

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 5th Oct to Sunday 11th Oct 2019

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 6th October 2019

Saturday 5th 6.00pm Anne Curtin RIP Anniv (Crouch)

Sunday 6th 9.00am Mary Cooney RIP (Keeling)

October 2019 11.00am Dan Murphy RIP (McDonough)

Monday 7th Our Lady of the Rosary
9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Tuesday 8th St Osyth, Religious
9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Wednesday 9th Blessed John Henry Newman, Priest
12.15pm Intentions of Conrad & Palmer Families (Palmer)

Thursday 10th St Paulinus of York, Bishop
9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Friday 11th St John the XXIII, Pope
9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Saturday, 12th St Ethelburga, Hildelite and Cuthburga, Religious

TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 13th October 2019

PRISONERS SUNDAY - A Day of Prayer for prisoners and their dependants

Saturday 12th 6.00pm Patrick Curtin RIP Anniv (Crouch)

Sunday 13th 9.00am People of our Parish

October 2019 11.00am Private Intention (RF)

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays: 11.00am to 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm

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 27th SUNDAY IN Ordinary Time C 6th October 2019

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Page 146 Collect & Readings Page 53 Jesus who went about doing good

Page 11 The Nicene Creed Page 56 The Communion Rite,

Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 149 Post Communion Prayer

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME. Please inform a Priest or Hospital Chaplain if you or your relative or a parishioner is ill at home or in hospital so that they can receive the Sacraments

OFFERTORIES last week: Envelopes: £181.46; Loose: £335.96; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £22. Thank you for your generous offerings.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST: The CAFOD Family Fast Day envelopes and our retiring collection this weekend will be taken to assist CAFOD's work for the poor and needy in the developing nations of the world.

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

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Registered Charity Number: 234092

Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.org.uk

Email: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C 6th OCTOBER 2019

Dear Parishioners,

“Lord, increase our faith”, the apostles said to Jesus as they wanted to have a stronger faith and greater trust in him (17:5-10). In our western world a materialistic way of thinking increasingly weakens faith and leads many to question the value of anything that is not tangible immediately or beneficial. Many consider God irrelevant or of no value since they do not know or experience the divine, and have not got the gift of faith. Without faith they cannot relate to God with or place their hope and trust in him.

Faith is a collection of truths and statements of belief, such as we express in the Creed at Mass and commit to in our Baptism promises. Faith is also a gift or grace that God gives us and which enables us to be in a relationship and communion with him. Like all relationships, faith can give us times of consolation and times of testing, or weakness. Saints and people with strong faith can be tested and may wonder if God is there for them, or if they are abandoned and on their own in a solitary way. St John of the Cross, the 16th century Spanish mystic, describes this crisis of faith in his own and a person's spiritual life as “The Dark Night of the Soul”.

Mother Theresa's writings suggest that for almost forty years she went through this spiritual desert, where one feels little consolation or comfort from faith in God. Yet, whilst one goes through this with feelings of loneliness or desolation, it can be part of spiritual growth. In that state, even though we may not feel God's presence, he still and always loves us and is ever faithful to us. The “Footprints” meditation helps many people understand God's relationship with us and ours with him. It reflects the difficult and testing times in our life's journey, and the fact that God is with us and carries us, even though we may not feel or recognise his presence.

People of committed faith live in right relationship with God, but the souls of those who do not live virtuously flag and weaken (Habakkuk.1). Each of us needs to be in a good and ongoing relationship with God, through private prayer and public worship with people in the Mass. Many, who were once committed to Jesus, move into just a nodding acquaintance or out of relationship with him. Just as we need to be committed and work at our human relationships, so too we need to be committed and work at our relationship with God. In these discouraging and testing times the world around us seeks to weaken people's faith. We need to protect our faith from erosion and so we ask our Lord, as the apostles did, “Lord, strengthen our faith”.

May the Lord help us grow strong in faith, hope and love. Fr John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The next preparation session for the children will take place next **Wednesday evening, 9th October** at 5.45pm in the Hall.

TALKS ON OUR CATHOLIC FAITH from 8 to 9.15pm, in the Priest's House, on Wednesdays. These are to help people who wish to understand our faith, become Catholic, support the faith of family members, or take up the practice of the faith into which they were Baptised, but may not have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion or Confirmation You will be most welcome.

ALTAR SERVERS: We urgently need more Altar Servers to serve at the weekend Masses. Fr John would especially like to hear from those children who have made their first Holy Communion in the past two years.

