

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 5th Jan to Sunday 13th Jan 2019

Sunday 6th January 2019: SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 5 th	6.00pm	In Thanksgiving (Crouch)
Sunday 6 th	9.00am	Peter & Gill Patterson's intentions
January 2019	11.00am	The People of our Parish
Monday 7 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 8 th	1.00pm	Giovanni Battista Borelli RIP REQUIEM MASS
Wednesday 9 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 10 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Friday 11 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP

Sunday 13th January 2019: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

Saturday 12 th	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 13 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
January 2019	11.00am	Philomena Cullen RIP Recently (Darcy)

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: The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord 6th January

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

OFFERINGS: Offertories last weekend: Envelopes £207.25, Loose £372.08, Standing Orders: £800. Thank you for your great generosity.

EPPING FOODBANK *message from Epping Foodbank:*

“A HUGE thank you for the very generous donations to Epping Foodbank. They made a big difference to many Christmas celebrations & were much appreciated Thanks & wishing you a very happy New Year. Thank you for your generosity”.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

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Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

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

SOLEMN FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (C)

6th JANUARY 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Most of us know that the meaning of the word 'Epiphany' is 'the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi'. But how does the Epiphany fit into the great story of the development of Christianity?

Mary and Joseph were devout Jews and Jesus was naturally born into their Jewish community. But, whilst there had been many occasions of reconciliation over the years, the Jewish people had been repeatedly wayward in following him faithfully. Whilst the Jewish numbers had grown, they were still a minuscule part of society, completely outnumbered by the Romans, Greeks and many other 'non-believers'. It was evidently God's plan that this imbalance should be changed and that the influence of what we now call Christianity should be dramatically increased.

The three kings became the vehicle for informing the gentile world of the arrival of its Saviour and so the sequence became: the birth of John the Baptist to the apparently barren Elizabeth, followed by the virgin birth of Jesus and the arrival of the three kings to witness and glorify his presence. During the following 30 years, there will have been an air of uncertainty and upheaval as John and Jesus grew up. Firstly, John joined the Essene Community of monks and became a prophet, and then Jesus seems to have grown up to 28 or 29 years of age at home, as a carpenter, until he started his three-year ministry as Jesus Christ in his early thirties.

Initially, of course, Jesus addressed most of his attention to the conversion of the Jewish people, with most of the conversion to Christianity of the 'gentiles' or non-Jews, being left to the apostles and disciples after his death and resurrection. But an incredible growth in Christianity, sustained over 2000 years to the point where there are now estimated to be about 2.2 billion souls who are proud to be called CHRISTIAN!! **That's 31% of the world's human population, with a simple membership requirement: TO LOVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOUR.** The Epiphany is certainly an event which needs its annual celebration.

May God bless you - and your loving - throughout 2019!!

Deacon Duncan.

WE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO DIED RECENTLY:

GIOVANNI BORELLI RIP, who died on Wednesday, 19th December. He will be received into our Church next **Tuesday 8th January** at 1.00pm for the celebration of Requiem Mass, to be followed by repatriation to Italy. **May he rest in peace.**

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

CTED CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH: Thanks and congratulations Mary Morgan and the volunteers; cooks, waiters, sommeliers and chauffeurs who gave of their time, skills and commitment on Christmas Day to provide a wonderful Christmas Dinner in our hall for people who would be alone on Christmas Day. It was obvious that the guests greatly enjoyed the hospitality and the cordiality of the day. Thanks also to parishioners who donated gifts to be given to the guests at the Dinner.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: 1. A meeting for the Parents of first Holy Communion children will be held in our hall on **9th January 2019 at 8pm.**
2. Children will be presented with their **First Reconciliation Certificates** & enrolled for first Holy Communion at all Masses on the weekend of **12th & 13th January.**
3 Children's preparation session for first Holy Communion be held in our hall on **Wednesday 16th January at 5.45pm. Parents, please note all these dates & times.**

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: The next session for young people preparing for Confirmation will be in the Hall next **Tuesday, 8th January**, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm




TALKS ON OUR CATHOLIC FAITH: We have talks on the Catholic faith for adults interested in finding out about our faith, becoming Catholic or wishing to understand our faith or support the faith of family members. These are suitable for Catholic adults who have not been Confirmed or not been practising and wish to renew their faith. They are held in **The Priest's House on Wednesdays at 8pm.**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: **Tuesday 15th January** at 8pm in the Priest's House. All are welcome to attend.

OUR DIOCESAN VISION DOCUMENT: "Shaping our future in our Diocese" from the Stewards of the Gospel consultation programme in our Diocese. It is available free at the back of the Church. Please look at how it may affect the parishes in this area.

 **'FLAME 2' YOUTH EVENT AT WEMBLEY – 2nd 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 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. 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.

CONCERT: Epping Chorus (formerly known as Ecce) will be singing Dvorak's Mass in D and John Rutter's "Dancing Day" with harp accompaniment, as well as some seasonal carols, on **Saturday 19th January at 7.30pm** in St. John's church, Epping. Admission free but programme charge of £2.50 to offset expenses. Retiring collection for much needed choir funds will be made. Please support us - a low cost, good evening's entertainment.

"SPRING SPIRITUALITY TALK": Mgr David Manson will be giving a talk on **"The Spirituality of Pope Francis"- Saturday 19th January 2019** - 10.30am-12.00noon at Cathedral House Conference Centre, Brentwood. Contact details: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org Tel. 01277 265285.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: On **Wednesdays 23rd and 30th January** at 7 pm Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Luke, the gospel being read on Sundays in 2019. These 'Gidea Park Faith Evenings' will take place in the hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission free.

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. **Preferential rates are for parishioners & charities.**

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 happily welcome you to our church and parish community.

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.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY VACANCY: The SVP Society are seeking to recruit a new Admin Assistant to join their small team at the Society's busy National Office in London SE1 on a fixed term contract until July 2019. Salary £19,207 pa. Start date ASAP. For an application pack and further details please contact Moira Dawe on 0207 703 3030 or email moirad@svp.org.uk. Closing date Tuesday 8th January 2019 5.00pm. Interviews week commencing 14th January 2019.