

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th April 2019

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
<u>April 2019</u>	<u>11.00am</u>	<u>Dean Magri & Family's intentions (Whitehouse)</u>
	<u>6.00pm</u>	<u>Stations of the Cross</u>
Monday 8 th	9.00am	Intentions of Eileen Gavin & Family (Doran)
Tuesday 9 th	9.00am	Colin Street RIP (Vallance)
Wednesday 10th	12.15pm	Private Intention
Thursday 11 th	9.00am	P J Murray RIP (Toohey)
Friday 12 th	9.00am	Private Intention
Stations of Cross	7.30pm	Mass for Flower Arrangers & Eucharistic Ministers

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD C 14th April 2019

Saturday 13 th	6.00pm	Peter Beard RIP (Palmer)
Sunday 14 th	9.00am	Peter & Veronica Beard RIP (Heughan)
April 2019	11.00am	People of our Parish
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross

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: FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 7 April 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: £275.54, Envelopes: £251, Standing Orders £800. CAFOD £145.48.

CYCLONE IDAI EMERGENCY APPEAL: Thank you for your most generous response to last weekend's appeal. The magnificent sum £1407.92 was donated, which has been matched from Parish funds and has now been sent to CAFOD.

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION: At the end of the Good Friday services in our Church there will be a collection for the Holy Places in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. They are greatly under threat now with Christians leaving the Holy Land and also the decline in the number of pilgrims going to the Holy Places.

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.**

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (C)

7th April 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In today's Gospel reading, the woman, through her adultery, has alienated herself from God and, according to the Law, she deserved to die. But God's final word to her, addressed through Jesus, is not one of condemnation, but one of mercy and one which provides the opportunity for her to change her life for the better in future. 'Go away' he says 'and do not sin any more'.

This provides us with two thoughts to ponder:-

- How morals and standards have changed over the centuries! Today for many, sexual intercourse is virtually 'on demand', and is no longer only practised within the sanctity of marriage. We can ask: are God's standards unreasonable? Are God's laws open for debate and able to be changed to the wayward standards promoted by a wilful society? How can such wayward standards be changed-back and returned to those originally given by God in his infinite goodness? As Christian individuals who hold God's law to be sacred, what can we do to help to reverse the march of society away from God's Law?
- The true Christian must be an optimist and a positive thinker, as Jesus showed in today's Gospel, when dealing with the adulterous woman. Jesus ignored her adultery, rather focussing on whether the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees were fit to accuse her. We need to be able to ask ourselves whether we are prepared to express our thoughts publicly to support the Gospel standards and so counter the normal heated response of those who look only for justice and cannot also show mercy and forgiveness?

God bless.

Deacon Duncan

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 offer Mass for people in various groups and activities in our parish that God will bless them in their good work for our community. The dates & intentions are as follows:

FRIDAY 12th April: Ministers of the Eucharist and our Flower Arrangers

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! The final lunch will take place on **Saturday 13th April at Epping Green Chapel.**

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING: The Lent Discussion Group on the 'Old & New Testament Miracles' will have its final meeting for this Lent at 3 Lynceley Grange, Epping on **Wednesday, 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.

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 ask parishioners to help us save on postal costs by delivering 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 at Easter.

GOOD FRIDAY PARKING RESTRICTIONS: We remind parishioners **car parking on Church Hill is restricted to Residents & permit holders on Good Friday.** Parking enforcement officers are on duty during our Good Friday services

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. Any parishioners who does not have Offertory envelopes and wishes to have them, please contact our Parish Gift Aid Organiser at our Parish Office. We ask parishioners who have Offertory envelopes to 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, and is a tremendous benefit to our parish.

EPPING CHORUS: On **Good Friday evening at 7.30pm in St. John's Church,** Epping Chorus will sing **Beethoven's "Christ on the Mount of Olives"** as part of Good Friday devotions. Admission is free but a programme for £2.50 will be available to offset expenses. A retiring collection will be made for the Alzheimer's Society. Please support us at this devotional performance.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The next session for the children will be on **Wednesday 24th April at 5.45pm** in our Hall and the church.

TABLE TOP SALE IN OUR CHURCH HALL on Saturday 27th April 10am to 2pm. New and nearly new children's items for sale. See poster in church porch.

THE HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS During Lent why not come to Calvary - 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 wishing to keep their babies. The 9.30am to 10.30am slot is hard to cover so, if you can spare time, to quietly join in prayer on the other side of the road from the clinic. Details from Paul on 07504923428 or Rose 07960650517.

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 and forms in the church for details.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE: Brentwood Diocese parishes Pilgrimage to Knock from the **27 to 31 May 2019** from Stansted Airport. See poster in church porch for details.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN OUR CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY: Masses 6pm on Saturday 13 April, and 9am & 11am Sunday.

***CHRISM MASS** at Brentwood Cathedral at 7pm on Wednesday 17th April.

HOLY THURSDAY, 18th April: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER at 7.30pm, followed by PRAYER AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE, after Mass until 10pm.

GOOD FRIDAY, 19th: STATIONS OF THE CROSS for children & adults 10am

HOLY SATURDAY, 20th: EASTER VIGIL & MASS OF EASTER 8.30pm

EASTER SUNDAY, 21st April: MASSES AT 9am and 11am.