

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 28th April to Sunday 6th May 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 29th May 2018

SATURDAY 28th 12 noon Latin Mass in Extraordinary Rite -Fr Mark 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)

Monday 30th April 9.00am Franko Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)

Tuesday 1st May **St Joseph the Worker, Day of Prayer for Human Work**

9.00am Vincent Lundy RIP Anniv May is the Month of our Lady

Wednesday 2nd **St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor**

9.00am Pat Murphy RIP Recently (Darcy)

Thursday 3rd **St Philip & St James, Apostles**

9.00am Fr Brian O'Higgins RIP (Anniv)

Friday 4th **The English Martyrs**

9.00am Canon Brian Grady RIP (Anniv)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 6th May 2018

Saturday 5th 6.00pm Denise McIntosh RIP (Aitken)

Sunday 6th 9.00am People of our Parish

May 2018 11.00am James Davignon RIP (Holland)

12.30pm Baptism Luke Vincent Jones

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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B 29th 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, a Priest or hospital chaplain if you or your relative, or a

parishioner is ill, at home or in hospital, so they can be visited and receive the

Sacraments and have pastoral support. Hospital staff do not inform a priest of a

Catholic in the hospital, unless asked to do so by a patient or their relative.

OFFERINGS: Offertories last weekend: Envelopes £337.40, Loose £319.37;

Standing Orders: £800 CAFOD £112.20. Thank you for your generosity.

WE WILL NOT HAVE COFFEE in the Hall after 11am Mass on Sunday 6 May

EASTER CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNION: We Catholics have a duty

from the Church's law to receive Holy Communion, and the Sacrament of Penance

if necessary, between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

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: 01992 001995 (dial 01992

even in Epping area) or mobile 07764404813

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

29 April 2018

Dear Friends,

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; but cut off from me you can do nothing" (John 15:1-8). In spring, new life is blooming all around us in nature with flowers in blossom and green on the trees reflecting God's creativeness and beauty. Jesus uses the image of a Vine that gives life to its branches to show that he gives life to each one who is a member of his body in the Church. Last Sunday we had the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) who looks after his flock and lays down his life for them. Today we see him as the vine who gives us the joy of new life. Just as we have new life in spring following death in nature in winter; so we have the new life of grace at Easter through Christ's resurrection, following his death on Good Friday.

If we are to share in the new life of grace we must live according to God's law, for Christ tells us, "Anyone loves me, will keep my commandments". Some people claim to be Christian, but advocate beliefs and ways of life that are opposed to Christ and his law. Whilst we recognise God's call to be holy, we struggle with our human weakness and our conscience tells us that we fail. In these situations we confess our sins, and seek Christ's forgiveness so as to be reconciled to God and one another. It is illogical to say one is a committed Christian (meaning in a communion of mind and heart with Christ), but opposes by word or way of life his teachings, which are given in the Bible and the Church's tradition of teaching. It is by keeping his commandments that we live in communion with God and he lives in us (1Jn.3:24).

In receiving Holy Communion from the chalice, the fruit of the vine, and the host we are being joined to Christ, the true vine. In Holy Communion, we enter into a union and intimacy with Christ, which surpasses the intimate union between husband and wife in Christian marriage. It is necessary for us therefore, to receive Christ with a view to living in an ongoing relationship of love with him. In Holy Communion, he comes into our hearts with love, and makes his home in us. To complete the circle of love in our relationship with Christ, we must make our spiritual home and way of life in him. His way is opposed by the ways and thinking of the world, and we have to choose which way we live; the way of the world or the way of Christ.

May Christ, the true Vine, bless us with his life and love. Fr John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2018: 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**. The rehearsals will be at **7pm on Wednesday 9th & 16th May**.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: This 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.

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.

'WHAT COULD I DO TO HELP?' Following the homily on **7th/8th April**, it was suggested that it would be helpful to have a list of 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 would like to help, but have some questions, the answers to which might help to encourage you. The list is available in the church and on the Notice Board in the Church Porch and there is a copy of the list (with larger typeface). 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.

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

CHARITABLE DONATIONS: We recently made donations from our parish to worthy causes at home and abroad. Thank you letters are 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.

REQUEST FOR USHERS: We need more people to help as ushers in the Church. If you are coming to Mass, it is not an onerous task, but a great help to other parishioners. Please contact Mary Morgan on 01992 574719 or the Parish Office to offer assistance.

MESSAGE FROM CAFOD: "Thank you for your support to our Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations to CAFOD until **12th May** will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition - and hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. But we need the full amount of match funding to make it happen. You can help us reach the full amount needed for this crucial programme. We still have some way to go yet! To donate please go to cafod.org.uk/lent "

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.

MESSAGE FROM JAMES RYAN: "Thank you to all who supported me through the London Marathon, I completed it in 3hrs 58mins a Personal Best by 20 minutes in the hottest recorded marathon and now recovering well. The total for Barnardos is still rising currently at £1320. Thank you to all of you. You can still donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jimmyryan88> God Bless.

CARITASA DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD: Invitation to Sacred Heart School, Upminster on Saturday 7th July 10.30-3.30pm. Anyone in the diocese working in any aspect of social justice ministry and charity including SVP, BCCS, work with the homeless, the traveller community, running foodbanks, CAFOD etc is invited to the above meeting on **Social Justice**. The day is particularly intended to help dialogue between generations. The day is free of charge, funded by a private grant. Refreshments will be provided. Please see notice in church porch for further details.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION At this time of year some people disappear from the churches, especially those who attended to obtain a priest's or minister's reference testifying to regular Church attendance, in order to secure a place for their child at a church school. Some sever links with the Church as soon as they obtain the desired place and never to attend again. This widespread manipulative practice was explained in an article in "THE TIMES" on 5th March: "What we did to get our child into a church school" – there is a copy in the porch or go to "THE TIMES" online: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-faked-our-beliefs-to-get-our-daughter-into-a-church-school-5ff8r7fgj>.

Oberammergau Passion Play 2020: Date 6th September 2020, 5 days in Austrian Lake District, half board 1 day and 1 night in Oberammergau £1,239. Cost includes Flights, 4 tours in Austria, Passion Play, 3 course meal in the interval. Bookings made through Lee Robinson 01277 652358. All details of this tour can be found on www.tailored-travel.co.uk quote mhrp201

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS: The King's Good Servant. Tues 1 May 6pm. The heroic story of St Thomas More, who bravely defended the faith under King Henry VIII. Meet at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer & St Thomas More, Cheyne Row SW3 5HS. Nearest Tube: South Kensington.