

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 23 February - Sunday 3 March 19

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) 24th February 2019

Saturday 23 rd	6.00pm	Win Crouch RIP Anniversary (Crouch)
Sunday 24 th	9.00am	Roger Allardyce RIP Anniv. (Allardyce)
February	11.00am	Bishop Alan Pastoral Visit & Confirmation
2019	3.00pm	Full Sung Latin Mass with Gregorian Chant
Monday 25 th	9.00am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 26 th	9.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 27 th	9.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday 28 th	9.00am	Holy Souls
Friday 1 st	St David, Bishop, Patron Saint of Wales	
March 2019	9.00am	Holy Souls
	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service in our Church

EIGHT SUNDAY Ordinary Time C Day of Prayer for the Unemployed 3.3.2019

Saturday 2 nd	6.00pm	Don Golden RIP
Sunday 3 rd	9.00am	Kathleen & Ed Maher RIP Anniv. (Maher)
March 2019	11.00am	The People 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: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time C 24 February 2019

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FULL SUNG LATIN MASS with Gregorian Chant in our Church, this **Sunday 24 February at 3pm**. Come, pray and sing the Traditional Tridentine Latin Mass of our Church. The celebrant will be **Monsignor Gordon Read**. *All Welcome!*

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

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generosity last weekend with Offertories of £550.50, and Standing Orders £800. CAFOD £10.57. We have had a thank you letter from CAFOD for a donation of £4,500 received from our parishioners.

BAKE SALE on Sunday 3rd March after 9am and 11am Masses. Donations of cakes and baked goods welcome. Proceeds go to the church.

SVP RAFFLE: Next weekend at all Masses members of the St. Vincent De Paul Society in our parish will sell tickets for their annual raffle with prizes of £3,000, £2,000 and £1,000. This is a good way of supporting the very important work of this society at local and national level. **Tickets are £1 each or £5 for a book.**

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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*Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa*

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C 24 FEBRUARY 2019

My dear Friends,

“What you measure out is what you will be given back” (Luke 6: 27-38). In these words Jesus sums up the reward we can expect to receive, or lose, due to the way we measure our love or treat others. Today's Gospel develops Christ's teaching for Christian living in The Beatitudes. *Compassionate* is a key word in today's readings. It means to share with another in their suffering or to put one's self in their place. In response to Psalm 102 we say “The Lord is compassion and love”. Jesus was compassionate and stood in our place as he shared in our sufferings. He sacrificed his will and life in faithfulness to his heavenly Father and out of love for us. He wanted to show us how to be freed from a self-centred way of thinking and acting and to be focused on God and others rather than our self. He showed us that love is sacrifice, and that it was his sacrificial love that led him to suffering death on the cross and the glory of resurrection. The fruit of his love is that we are now enabled to share in the life of grace, and glory of the kingdom of God.

We welcome Bishop Alan on a Pastoral Visit to our parish this Sunday. The bishop is the chief shepherd of the flock in the diocese, and through Bishop Alan we are united with the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis. Through that linkage our unity and communion with one another, and Catholics throughout the world, is expressed and sustained. On Friday last we celebrated the feast of the Chair of St Peter, and Pope Francis sits on that chair above the tomb of St Peter, in St Peter's Basilica in Rome. Jesus in response to Peter's profession of faith in him as “The Saviour of World” was to tell him to “Confirm the faith of his brethren”.

Today Bishop Alan will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and Confirm eleven young people in our parish at 11am Mass. We congratulate them and their parents as their faith was initiated at their Baptism, nurtured in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, and is confirmed or strengthened today in the Sacrament of Confirmation when they will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom and understanding, counsel and fortitude, knowledge and holiness, and fear (reverence) of the Lord. These gifts are necessary for all of us, when we need to call on the Lord to help and guide us. Using these gifts with faith, we can be truly compassionate and loving in a way that will lead us to put God's plan and the needs of others before our self.

May the Lord bless and guide us with the gifts of his Spirit Fr John

LENT BEGINNING ON ASH WEDNESDAY – 6th March 2019

On Ash Wednesday Masses in our church will be at 10am and 8.00pm

On the Wednesdays in Lent weekday Mass in our Church will be 12.15pm: which may enable people who cannot come to 9am weekday Mass to attend.

