loves all his children come home to him and share in his perfect love.

In the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation, God restores us in his image by sharing his love with us and forgiving our sins. In this Sacrament, God embraces us in love and purifies us from our sins and their effects. His grace and mercy, takes away sin and guilt and helps heal past hurts. Lent is for all Christians, a time to turn away from sin and turn to God with humble and contrite hearts. Catholics receive God's love and forgiveness in this Sacrament during Lent. May we allow God to love us in this Sacrament, and to restore us in the image of Christ, his beloved son, who sacrificed his life for us, out of pure love.

***May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you in during this holy season of Lent. Fr John***

**LENT TALKS IN OUR PARISH HALL** on Tuesdays of Lent at 8.00 pm.

**Tuesday 13 March, Chris Driscoll**, CAFOD Community Participation Co-ordinator, will speak on CAFOD's development projects especially in Sebya, Ethiopia.

**Tuesday, 20 March, Deacon Duncan**, will speak on the Missionary journeys of St Paul, especially in countries where the Christian Church is in great difficulties.

**All are welcome to our Lent talks & please invite anyone who may be interested.**

**BAPTISMS:** *Congratulations to the family of Jack Henry Day who was Baptised in our Church on Saturday 3 March, and the family of Patrick Finley Gallagher who was Baptised in our Church on Sunday 4 March 2018. May the Lord bless them and help them to bring up their children in the knowledge and love of God.*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2018:** The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 14 March** at **5.45pm** in the hall. It is essential that children attend all sessions and Catholic parents bring their children to Mass.

**DONATION FROM PARISHIONER:** We express our gratitude and that of our parish to a parishioner who has given an extremely generous donation of £10,000 to our parish recently. It will be kept in reserve for a special project in the future.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** Last Wednesday's meeting had to be postponed due to the weather. The meeting will now be held on **Wednesday 14 March at 8pm**.

**St VINCENT De PAUL SOCIETY RAFFLE:** This weekend the members of the St Vincent DePaul Society in our parish will sell tickets for the Society's annual raffle after all Masses. Prizes are £3,000, £2,000, £1,000 and some more cash prizes. The proceeds go towards the SVP's charitable works in the Sudan, India and the International Distress fund. Epping SVP Conference will retain 20% of the ticket sales to support their local charitable work and to assist five parishes in India.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:** We have received a thank you letter from BCCS acknowledging our generous parish donation to the 2017 Crib Appeal. Please see letter on church noticeboard.

**EASTER LILIES IN OUR CHURCH:** Donate a lily in memory of a loved one to our church at Easter. Make an offering of £2 per bloom & mark the envelope "Easter Lily". If you are a tax payer you can Gift Aid your donation by using the red Special Donations envelope in the Church, or use one of the special envelopes in your box.

**READERS AT MASS:** There will be a training session for new Readers at Mass, on **Saturday 7 April 2018 (10am-12.30pm)**, with the possibility of joining the Reading Rota in May 2018. If you might be interested in joining our team of 30 Readers, or have queries, please contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) to notify your interest

**ROSARY PRAYER VIGIL IN LENT:** Please support efforts to help women & babies by joining a peaceful vigil (NOT a protest) on Saturday mornings in Lent between 7.45am and 11.30am at the Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic, Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill. For information see poster in church porch or phone Rose on 07960 650517 or Paul on 01992 577104.

**LENT MASSES:** On the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm we offer Mass for people in various groups and activities in our parish that God will bless parishioners in good work for our community. Intentions and dates are as follows:

**FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> March** Catechists and Children's Liturgy

**FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> March** Church Flower arrangers

**EASTER CARDS:** Parish Easter cards, giving the Holy Week & Easter services in our church, starting Palm Sunday, are available for collection in the Hall after all Masses this weekend. We would really appreciate if parishioners, to save on postal costs, could deliver cards to parishioners in their road or nearby. This also shows families who may have lost contact with the church that we are thinking of them.

**LENT LUNCHES - CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPPING:** We will host the lunch **next week on Saturday 17 March**. We have had a wonderful response to our request for volunteers to make soup and help on the day. We now need lots of guest! If you are unable to stay for lunch then please pop in for a filter coffee.

**MISSIO RED BOXES:** All the money from the Missio boxes has now been remitted to the Diocesan Director. The total collected was £1137.21. Another very good effort. Many thanks to all our contributors. Your mission boxes, showing your name, can be collected from the church porch.

**EPPING FOREST FOODBANK LENT APPEAL**, asks us to give **40 pence for 40** days and to take part in **#40for40** challenge Epping Foodbank. Send to Lent Appeal, c/o St Mary's Church, 201 High Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1BB. See leaflet & Gift Aid Forms in Church.

**SEVENTH GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY:** On **Saturday 17 March 11am – 3pm**, Dr Clare Watkins will speak on the Catholic Vision of Marriage. She is Reader in Ecclesiology & Practical Theology at the University of Roehampton. She has worked with Marriage Care and the Bishops' Conference Department for Marriage & Family Life on a number of projects. See poster in the church porch.

**Bishop Alan goes #SiLent!** On **Tuesday 27 March** for 12 hours, from 8am to 8pm, the Tuesday of Holy Week, Bishop Alan will be completely silent (except for occasional communication with his cat, Delia). This is part of a national, "Million Minutes," initiative adopted by BCYS, to encourage all of us (re)discover the peace, tranquility and value of silence: for God speaks within the stillness. Every minute of silence can be sponsored, raising money for projects led by young people in our Diocese. Details and resources are at [www.millionminutes.org/Brentwood](http://www.millionminutes.org/Brentwood). To sponsor Bishop Alan go to <https://be.wonderful.org/bishop.alan/2018/staysilent>. To find out more about all our opportunities for young people go to [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)

**PARISHIONER SPONSORSHIP:** James Ryan is running the **London Marathon 2018** and is raising money for Barnados Children's Charity, helping young children who are in the poorest in society. Can you help James raise £1000. James' Just Giving Page is in the link attached [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jimmyryan88](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jimmyryan88) if your around London on the day all waves and high fives accepted. Thank you for your support.