

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 21st to Sunday 29th April 2018

FOURTH – GOOD SHEPHERD - SUNDAY IN EASTER (B) 22nd April 2018

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

SATURDAY 21st 6.00pm Tony O’Loughlin RIP Recently (Flack)

SUNDAY 22nd 9.00am John Walsh RIP (Clohessy)

APRIL 2018

11.00am The People of our parish

12.30pm Baptism of Louis Edward Gomes Da Silva

Monday 23rd April St. George, Martyr & Patron Saint of England: Solemnity

9.00am Peter Scannell RIP (Holland)

Tuesday 24th St Mellitus, Bishop

9.00am Margaret Whelton’s Intentions

Wednesday 25th St Mark, Evangelist

9.00am Margaret Whelton’s Intentions

Thursday 26th 9.00am Patsy Fernandes RIP (Murray)

Friday 27th 9.00am People of our Parish

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 29th April 2018

Saturday 28th 12 noon Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Fr Higgins)

6.00pm Joan Landon RIP Anniv

Sunday 29th 9.00am James Sullivan RIP Anniv (Sullivan)

April 2018 11.00am Patrick Lennon RIP Anniv (Lennon/Lechley)

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 EASTER B 22nd April 2018

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WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME Francis Wells, Hilda

Silver, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Hannah Robinson, Daphne McAdam, Paula Hall, Ann

Dowd, Mark Toohey, Giovanni Borelli, Sean Clohessy, James Bullen, Roger Minnis,

Tony Mullan, Fr Martin Knott, Fr Tom Jordan and all in our parish who are ill.

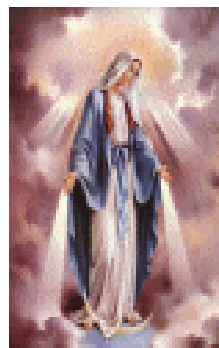
Please inform Fr John, your Priest or a hospital chaplain if you or your relative, a friend or parishioner is ill, at home or in hospital, so they can be visited and offered appropriate pastoral support, and receive the Sacraments.

OFFERINGS: Offertories last weekend: Envelopes £217.30 and Loose £280.69

Standing Orders: £800 CAFOD £51. Thank you for your generosity.

LATIN MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY RITE: A number of parishioners have requested the celebration of the traditional Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Rite in our Church. The first of these Masses will be celebrated by Fr Mark Higgins, in our Church, on **Saturday next, the 28th April at 12 noon.** All are welcome to attend the Mass.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

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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: 01992 001995 (dial 01992

even in Epping area) or mobile 07764404813

FOURTH (GOOD SHEPHERD) SUNDAY of EASTER B 22 April 2018

Dear Friends,

Jesus said “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is the one who lays down his life for his sheep”(John 10:11-18). On the fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church focuses on Christ as the Good Shepherd of his people. St John tells us, “Think of the love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God’s children and that is what we are” (1 John 3:1-2). Through Baptism, we become sons and daughters of God our Father, and brothers and sisters of Christ and one another. In the letter to the Hebrews, Jesus is presented as our “older brother”, who goes before us in the way of faith. He is the Good Shepherd, who goes before his sheep; he leads them to green pastures and even gives up his life to protect them and save them (Psalm 23).

The good shepherd knows each of his sheep by name and they recognise his voice. He calls them and they listen to him and follow him. Jesus, our good shepherd, calls each of us in his family to listen to his voice and to follow him. He calls some of us to share in his work as Good Shepherd by bringing God to people and people to God. He speaks to us in Sacred Scripture and nourishes us with the Bread of Life, in Holy Communion. He calls us to repentance and conversion of life, and by praying with and for people. When we recognise how much God loves us, then we recognize our responsibility to grow in a relationship of love with him and with people.

We pray that God will call people from our families and community to be his priests, so that the Gospel will be proclaimed and the sacraments be ministered to give us grace and new life. If we really value God’s love for people, then we will readily pray that he call a member of our family to be a priest or religious, so that the Lord’s work as the Good Shepherd of people may be continued in the world

In the Church, and this parish, there has been a tradition of 40 hours of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, placed in the monstrance on the altar. Traditionally it took place overnight as well as during the daytime. This year we will have the 40 hours from Tuesday morning 5th June until Friday evening 8th June. It will not, however, be overnight but from after morning Mass until 8pm. Soon we will put out a list for people to sign their names on to cover the various hours in the day.

May Christ, the Good Shepherd, bless you and your families. Fr John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2018: The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 25th April at 5.45pm** in the parish hall. It is essential that the children attend all sessions and that Catholic parents bring their children to Mass. **The First Holy Communion Masses will be at 11am on Saturday 12th and 19th May. The Going Forth Mass will be at 11am on Sunday 10th June.**

READERS AT MASS: If you are interested in joining our team of Readers at Mass, or have queries on becoming a reader please contact Deacon Duncan - 01992 577173

NEW TO OUR PARISH (or have changed your address): Please complete a Parish Registration form, available in the Church, and introduce yourself to Fr John or Deacon Duncan who will be happy to welcome you to our church and parish community.

