

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 23rd to Sunday 31st March 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C) 24th March 2019

Saturday 23 rd	6.00pm	Philip McAdam's intentions (McAdam)
Sunday 24 th	9.00am	Jim Hayes RIP (Coyne/Hayes)
March 2019	11.00am	People of our Parish
	12.30pm	Baptism Eleanor Natalina Gamwells
Monday 25 th		The Annunciation of the Lord
	9.00am	Rev Michael O'Rourke RIP
Tuesday 26 th	9.00am	Intentions of the Connolly Family (Fahy)
Wednesday 27 th	12.15pm	Intentions of M.C
Thursday 28 th	9.00am	Intentions of Mary Dynes (Dynes)
Friday 29 th	9.00am	Private Intention
	7.30pm	Ints. of our Musicians, Choir & Stewards of the Gospel

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) Laetare or Rejoicing Sunday 31st March 2019

Saturday 30 th	6.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday 31 st	9.00am	Andreas Kyrou RIP MOTHERING SUNDAY
March 2019	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 IN LENT 24 March 2019

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PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME: Please inform a Priest or Hospital Chaplain if you, your relative or 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 generous Offertories last weekend: Loose Plate: £372.42, Envelopes: £298.90 and Standing Orders £800. CAFOD £535.91

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.**

ANNOUNCING OUR NEXT LATIN MASS! on Sunday 31 March at 3.00pm. We welcomed Mgr Gordon Read last month, and this month we warmly welcome Dr Michael Cullinan from Maryvale. Come and sing with the Canning Town singers the Traditional Chants of our Beloved Church since 100 A.D! The words and books are provided for your use.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Registered Charity Number: 234092

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT C

24th MARCH 2019

My dear Friends,

God called from the middle of the burning bush and said, "Moses, Moses, come no nearer. Take your shoes off for the place on which you stand is holy ground"(Exodus 3:1-15). In this age we are increasingly aware of the importance of protecting the environment for future generations, yet there is a diminishing sense of the sacred in the world. The material and secular blinds people to the spiritual so that we do not see the presence of God in a person or in creation. The sacred and spiritual, which sustain life and nature, are often not recognised and disregarded as worthless or irrelevant. Could it be that we, like Moses, are walking on holy ground and sacred space, but do not recognise the presence of God in our time and place?

When we go into a Church we genuflect with our right knee touching the floor at our left heel, to show that we are honouring Christ who is in that sacred place. On entering a Mosque, people take off their shoes, as Moses did, to show one walks on holy ground in the presence of God and that we must worship him. Whilst God is present everywhere, we must always honour him in people and holy places. We need to be aware that his presence is real to us in the Church; a building consecrated to God where his people gather for worship and prayer. That is why we bow or genuflect and are silent before him.

God is present when his Word in Sacred Scripture, is read aloud to us, and he is truly present in Holy Communion. He is present "where two or three are gathered together in his name". The many and varied presences of God is a comfort and strength to us in the various situations we go through, for the Lord does not leave us to cope or journey alone in life, but is with us at all times. St Patrick, whose feast is celebrated in March, expresses this beautifully in his prayer: "Christ, be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart ...". We would do well to make this lovely prayer or hymn a consistent part of our own prayer, as we reflect on God's ongoing presence and constant love for us. Jesus too assures us of his ongoing presence and love when he says, "Behold I am with you always, to the end of time" (Matthew 28:20).

May the Lord reveal his presence to you and your family. Fr John

WE PRAY FOR PARISHIONER, PETER BEARD RIP, late of Epping, who died on Thursday 21 March. Funeral arrangements pending.

CAFOD LENT FAST: Last week's collection for CAFOD amounted to **£535.91**. Many thanks for your generosity.

LENT SERVICES: On Wednesdays in Lent weekday Mass in our Church will be 12.15pm: which should enable people who cannot come to the earlier 9am weekday Mass to attend. At the 9am weekday Masses there are usually not more than 10 people present. It would be a blessing for parishioners to make a real effort to attend a weekday Mass in Lent.

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.