On the Fridays in Lent Mass will be at 9am, and at 7.30pm with Stations of the Cross. On the Sundays of Lent Stations of the Cross will be at 6pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN'S PREPARATION:

The children have been given a **Planner for attendance at Sunday Masses**. They are to collect a Sticker from Fr John or Deacon Duncan at the end of each Sunday Mass they attend and fix it to the box for that Sunday in their planner. If they attend Mass at another church they should get the priest there to sign the box for that Sunday, and we will subsequently give them a sticker here. The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 27th February at 5.45pm** in the hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY We urgently require helpers for Children's Liturgy at 11am Sunday Masses. No experience is required. Books and materials are provided. There is a rota so helpers can choose the dates they are able to cover. Please contact Norah Nolan if you would like more information or think you might be able to help. Email – jim.nolan@ntlworld.com or telephone 01992 577932.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE will be in our church at 2.30pm on Friday 1 March. We hope for a good turnout of our parishioners. Dorothy Whitehouse would like to hear from any lady who would like to take part as a Reader, or help with Refreshments etc.(telephone 01992 577173).

PENNIES FOR PEACE: Thank you to everyone who put pennies, pounds and fivers in the Pennies for Peace, Pax Christi, bottle at the back of the church. A cheque for **£33** has now been sent to Pax Christi which will go support their work in schools & parishes in this country, and also for aid work in the Middle East.

LENT LUNCHESES: A chance to meet friends and support Christian Aid. Each Saturday in Lent one of the Churches in Epping offers a light lunch (soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee) **from 12.30pm to 2pm**. A suggested donation is £3 for Christian Aid. Please bring your friends. Everyone is welcome! The first lunch will take place on **Saturday 9th March** at the Methodist Church, High Street, Epping.

WALK OF WITNESS, EPPING on 19 APRIL 2019 Volunteers are needed to assist carry the cross, moving the PA & stewarding the event. Readers and a team of volunteers, ideally from across the Epping area Churches are needed to read the Easter story as the procession moves through the town. A planning meeting will be held on **27th February at 7pm** at Epping Green Chapel. Any questions please contact John McCredie on 07985561470 or Paul Walker on 07769585411.

FLAME AT WEMBLY: This event for young people will be held on **Saturday 2nd March**. Some young people from our parish, especially from our Confirmation Group, will be attending this wonderful celebration with about 10,000 others.

PARISH HALL COMMITTEE: This small committee manages our Parish Hall very effectively, and meets on a Wednesday evening about 4 times a year. We need some more and new members. If you would like to help, please contact Fr John or Paul, the Chairman at the Parish Office by phone, note or e-mail.

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 for parishioners & charities.**

40 DAYS FOR LIFE- 6 March to 14 April: A pre-Campaign Hour of Prayer led by Mgr Keith Newton, of the Ordinariate, will be held on Tuesday 5 March from 6 to 7pm. See details on the church notice board.

EPPING FOREST FOOD BANK is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator for 4 to 6 hours a week based at Loughton. See details on the church noticeboard

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS is the theme of a study day at Christ the Eternal High Priest Church, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH on **Saturday 16th March**. Six years after his election we look at Pope Francis' efforts for the renewal to the Church. The speaker will be Fr Alban McCoy OFM Conv, Dean of St Edmund's College, Cambridge. The day starts at **11am and ends at 3pm**. Admission is free & refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own lunch and book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com

CALLING YOUNG CATHOLICS to be an intern in the Catholic Parliamentary & Public Affairs Internship Scheme **with Faith in Politics**. This Intern Scheme gives up to eight recent Catholic graduates intensive experience of political and social action in a spiritual context. Interns are placed with Christian MPs at Westminster in public policy & social action roles at Catholic Education Service, CAFOD & CSAN. Details at www.faithinpolitics.org.uk. Closing date 28 Feb 19.

ANNIVERSARY CONCERT: BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: We are delighted to announce the Northern Irish classical singing trio 'The Priests' will hold an Anniversary Concert on **Saturday 15 June 2019** at the Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm. Early bird tickets are available at a special price of £15 plus booking fee until 1 March, after which they will be £20 plus fee. Tickets can be purchased directly through Eventbrite – www.eventbrite.co.uk - look for **The Priests** under **Event**, or click the link on our website www.bccs.org.uk under **Our 35th Anniversary/Anniversary Events**. We expect this to be a sell-out and would urge you book early to avoid disappointment.

PILGRIMAGE TO SAN GIOVANNI, ASSISI AND CASCIA: 6 nights/7 days from 14th - 20th September 2019 with Our Lady of Canvey Parish, following in the footsteps of St Padre Pio, St Francis, St Clare and St Rita. Cost £899. For more information please call Cathy on 01268691323 or 07885577342.

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