

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 11th to Sunday 19th May 2019

Saturday 11th 11.00am FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS

May 2019 1.30pm BAPTISM of Luke Ray Buckmaster

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Good Shepherd Sunday 12th May 2019

TODAY, GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY, is World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Saturday 11th 6.00pm Fiona Garnier RIP (Crouch)

Sunday 12th May 9.00am Giovanni Borelli RIP (Mansell)

11.00am The People of our Parish

Monday 13th St Erconwald, Bishop and Co-Patron Saint of our Diocese

9.00am Michael Cassidy RIP (Canny)

Tuesday 14th St Matthias, Apostle

12.15pm Shirley Woods-McConville RIP Requiem Mass

Wednesday 15th Catholic Deaf Awareness Week from 15th to 21st of May

12.15pm Private Intentions of Mr & Mrs Crouch (Crouch)

Thursday 16th 9.00am Dan McEvoy RIP (FM)

Friday 17th 9.00am Douglas Bere RIP (FM)

Saturday 18th 11.00am First Holy Communion Mass

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) 19th May 2019

Saturday 18th 6.00pm Private Intention

Sunday 19th 9.00am Pauline Nolan RIP (McMurray)

May 2019 11.00am People of our Parish

BAPTISM 12.30pm Elizabeth Beatrice Mei Hicks

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: 5.15 to 5.40pm (On First Communion Saturdays)

MORNING PRAYER of DIVINE OFFICE 15 minutes before 9am weekday Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after 9am weekday Mass

PARISH MASS BOOK: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER C 12 May 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 a parishioner is ill at home or in hospital so they can receive the Sacraments.

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous Offertories last weekend: Loose Plate: £336.47, Envelopes: £253.50, Standing Orders £800. CAFOD £20.00, Holy Places: £100, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society: £736.46. Thank you.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY APPEAL: David Worsfold and Chris Tisi thank parishioners for responding to their Appeal last weekend and for the very generous collection of £736.46 to support the society's work with children.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

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Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

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

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER Good Shepherd Sunday 12 May 2019

My dear Friends,

Jesus, the Good Shepherd said, "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me" (John 10:27-30). Jesus uses images to describe his relationship with people. He says, "I am The Light of the World, all who follow me walk in the light of life". He says "I am The Vine, you are the branches", all who are united to me draw life from me. On the fourth Sunday of Easter, we honour Jesus as the "Good Shepherd" who loves, knows and cares for people. He leads, feeds and protects them; he goes out to search for the strays and wounded, to bring them back on his shoulders rejoicing. Jesus did not do the shepherding by himself but called disciples to learn from him and minister to people. He sent the apostles and others who came after them to share in and continue his work. With the power of the Spirit, they were to call people to new life, as they proclaimed the kingdom of God and called people to Baptism, repentance and conversion.

On Good Shepherd Sunday the Church focuses our minds on Vocations or the call God gives to people to follow him. In the Easter season we reflect on what it means to be Baptised and to live as a member of Christ's Body, the Church. By virtue of our Baptism, each of us is called to live a particular vocation and use our gifts to give glory to God and serve others. Christ's work as shepherd of people is continued in our time by laypeople, religious, priests and bishops who bring the Good News of God's love to people and minister his grace in the Sacraments. Today the Church asks us to pray for all who share in that ministry of Christ so that they may be faithful to the call the Lord has given them and minister his grace. We pray that some people in our community may hear Christ calling them to continue his mission, so that they may respond generously to his call.

Our materialistic world shapes us in various ways. As Christians we must be committed to recognise, share and minister what is best to each other; God's love and grace. To do that we need to sense God's presence in our community, our family and our own life, and to know that he loves us and that we are special to him. He has a particular purpose for each of us. For some, it is a great privilege to be called to bring the Good News of God's love and minister his grace to people in the Sacraments. Let us pray that some member of our family or parish may hear Christ's voice, and hear his call to share in his work as the "Good Shepherd".