LENT MASSES: On the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm we will offer Mass for people in various groups and activities in our parish that God will bless them in their good work for the community. The dates & intentions are as follows:

FRIDAY 29th March: Musicians, Choir, Stewards of the Gospel

FRIDAY 5th April: Catechist's & Children's Liturgy

FRIDAY 12th April: Ministers of the Eucharist

LENT LUNCHESES: A chance to meet friends and support Christian Aid each Saturday in Lent as 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 next lunch will be on **Saturday 30th March** at the Life Church, The Box, St John's Road, Epping.

Our Lent Lunch takes place on Saturday 6th April. We need helpers to serve our guests together with your support to sit down and enjoy lunch with them. Beans on toast will be available as an alternative to soup and cheese ploughmans. Donations of soup and home-made bread will be deeply appreciated. Please telephone Mary on 01992 574719.

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP There will be a Lent Discussion Group, along similar lines to the Lent Groups which have been arranged in our parish for many years. This year, the subjects will be 'Old and New Testament Miracles'. Meetings will be on **Wednesdays 27th March and 10th April from 2.00pm – 4pm**. All very welcome. Please contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) if you would like to join this friendly and informal Group.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The final Meeting for the Parents will be on **Tuesday, 26th March at 8.00pm in the Church Hall.**

PARISH COUNCIL: Meeting **Tuesday 2nd April** at 8pm at the Priest's House.

THANK YOU!! Deacon Duncan & Dorothy thank all those who helped to make last Sunday very special for them on the celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary. The whole celebration, both at the Mass and the 'Cake and Bubbly' Party, with all the presents and cards were truly heart-warming. God bless you all!

CYCLONE IDAI EMERGENCY APPEAL: CAFOD has joined forces with DEC, Disasters Emergency Committee to reach hundreds of thousands of people affected by Cyclone Idai, across Southern Africa. In a statement, Bishop Charles Kasonde of Solwezi, Chairman of the Association of Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa, called for people to "respond to the cry for humanitarian assistance in whichever way possible". This need is urgent as everyone is in need of food, clean water and shelter, with some shelters already at capacity. £30 can provide blankets to keep two families warm, £50 could provide a family with food for a month and £100 could help build a toilet and washing facilities for families who lost their homes. After all Masses next weekend we will hold a retiring collection to support the Appeal. Please be generous!

EASTER LILIES As in previous years, parishioners are offered the opportunity of remembering deceased relatives and friends at Easter by displaying lilies in the church flower arrangements. It is suggested that a donation of £3 is made for each lily. Please put your donation into an envelope, clearly marked 'Easter Lily in memory of.....' and either put it with the Offertory collection or put it through the Presbytery letter box. If you are a tax payer you can Gift Aid your donation by using the red Special Donations envelope in the Church, or use one of the special envelopes in your box.

CONFIRMATION THANK YOU: Thomas, Mary and James thank all the parents of the Confirmandi and Fr John for their kind gifts. The group of young people who have just been Confirmed are a credit to our Parish and most of all their Parents and Families. These are our future and through working with them over the last year we know that the Faith will be in good hands through them. We wish them well on their missions and look forward to our Youth Meet in the Parish at the end of April.

THE HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS: During Lent why not come to Calvary ...just for ½ an hour, between **9.30am & 10.30am**. The Helpers of God's Precious infants hold a peaceful rosary vigil Saturday mornings 7.30am-11.30am on Marie Stopes busiest morning for abortions and offer counselling and practical help (accommodation/money/benefits advice/ baby- sitting etc through the Good Counsel Network) to mothers who wish to keep their babies. The 9.30am to 10.30am slot is difficult to cover at present so, if you can spare some time, please quietly join the prayers on the other side of the road from the clinic. Call Paul on 07504923428 or Rose 07960650517 for information.

GIFT AID: The Gift Aid envelopes for the new financial year beginning 6/4/19 are now being prepared. Would any parishioners who do not currently have envelopes and who wish to have them, please contact the Parish Office. Parishioners who do have envelopes, please contact us if your details or circumstances have changed.

PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE In the Footsteps of St Paul: Fr Eduard-William Fartan from Holy Family in Benfleet is organising a Pilgrimage to Greece to follow in the footsteps of St Paul. Taking place from the **7th-13th October**, the cost will be £730 per person with a £150 deposit to secure your place by 1st of May. Walking should be light, breakfast and dinner included. Any queries or to register your interest please email priest@holyfamily-church.org or call 01268 799082/ 01268 792082