

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 30 March to Sunday 7 April 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT C Laetare or Rejoicing Sunday 31 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	
	3.00pm	Full Sung Latin Mass in the Tridentine Rite	
Monday 1 April	9.00am	Private Intention	
Tuesday 2 nd	9.00am	Private Intention	
Wednesday 3 rd	12.15pm	P J Murray RIP (Toohey)	
Thursday 4 th	9.00am	Annie Ryan RIP (FM)	
Friday 5 th	9.00am	Private Intention	
	7.30pm	For our Parish Catechists & Children's Liturgy leaders	

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT C Sunday 7th April 2019

Saturday 6 th	6.00pm	Bob Jones RIP (Aitken)	
Sunday 7 th	9.00am	People of our Parish	
April 2019	11.00am	Intentions of Dean Magri & Family (Whitehouse)	

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: FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 31 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: £304.10, Envelopes: £278 and Standing Orders £800. CAFOD £40.

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! This Sunday 31 March at 3pm.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL: Meeting **Tuesday 2nd April at 8pm at the Priest's House. All are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings.**

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

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT C Mothering Sunday 1 April 2019

My dear Friends,

“A few days later the younger son got everything together and left for a distant country” (Luke 15:1-32). In times past, when a person left home for a far country it was possible they would never return and their family might never see them again. Today, we can travel from one part of the world to another, and return home quickly. The younger son's problem was that he had already left home mentally, but needed money to get away. To be at home with our family and those who love us we need to be close to each other in mind and heart. We still have a problem where we may be in the same house or physically near each other but are not close to one another - being mentally in a far distant place. Transport and costs made returning home difficult in the past, but personal pride was and still is an obstacle to reconciliation between people, and with God. It was dependence and humility that enabled the younger son to return to his father and say, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, I no longer deserve to be called your son, treat me as your paid servant”.

Do we welcome back and trust people who have failed as the Father of the Prodigal welcomed back his son? Do we have judgemental attitudes and condemn like the older brother, who was always with his father, but condemned and rejected his younger brother? Do we act like the younger brother and turn to others with humility expressing sorrow for the hurt we have caused and the damage we have done? Does personal pride stop us from being humble and apologising, or prevent us from reconciling?

Rembrandt's picture of the “Return of the Prodigal Son”, shows a loving Father's welcome for his humble and repentant son. Jesus shows that God our Father welcomes back the one who has strayed from him, and returns with repentance and humility. Lent is the time for us to admit our personal responsibility for offences against God and people and to express our sorrow. May we have the humility to return home to God this Lent, by confessing that we have sinned against him and people. God will warmly welcome us and forgive us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that we can live in a right relationship with him and one another.

May the Lord give us the grace of humility and forgiveness. Fr John

PLEASE PRAY FOR PETER BEARD RIP, late of Epping, who died on 21st March. He will be received into our Church on **Wednesday 24 April at 4.30pm**. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday 25th April at 10am**, followed by burial at Kingshill Cemetery, Berkhamsted. **May he rest in peace.**

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

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

FRIDAY 12th April: Ministers of the Eucharist

LENT LUNCHES: 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 welcome! We will host the lunch **in our hall** next **Saturday 6 April**. We need helpers to serve our guests and your support to sit and enjoy lunch with them. Beans on toast will be available as an alternative to soup & cheese ploughman's. Donations of soup and home-made bread will be deeply appreciated. Please telephone Mary on 01992 574719.

REVISED DATES FOR LENT DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS: As previously announced, the Lent Discussion Group on 'Old and New Testament Miracles' will NOT meet on 3rd April. The next and final meeting for this Lent will be at 3 Lynceley Grange, Epping on **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.

EASTER LILIES: Parishioners have an opportunity to remember deceased relatives or friends at Easter by putting lilies in the church flower arrangements. A suggested donation for a lily is £3. Please put this into an envelope (there are red ones in the church that can be used), clearly marked 'Easter Lily in memory of.....' and either put it with the Offertory collection or the Presbytery letter box. If you are a tax payer you can Gift Aid your donation by using the Special Donations envelope in the Church, or one of the special envelopes in your box.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: We wish all mothers a blessed and happy Mothering Sunday. May they find great joy in the love, growth and holiness of their children. All mothers in our parish will be presented with flowers after Mass this weekend.

CYCLONE IDAI EMERGENCY APPEAL: CAFOD has joined with the Disasters Emergency Committee, DEC, to help hundreds of thousands of people affected by Cyclone Idai, across Southern Africa. 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 whatever way possible”. After all Masses **THIS** weekend we will hold a retiring collection to support the Appeal. Please be generous!

EASTER CARDS: Parish Easter cards, giving the Holy Week & Easter services in our church, starting Palm Sunday, are available for collection in the Hall after all Masses this weekend. We would really appreciate if parishioners, to save on postal costs, could deliver cards to parishioners in their road or nearby. This also shows families who may have lost contact with the church that we are thinking of them.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The next session for some of the children will be a celebration of Reconciliation in Church on **Wednesday at 5.45pm**.

TABLE TOP SALE: **Saturday 27th April 10am - 2pm**. New and nearly new children's items. See poster in church porch.

GIFT AID: The Gift Aid envelopes for the new financial year beginning 6th of April 2019 are now ready for collection in the church porch. Would any parishioners who currently do not have envelopes and who wish to have them, please contact the Parish Office. We ask parishioners who have envelopes to please contact us if your details or circumstances have changed. We encourage parishioners to use Offertory envelopes, and especially for taxpayers to Gift Aid your donations to the church. This increases the value of your offerings to the church by 25% at no cost to yourself.

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.

LIVE IN CARER SEEKS POSITION: A lady who has been a live in carer for an elderly lady for some years is now seeking a new position. The SVP have known her for four years and can recommend her. Any enquiries in the first instance, please contact Paul Ives on 07504923428 or 01992 577104.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: **21st - 26th July 2019** with Tangney Tours from Stansted Airport. The Brentwood Pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Alan Williams. Please see poster in church porch for details.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE: Parishes of Brentwood Pilgrimage to Knock. **27th - 21st May 2019** from Stansted Airport. Please see poster in church porch for details.