

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS – Saturday 30th Nov to Sunday 8th Dec

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A) 1st December 2019

Saturday 30 th	6.00pm	Crouch Family RIP (Crouch)
Sunday 1 st Dec	9.00am	Keane Family's intentions (Clohessy)
December 2019	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 2 nd	9.00am	Suzette McHeyzer RIP Recently (Sr Susan)
Tuesday 3 rd	St Francis	Xavier, Priest and Patron of the Missions
Migrants Day	9.00am	Bridget McGrath RIP
Wednesday 4 th	12.15pm	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 5 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Parndon Wood	1.00pm	Patrick Kelly RIP – Funeral Service
Friday 6 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A) BIBLE SUNDAY 8 December 2019

Saturday 7 th	6.00pm	Curtin Family RIP (Crouch)
Sunday 8 th	9.00am	Eunicey Thomson RIP Recently (Heughan)
December 2019	11.00am	People of our Parish

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 A: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) 1 December 2019

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

OFFERTORIES last week: Envelopes: £130.73; Loose: £329.89; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £5.15. Thank you for your generous offerings.

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**

READING FOR ADVENT: Please take and use a little booklet for Advent

Walk with Me for adults, Day by Day for infants, Day by Day for juniors and Advent Calendars for children.

YOUR ADDRESS ON PARISH REGISTER: If you have not registered in our parish or updated your address, please take a Parish Register Forms from the back of the Church and return to the Priest's House when completed. If you are new to our parish, please complete the form and introduce yourself to Deacon Duncan or Fr John who will be very pleased to welcome you to our church and parish community.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A 1st December 2019

Dear Friends,

Jesus said, Stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matt.24:37-44). The word Advent means coming and in this season the Church prepares us to celebrate the first coming of Jesus into our world at Bethlehem and calls us to prepare for his second coming. In Christian and Jewish tradition, it is necessary to engage in purification and repentance from sin, so as to be prepared to meet with God, and this is only possible with the help of his grace.

Jesus spoke about his second coming at the Parousia, at the end of time. That will be unexpected when it will happen and for which most people will not be prepared. He calls us to be vigilant and have a sense of expectancy so that we will be ready to receive him when he comes.

St Paul tells us that the way to prepare for the Lord is by being awake and attentive to him and to live as people of holiness in the light and, not in the darkness or in sin (Romans 13:11-14). There was much depravity and sin in first century Rome, and the issues St Paul was addressing in his own time still destroy people's lives today. He called on people not to engage in drunkenness, promiscuity or immorality. Yet the culture of our time suggests these things are all right, when in fact they offend against decency and harm our better nature. St Paul tells us the Lord is very near to us as a judge, who will separate good from evil, and falsehood from truth. So, let us live as children of the light, not engaging in sinful or immoral actions, but living spiritual lives that prepare us to be holy and ready to encounter Christ.

When Christ, the Saviour, finally redeems the world and its people, all creation will be transformed. Isaiah (2:1-5) prophesied there will be a renewed creation and a new world order. Redeemed people will be in right relationship with God, and there will be a harmony in nature, as creation restored to the Creator's original design.

We thank everyone who worked so hard and local businesses who contributed in many ways to the success of our Christmas Market & Bazaar on this Saturday. Thank you to everyone and to who gave donations as Patrons and all who obtained gifts, vouchers and prizes from the local businesses. Thank you to everyone who contributed, and to Margaret Lechley who edited and prepared our **Parish Cookbook titled "Our Cherished recipes"** which is on now on sale. It has many very thoughtful and tasty recipes. *I wish you a blessed Advent. Fr John*

DECEASED: We pray for the repose of the souls of:

PATRICK JOHN KELLY RIP, who died on Saturday, 2 November. His Funeral Service will be celebrated at Parndon Wood Crematorium at 1pm on **Thursday 5th December. May he rest in peace.** May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console his bereaved family and all who mourn at this time.

GOD WHO SPEAKS: Pope Francis has given us the “Year of God who Speaks”. to encourage us to grow in familiarity and love with the Word of God, who speaks to us in the Bible. **We have NRSV Bibles for sale in the church at £10** (normal price is £20). It has a good section of Catholic prayers and devotions, a theme index and references for all the scripture readings in the Sundays of the 3 year cycle.

ST JOHN FISHER Catholic Primary School, Burney Dr. Loughton IG10 2DY is holding visit days for prospective new parents: Wednesday 4th December at 2.00pm & Thursday 9th January at 9.15am. We thank the Headteacher, Mr Michael Ross, for speaking at all Sunday Masses in our parish recently and encourage our parents to consider sending their children to Catholic schools for their education. If you would like to visit the school on one of the dates please contact the school on **0208 508 6315** or email tmcgrenra@st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk.

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the families of Jesse Oliver York, Edith Rose York, Sienna Evelyn Clarke, Arthur Thomas Johns and Charlotte Elizabeth Johns who were baptised in at our Church recently. May the Lord bless them and help them to bring up their children in the knowledge and love of God.*

PARISH COOKBOOK: Thank you to all the parishioners who submitted their favourite recipes for inclusion in our fundraising Parish Cookbook. Copies are on sale at all Masses from this weekend. The price is £6 per copy or two for £10

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD: Our Parish Christmas Cards are prepared to be distributed to all parishioners in the Hall after Masses this weekend. This is a way of reaching out to parishioners in their homes, especially those who may be semi-detached or detached from the church. It tells them that we are thinking of them at Christmas and that they matter to us as part of our parish family. Please let Peter Day know if you cannot find a card addressed to you or have changed address.

CTED CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: We are happy once again to invite anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to enjoy a traditional Christmas luncheon with us in our Church Hall on Christmas Day 12.30pm for 1pm. Couples alone and carers are most welcome. Please contact Mary Morgan on 01992 574719 or give your contact details to Fr John or Deacon Duncan.

CHRISTMAS MARKET 30th NOVEMBER: A Big thank you from Nina, Janet and the Christmas Market team to all the volunteers, for the Donations and all those who came and supported the event.

VOCATIONS EVENING: An “Enquirers’ Evening” for those interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 3rd December** at St Edmund’s Church in Loughton. For details contact Fr Mark Swires -vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY & CAROL SERVICE: On **Sunday 22nd December** we will have our Christmas Nativity and Carol Service in church. Parents and children taking part are asked to arrive at the Hall by 4.30pm to rehearse and prepare. The service will start at 5.30pm in the church. We are grateful to a group of parents of young children who have agreed to organise it this year. Our thanks to Maggie Keeling, Norah Nolan and Dorothy Whitehouse who have run this for several years. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to be involved.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE – bring your bean bag and join us to watch ‘Arthur Christmas’ in our Church hall on Saturday 14th December, 2.45pm for 3pm start, £3 per child for popcorn and drink, tea/coffee available for adults. If you are interested please contact Emma on 07791 235929

SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH: Information on Safeguarding in our parish is on the church porch noticeboard. Many thanks to those who have submitted their completed slips. We ask **ALL in a parish role**, who are in contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults, to provide their up-to- date contact details on the slip at the back church and return it to our Parish Office.

PAX CHRISTI ‘PENNIES FOR PEACE’ BOTTLE Pax Christi, an International Catholic organisation, promotes peace all round the world and is mainly run by volunteers. It runs workshops for schools & parishes and is active internationally behind the scenes in promoting peace, for example, in the Middle East & Ireland. Our ‘Pennies for Peace’ bottle is placed by the CAFOD noticeboard at all weekend Masses. Please help to fill it with small change (or notes if you wish!). The bottle is emptied regularly and the proceeds are sent directly to Pax Christi in London.

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK: Epping Forest Foodbank provides emergency food packs to those in urgent need. If you, or anyone you know, are in serious financial difficulty, vouchers for the Foodbank are available from our Parish Office, other Epping and Loughton churches, EFDC, CAB, schools and GP surgeries.

THE PASSAGE is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 3rd December – 12 noon Tues 10th December to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921856 andrew.h@passage.org.uk. Donate at <https://bit.ly/2KJ29hH>

‘CALAIS LIGHT are taking volunteer bookings now for our next Convoy - **January 31st-2nd February 2020. Don’t delay as we plan a long way ahead.** We’re the car-sharing Refugee action convoy which takes a bunch of like-minded, friendly volunteers to Calais to work for the weekend with refugee charities! Make it your New Year’s Resolution to volunteer! Come with us! Sign up now at www.calaislight.com or on our Facebook Page. Choose Love!