May Christ, the Good Shepherd, bless and protect his people. Fr John

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES:

MRS SHIRLEY WOODS-McCONVILLE RIP, who died on Tuesday 16th April. She will be received into our Church on **Monday, 13th May at 4.30pm**. **Requiem Mass** will be celebrated on **Tuesday 14th at 12.15pm**, to be followed by Committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May she rest in peace.**

ROGER MINNIS RIP, who died on Good Friday, 19th April. He will be received into our Church for the celebration of **Requiem Mass on Thursday 23rd May at 2.00pm**, to be followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May he rest in peace.**

MRS DAPHNE McADAM RIP, who died on Monday 29th April. She will be received into our church for the celebration of **Requiem Mass on Wednesday, 29 May at 2.00pm**, to be followed by interment at All Saints Church, Theydon Garnon. **May she rest in peace.**

We pray that they may rest in peace. We offer our sympathy to their families & pray the Lord sends his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them at this time.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The rehearsal for the children who will receive their first Holy Communion on **Saturday 18th May** takes place in church at **5.45pm on Wednesday 15th May**. Parents please attend with your children.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY & VOCATIONS: This is Good Shepherd Sunday, traditionally a day of prayer for vocations to the Priesthood. God calls each of us to serve him in a particular way so it is important to promote a culture of vocation within the church. A person might be called to live a single life, to marriage, to religious life or to the priesthood. Please pray today for vocations to the priesthood in our diocese and for our seminarians as they journey to priesthood. They are Paschal Uche, Adrian Lowe, Michael Barwick, Tony Grant, Alexander Johnson, Damien Wade, Matúš Meleg and Jonathan Burden. Our new seminarian, Moses Itene, will start at Allen Hall in September. Presently there are ten men in an enquirers' group. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact: Fr Graham Smith, Vocations Director: fr.gjdsmith@gmail.com; Fr Mark Swires, Vocations Promoter: vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

They will be happy to welcome and respond positively to all enquirers.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: We wish to thank Jim Nolan who has carried out the responsibilities of being our Parish Safeguarding Officer recently. He now has to give up this position due to other additional responsibilities. We are now looking for someone to take on this very important appointment in our parish to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults in our community.

COUNTERS NEEDED: We are most grateful to our team of Counters who count the Offertory Collection on a rota basis. However, we urgently need more people to assist with counting the Offertories on Sundays after Mass. There is a rota of experienced counters, and new counters would join and be paired with existing ones. It is not a very time consuming or onerous job, so do please offer to help by contacting Fr John

SVP RAFFLE: The results of the latest SVP Raffle are available on the noticeboard in the church porch.

PARISH JUMBLE SALE: Our next parish Jumble Sale will be on **Saturday 8th June 2019 at 2pm**. Please start sorting out any good quality jumble for selling and leave it in the church porch.

STRAWBERRY FAIR ADVERTISING: This year our Strawberry Fayre will be on **Saturday 29th June**. More details to follow. Following the success of last year's advertising for our Christmas Bazaar, another local Estate Agent, has kindly agreed to advertise our Strawberry Fair. They will donate to the parish, **for up to 50 boards**. Boards would be put up prior to the Fair and remain in position for about a month. If you are interested in helping raise funds for our parish in this way, please email the parish office or put your name and details on the list in church porch.

STUDY DAY ON THE APOCALYPSE (BOOK REVELATION): A study day on this theme will be held at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 6DH on **Saturday 1st June**. Dr Sean Ryan Heythrop will lead an exploration of key passages from this fascinating and difficult book of the New Testament. The day begins with coffee at 10.30 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own lunch. Please make your booking by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com

HALL BOOKINGS contact Arnold Verrall, preferably telephone, on 01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping) or mobile 07764404813 or by email arnold_verrall@email.com. **Preferential rates for parishioners & charities.**

CHRISTIAN AID CO-ORDINATOR: Many will know Mary Morgan coordinated the annual Christian Aid collections for Churches Together across Epping & District for many years. She has done an amazing job, ensuring that every year, with the help of volunteers from across the Churches money is raised to aid some of the poorest people in the world. She has decided she cannot continue in this role, and is looking for someone to replace her and continue the important work of organising the annual collections. For information on what is involved please speak to Mary or Fr John.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION OLD HARLOW CM17 0HA

There will no longer be a 6pm Mass on Saturdays. Mass is offered at 5.30pm Holy Cross and 6pm Our Lady of Fatima. **The Assumption will have a Mass at 6pm on Sunday.** We are moving the current 7pm Mass to an earlier time to make it available to families who may have activities during the day. Parishioners who travel to Bishops Stortford for Sunday evening Mass will now have a nearer and better time.

CALAIS/REFUGEES: On **21- 23 June** Calais Light, the car-sharing convoy which takes a bunch of like-minded, friendly volunteers to Calais to work with refugee charities - sets off again. Trip 11! We're returning to Care4Calais, to sort aid in their amazingly well-run warehouse. Every afternoon all volunteers go out with Care4Calais's team to meet refugees living rough. We chat with them, listen to their stories, offer solidarity, normality, kindness & essential services. Our March weekend was a huge success - moving, unexpectedly joyful, crucial. So come with us! Sign up for a convoy at www.calaislight.com or donate by emailing: calaislight@yahoo.com