JUMBLE SALE: **Saturday 28th April at 2pm in our church Hall.** Help is needed on Friday from 1.30pm to carry from the shed and sort out goods for the stalls. Even if you can only spare an hour, that would be great. On Saturday helpers are required to sell from 1.30pm. If you can, please bake some cakes to have with a cup of tea? There is a list in the porch for helpers to add their names to. The Hall will be open from **1.30pm until 7pm on Friday 28th and from 10.30am on Saturday morning.**

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: Next week some parishioners are having a collection for S.P.U.C, the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, who seeks to protect pregnant women from abortion and protect human life from conception until death.

‘WHAT COULD I DO TO HELP?’ Following the homily on **7th/8th April**, it has been suggested that it would be helpful to have a list of the many possible ways in which parishioners could select a way (or ways) in which they could make a personal contribution to enhance the life of our Parish. The list gives many contact details, but please do not hesitate to contact Fr John or Deacon Duncan if you think you would like to help, but have some questions, the answers to which might help to encourage you. The list is being distributed in all Newsletters this weekend and there is a copy of the list (with larger typeface) on the Notice Board in the Church Porch. We look forward to hearing from you. Please!

THY KINGDOM COME: The Vicariate of Evangelisation, supporting our effort to renew our diocese, has decided to join **THY KINGDOM COME 2018** --- a global wave of prayer for renewal of the Christian faith. All you have to do is to pledge to pray between **May 10th to 20th**. Information and resources will be available in the lead up to the event or you can log in to: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE BIBLE: Fr Levente Balazs Martos from Hungary, and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will lead a study day on this topic at Gidea Park Church Hall, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH on **Saturday 26th May from 10.30 until 3 pm.** The study day will include a panel discussion with Fr Levente, Fr Adrian Graffy, and Fleur Dorrell, Scripture Coordinator at the Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales. Admission is free but bring a packed lunch. Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com or by phone 01708 449914.

WE WILL NOT HAVE COFFEE in the Hall after 11am Mass this Sunday 22nd April or on Sunday 6th May

THANK YOU: We express our gratitude to Mary our Sacristan and Alan for the repair and refurbishment of the beautiful decorative Altar candlesticks in our Church.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS: Please take a copy of the new rotas which are in the post box in the church porch.

SVP RAFFLE: Thanks again to all parishioners who bought SVP raffle tickets. The winners list is now on the church notice board. Wanstead parish had 2 winners (one of £3,000) but there were no winners from Epping but that means that statistically Epping’s chances are greater next year!

CHARITABLE DONATIONS: We recently made charitable donations from the parish to a number of worthy causes at home and abroad. Please see thank you letters on the church noticeboard.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES: If your child was baptised in our Parish but you have not yet received the Baptismal Certificate these are available from the Sacristy. Please see Fr John after Mass to collect your child’s Baptism Certificate in the Sacristy.

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Boxes of offertory envelopes for 2018/19 are now ready and personally addressed for you in our church porch. If you could join our Gift Aid Scheme please contact Michele Murphy, our Gift Aid Organiser, at the Parish Office. Similarly, contact Michele if you are in the Scheme but no longer a tax payer.

FAMILY MAGIC SHOW: On **Saturday 26th May at 2.30pm** the parish is hosting this family event for all ages. The aim of this event is to enjoy magic by Andy Clockwise and an opportunity to meet other families in the parish. Tickets are £10 per family and will be on sale after Masses this Sunday or by email to n.goldsworthy@hotmail.co.uk. Please see poster in church porch for further details.

LAPTOPS NEEDED I am a sixth form learning mentor at St Mary’s Catholic School Bishops Stortford. Due to pressure on school budgets we have laptops that are now over 10 years old and many with problems. We are fundraising in school but laptops are expensive, it will take time and we need at least 20. In the interim I appeal for laptops you may no longer use or need, or your workplace may be updating. Once we achieve our target we will give them to charities. Staff at school will wipe the memory clean as this is a specialist task. I can collect any donations and thank you in advance for your support – **Dymphna Canny on 07840200962**

CHURCH REFERENCE FOR SCHOOL ADMISSIONS This is the time of year when some people disappear from churches. Some will have attended, supported and been involved in a church to obtain a priest’s or minister’s reference testifying to regular attendance at Church. This is often done to secure a place for their child at a church school and as soon as the place is obtained they no longer attend church, often giving up completely. This widespread manipulative practice was well illustrated in an article in “**THE TIMES**” on 5 March: “**What we did to get our child into a church school**” - a copy can be seen in the porch or at “**THE TIMES**” online: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-faked-our-beliefs-to-get-our-daughter-into-a-church-school-5ff8r7fgj>.