RED MISSION BOXES: We ask parishioners who have the red Mission Boxes to support the work of the church and foreign missions in Poor countries to bring them to the Church over the next few weeks (Please do not leave boxes with money in the church porch.). Your offerings will be sent to APF to help those in need.

QUIZ NIGHT: A big thank you to everyone who came to our Quiz Night, took part and donated prizes last Saturday. It was a very successful social evening that raised **£444** for our parish. A special thanks to Emma & Simon Armstrong and their family who worked so hard to organise and run a most enjoyable parish event.

JOIN US FOR A FISH & CHIP SUPPER AND WATCH THE FILM 'GREEN BOOK', Saturday October 12th 6.30pm supper, film at 7pm. Adults £10 Under 18's £5. Based on a true story, 'Green Book' is a 2018. biographical comic/drama. *When Tony Lip, a bouncer from an Italian-American neighbourhood in the Bronx, is hired to drive Dr Don Shirley, a world-class Black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on "The Green Book" to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African-Americans. Confronted with racism, danger-as well as unexpected humanity and humour-they are forced to set aside differences to survive and thrive on the journey of a lifetime.*

Advance tickets required contact Emma on 07791 235929

PARISH CHRISTMAS MARKET: Our Christmas Market will be on **Saturday 30th November**. We would welcome donations of raffle prizes from local businesses – restaurants, hairdressers etc. Please let us know if you or someone you know can help. **There will be a meeting NEXT Wednesday 9th October at 7.30pm in the Priest's House to discuss the planning for the actual day. All parishioners are welcome to attend.** Soon we will be taking names of parishioners who would like an estate agent advertising board.

FUNDRAISING PARISH COOKBOOK: Thank you to all the parishioners who have submitted a selection of delicious recipes. **It is still not too late if you would like to include a recipe in this parish cookbook.** We have looked at printing costs for the cookbook but these are proving to be expensive. If you are a printer or know of a printer who may be able to help with this as a favour to our parish, please let Fr John know. We are happy to cover the costs of the materials and can provide the recipes in a format ready to print.

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the repose of the soul of **Clifford Cullen**, brother of Ralph, who died during the week in Devon. **May he rest in Peace.**

POPE FRANCIS WILL CANONISE & DECLARE AS A SAINT CARDINAL JOHN HENRY NEWMAN in Rome on **Sunday next, 13th October**. To mark this historic event Father Stewart Foster (Diocesan Archivist & Historian) will give a lecture entitled 'St John Henry Newman: His Life & Times' on **Thursday 17th October at 7.30pm** in the Conference Centre, Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. All are welcome to this lecture.

HALL COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting of the Hall Committee will take place on **Wednesday 16th October at 7.30pm**. New members are welcome. If you are interested then please come along to see whether you would like to join.

SHOEBOX APPEAL: Every year, St Mary's Theydon Bois sends out shoeboxes filled with gifts to children who would not otherwise have anything at Christmas. The gifts are new, or nearly new, toys (nothing military or needing batteries), little games, mini books, hair slides, ribbons etc small enough to fit into a shoebox. Any contributions of these items, empty adult size shoeboxes, or rolls of Christmas wrapping paper will be very welcome. Please leave anything you can spare in the porch from next weekend onwards. Thank you!

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY will be holding a Christmas Craft & Gift Fair at Mill Hall, Rayleigh on Sunday 3rd November 10.30-4pm. Admission is only £1.50 and free for children under 14. If you are interested in having a stall at the event to sell your crafts or Christmas goodies, these are charged at £27. Please contact Libby if you are interested in being one of our stallholders: lphillips@bccs.org.uk. Thanking you for your continued support.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES BY AIR FOR THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES: 4 NIGHTS, 10 - 14 FEBRUARY 2020: £560 p.p. (twin/double), £660 p.p. (single room) which includes flights from Stanstead, 4 nights' full board accomm. at the luxury Hotel Saint-Sauveur (inc. wine with meals), full time presence of the tour operator and chaplain, airport transfers in Lourdes, Mass offerings and procession candles. For more information please contact Siobhan at Parker Travel Ltd: 07932 634589 or siobhan@parker-travel.com.

"BE INSPIRED EVENT": *"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole." Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate* Do you have questions about climate change and the proper Catholic response to this ethical issue? Do you want to reflect on practical ways that you as an individual and a parish community can live in ways that better care for our common home. The "Be Inspired" event at Brentwood Cathedral on **Thursday 10th October at 7.30 pm** in the Cathedral Parish Hall is an opportunity to think more deeply about these issues. Four expert speakers will reflect on one of the most important ethical issues of our age. All are welcome. For more information go to <http://www.cathedral-brentwood.org/blog-2/lia-inspired/>