

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

**THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT C Gaudete / Rejoicing Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Curtin Family RIP (Crouch)  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Holy Souls RIP  
**December 2018 11.00am People of our Parish**  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Intentions of MB  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Josephine Andrews RIP (Recently)  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Eileen Mc Nerney RIP 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary (Garwood)  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Private Intention  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 9.00am Mary Pauline Nolan RIP Recently  
**11.00am Mary Pauline Nolan RIP Funeral Service**

**FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT C Expectant Mothers Day 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.00pm Maureen & Edward Jones RIP  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 9.00am Private Intention  
**December 2018 11.00am People of our Parish**

**SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturday 11am to 12 noon & 5.15 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: THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT C 16 December 2018**

Page 7 The Beginning of Mass Page 65 Advent Preface of Two comings of Christ  
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

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME** Please inform a Priest or hospital Chaplain if you, your relative or a parishioner is ill, so they can have visits from a priest and receive the Sacraments at home or in hospital

**OFFERINGS:** Offertories last weekend: Envelopes £240.50, Loose £227.86,  
Standing Orders: £800, CAFOD £31.31. Thank you for your great generosity.

**THE VISION DOCUMENT: "Shaping our future in our Diocese"** comes from the Stewards of the Gospel consultation programme in our Diocese. It is available free at the back of the Church. You can see how it may affect the parishes in this area.

**BRENTWOOD NEWS:** This last and final edition of the Brentwood News in hard-copy is available free in the church. Future editions will be in electronic form.

**MY DAY BY DAY FOR INFANTS & JUNIORS & WALK WITH ME for adults** is available free in our church to use in preparation for Christmas. A **Christian Advent calendar** is also available free in the church.

**WE'VE GOT CHRISTMAS WRAPPED UP!** Please see advertising poster & flyers a Christmas wrapping service being offered by a group of parishioners as a fund-raiser. There will be tea/coffee and mince pies will you wait.

**The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA  
Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516  
Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173  
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*

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT C Gaudete/Rejoicing Sunday 16.12.2018**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

During Advent, we are all asked to prepare ourselves for the Christmas Season by reflecting upon how we may improve our relationship with God. To help us focus on this, it is suggested that we undertake some special act of penance, possibly denying ourselves some food or drink or favourite entertainment, or better still, do something extra to reflect our caring attitude as a loving, practising Christian. At this half-way stage of our Advent journey, we are encouraged to reflect on how we are progressing in our efforts to please God.

The Church allows a day's break from these Advent exercises, when we can celebrate our progress and thank God for his patience with us. This special day is called 'Gaudete Sunday', when we are urged simply to be joyful about God's love for us and the love we return to him, and to rejoice at the imminent celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

The word 'Gaudete' is the opening word of the original Mass in Latin:

**Gaudete in Domino semper; iterum dico, gaudete,**  
which translates as

**'Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice'**

The themes of joy and rejoicing are echoed throughout today's Mass. The Collect refers to 'glad rejoicing'; the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading urges us to 'shout for joy', whilst our response to the Psalm says that we 'sing and shout for joy'. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, St Paul says that he wants us 'to be happy, always happy'. All this encouragement to be happy leads us into the gospel reading from St Luke, where John the Baptist gives the people the Good News of the coming of Christ.

After the 'Gaudete' joyful break!! Monday re-starts our Advent inward examination of our personal relationship with God.

God bless.

*Deacon Duncan*

**WE PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS WHO DIED RECENTLY:**

**MARY PAULINE NOLAN RIP**, late of Stansted Mount Fitchet, who died on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated in our Church at 11am on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018, followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May she rest in peace.**

*We offer our sympathy & prayers to and for her family and the repose of her soul. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them at this time.*

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES & CONFESSIONS IN THE DEANERY:**

Epping	Sacrament of Penance on 22 <sup>nd</sup> December at 11am – 12 noon and 5.15pm to 5.40pm
Holy Cross, Harlow	17th December at 7.30pm
Loughton	18th December at 7.30pm
Waltham Abbey	20th December at 7.30pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES IN OUR PARISH:**

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December Mass at 6.00pm for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 9.00am and 11.00 am for 4<sup>th</sup> 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 10.00am and the same time for Thursday and Friday.

**RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS** from Aid to the Church in Need, to help Christians suffering persecution, oppression or poverty, are in sale in the church.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** A big thank you to Peter Day for co-ordinating the distribution of the Parish Christmas cards and for delivering so many of the cards himself. Thanks also to all the parishioners who have helped with the delivering and in doing so saved a great amount in postage costs.

**CTED CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON:** We invite anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to join us for a traditional lunch & celebration in our Church Hall on **25 December, 12.30pm for 1pm**. Couples & carers may apply and transport can be provided. Places are limited, so please telephone Mary Morgan on 01992 574719 or contact Fr John or Deacon Duncan. We need to help bring our guests to the Hall and take them home around 3.30pm. Also donations of small gifts, desserts and Christmas goodies are welcome. The Hall will be open in the morning, on Christmas Eve, to receive your donations. Yours help is always deeply appreciated.

**EPPING FOODBANK:** Epping Foodbank will be very busy and much needed for all December. Tinned & packed items are the most useful. Toiletries and household cleaning & hygiene items are welcome, as are Christmas food treats. Please leave your donations in the box in our church porch. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please make the envelope “Foodbank” and leave it at the Priest’s House. Thank you for your generosity.

**NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE** on **Sunday 23 December at 4 pm** with Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral. A service of readings, carols & beautiful choral music from the Cathedral choir to prepare for Christmas. All are welcome.

**THANK YOU:** A big thank you to Bishop Thomas from coming to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Consecration of our Church on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you to our parishioners who came to and helped with a lovely celebration. A special thanks to the organist and choir, to Anna who made the beautiful cake and all who provided the food and drinks and organised the wonderful hospitality for the social celebration.

**CHRISTINGLE Children will have a Christingle Service and make Christingles in our church hall during 11am Mass on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December.**

**OUR PARISH CAROL SERVICE** will be at 6pm on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December with the preparation starting in our church hall at 4pm.

We need lots of children to take part in both services, and 4 teenagers to read and someone to sing a solo at the Carol Service – which is always a lovely service. Please contact Nora Nolan through our Parish Office by phone 01992 577932 or e-mail to [jim.nolan@ntlworld.com](mailto:jim.nolan@ntlworld.com)

**STANLEY HOLDER ROOM:** Last Wednesday The Royal College of Nursing named a room at its London headquarters, “The Stanley Holder Room”, in memory of Stan and in recognition of his great contribution to nursing, research and the training of nurses in the UK. In that room, Stan’s portrait is surrounded by photos of the Queen, members of the Royal Family and nobility supportive of the profession.



**‘FLAME 2’ YOUTH EVENT AT WEMBLEY – 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2019**



About 14-21 years old? If so this Youth Event is **especially for you**.

- Attend with 10,000 other young people. World-known speakers and singers.
- Travel by underground to and from Wembley Centre. Your total cost is £10
- Details on line: [cymfed.org.uk/flame2019](http://cymfed.org.uk/flame2019) or on our church noticeboard

Names & cheques to James Ryan, Fr John or Deacon Duncan. Tickets in short supply,

**APF RED MISSIO BOXES:** Please hand in boxes to the Sacristy or Priest’s House ASAP. **Please do NOT** leave boxes with money in Church Porch. When emptied and counted, boxes are labelled and left in the Porch to be collected by the owners. **Your money helps Mill Hill Missionaries support poor communities overseas.** If you wish to have a Red Missio Box to give small change to this charity, please contact Elaine Garwood, our Missio Organiser, on [egarwood@live.co.uk](mailto:egarwood@live.co.uk). Every little helps! There are additional boxes in the Church porch - please take one if you would like to help the missions in poor countries - don’t forget to put your name on your box.

**FOR HALL BOOKINGS** contact Arnold Verrall, preferably by telephone, on 01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping) or mobile 07764404813 or by email [arnold\\_verrall@email.com](mailto:arnold_verrall@email.com). **Preferential rates are for parishioners & charities.**

**USED POSTAGE STAMPS** Please save used postage stamps and place them in the Used Stamps box in our Church porch, which is on the bottom shelf under the post tray. The stamps will be given to St Clare Hospice, and can be exchanged for money.

**LONDON AT CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR: Sunday 16th December 2018 & Wednesday 2nd January 2019**, both at 3pm. Join us for seasonal Catholic History walks through Westminster and Victoria, taking in Christmas trees and crib-scenes. Meet at Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria.