

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS – Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th December 2019

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

Saturday 7 th	6.00pm	Curtin Family RIP (Crouch)
Sunday 8 th Dec	9.00am	Eunicey Thomson RIP Recently (Heughan)
December 2019	11.00am	Bishop Thomas McMahon's intentions
Monday 9 th	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	9.00am	The People of our Parish
Tuesday 10 th	9.00am	Mary Furlong RIP (Murray)
Wednesday 11 th	12.15pm	Liz Hellmers RIP (Whitehouse)
Thursday 12 th	9.00am	Georgina Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
Friday 13 th	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	
	9.00am	Marie Verrall RIP Anniv (Verrall)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A) BIBLE SUNDAY 15 December 2019

Saturday 14 th	6.00pm	Fiona Garnier RIP (Crouch)
Sunday 15 th	9.00am	Tullia Borelli RIP (Mansell)
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: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT A 8 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: £344.50; Loose: £330.97; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £62.07. 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**

YOUR ADDRESS ON PARISH REGISTER: If you have not registered in our parish or updated your address, please take a Parish Register Form 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 BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY for 2020 is on sale in the church at £2.80. It gives information about our Diocese and details of Parishes and Mass times, Catholic schools, prayer groups and other organisations in our Diocese.

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***

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A 8th December 2019

Dear Friends,

St John the Baptist preached “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand” (Matthew 3:1-12). With John the Baptist’s preaching, a sense of expectancy had arisen amongst people that something new was going to happen. He called people to repent of their sins and show conversion to God by being baptised in the Jordan. John was confrontational in approach and condemned those who did not live in a good relationship with God or people. He said “If you are repentant, produce the fruits of repentance”, which are good works, right relationships and moral living.

If St John the Baptist were preaching today, his approach would be no different; he would confront us on the ways we compromise and fail to live according to God’s law. He would be thought outdated, and would be “a voice crying out in the wilderness” to people who do not want to hear or believe his message. He would call on us to listen to and obey God’s word. John’s call to repentance is addressed to each of us in Advent. We are called to prepare a way for the Lord to come into our life by examining our conscience, confessing our sins and asking him for mercy and forgiveness. We have many opportunities during Advent, to receive the Lord’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation. If you have not been to this Sacrament for some time, it is important to prepare for Holy Communion and Christmas by receiving God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Welcoming people is an essential part of being a good Christian. St Paul tells us to “make hospitality (or welcoming) your special concern” (Roman 12:13). All of us should be especially welcoming for everyone coming to Church or Parish. We can be our own worst judges in that matter and think we are welcoming and hospitable, but the visitor or stranger may see us differently. It is most important at Christmas that visitors or people who may not have been to Church for some time are made to feel especially welcome. Our Bishops suggest that parishioners invite people who no longer come to Mass or church to “Come home for Christmas” to be with God’s family. We especially invite and welcome them to our spiritual home in Church, to join with God’s family in celebrating the birth of Jesus, his son, at Christmas.

May the Lord bless us in Advent as we prepare to celebrate his birth. Fr John

CHRISTMAS MARKET: Our thanks to Nina, Janet, JoAnn and team and everyone who worked so hard in creating beautiful craft goods, giving gifts and raffle prizes, and all who contributed in so many ways to the very imaginative stalls and the success of our Christmas Market last Saturday. Our thanks also to W J Meade Estate Agents for sponsoring the event. The amount raised was £5214.46 which is an excellent result.

OUR PARISH COOK BOOK: "OUR CHERISHED RECIPES" has 70 recipes that have been contributed by parishioners. The recipes are thoughtful and tasty and come from all around the world. They are on sale this weekend at £6 for one or £10 for two. Do buy one for yourself and give as a Christmas gift to family or friends.

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 NATIVITY & CAROL SERVICE: On **Sunday 22nd December** we will have our Christmas Nativity & Carol Service in church. Parents and children taking part are asked to arrive at the Priest's House (NOT the Hall as previously advertised) by 4.30pm to rehearse and prepare. The service will start at 5.30pm in the church. We are grateful to the parents who will organise it this year. Please contact Natalie Goldsworthy on 07870355708 if you wish to be involved.

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 and in the kitchen in the home.

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 holds visit days for prospective new parents: The final one will be on **Thursday 9th January** at 9.15am. Mr Michael Ross, The Headteacher, spoke at all Sunday Masses in our parish recently to encourage parents to consider sending their children to a Catholic school. If you would like to visit the school please contact the school on **0208 508 6315** or email tmcgrenra@st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE: bring your bean bag & join us in watching 'Arthur Christmas' in our Church hall on **Saturday 14 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

CAROL CONCERT: Carol concert, with mince pies and mulled wine, on this **Sunday 8th Dec** at 4pm in St Mary's Anglican Church, Churchgate St, Old Harlow - highly recommended!

"EPPING FOODBANK: Dear all, in replacement of the Grocery stall, which we did not have at this year's Christmas market, I would like to ask you all to donate one item to our local Foodbank. Next week there will be a box in the church porch for you to leave your donations. Please see the leaflet being handed out after Mass this weekend with a list of items that would be greatly received by the Foodbank. Many thanks Nina"

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, is in serious need or financial difficulty, vouchers for the Foodbank are available from our Parish Office, 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!