

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS – Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd December 2019

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT A Gaudete / Rejoicing Sunday 15 December 2019

Saturday 14 th	6.00pm	Fiona Garnier RIP (Crouch)
Sunday 15 th Dec	9.00am	Tullia Borelli RIP (Mansell)
December 2019	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 16 th	9.00am	Tommy Heraghty RIP Recently (Darcy)
Tuesday 17 th	9.00am	Elizabeth Crowley RIP Anniv (Day)
Wednesday 18 th	12.15pm	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 19 th	9.00am	Giovanni Borelli RIP 1 st Anniv (Mansell)
Friday 20 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT A Expectant Mothers Sunday 22 December 2019

Saturday 21 st	6.00pm	Intentions of Sr Maria Kenny (Lechley)
Sunday 22 nd	9.00am	People of our Parish
December 2019	11.00am	Madeline Murphy RIP (McDonough)
	3.00pm	LATIN MASS IN TRADITIONAL RITE
4.30pm Rehearsal	5.30pm	Children's Nativity & Carol Service

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: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT A 15 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: £205; Loose: £264.35; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £0. 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 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 happy 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A 15th December 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Church's season of Advent starts in sobering vein. In the first two weeks we are called to prepare ourselves for our personal meeting with God when we die and to become more aware of the approaching end of the world as we know it – as described by Jesus. At the same time, and almost as a secondary consideration, we also think about the coming birthday of Jesus at Christmas.

The Church then gives us a welcome break as we celebrate the third week of Advent, starting today from *Gaudete Sunday*, when we are encouraged to Rejoice (Gaudete) at the coming birthday of Jesus. It is fair to say that preparations for Christmas in many of the shops and households up and down the country are under way by September and our minds are bombarded by offers of one kind or another for the three months leading up to Christmas.

But let us remember that preparations for our Christmas season festivities should be seen as merely a brief distraction from our main lifetime focus as Christians, namely: pleasing God in all that we say and do. As we look around us, we can surely appreciate the many reasons for us to Rejoice on this Gaudete Sunday:

- The gift of life and of God's love for each one of us.
- The joy of our faith and the joy of sharing it with others.
- The goodness of family and friends.
- The opportunities to help those in need.
- A fair, beautiful, and generally peaceful country in which to live.

Often, we overlook these and other sustaining features as we live out our daily life, but today, on this Rejoice Sunday, it is good to spend some time just thinking about the many good things which abound in our lives, in our community and in our country, and to thank God for all of them.

God bless.

Deacon Duncan.

DECEASED: We pray for the repose of the soul of **MICHELLE MOORE RIP**, who died on **26th November 2019**. She will be received into our church for the celebration of her Funeral Service on **Thursday 19th December at 12 noon**. **May she rest in peace**. We offer our sympathy to Michelle's family and friends and all who mourn for her, and pray that the Lord sends his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen them and this difficult time.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES & CONFESSIONS IN THE DEANERY:

Loughton: 17th December 8pm– with Fr Bogdan and Fr John McGrath **Holy**

Cross: 17th December 7.30pm with Fr John Corbyn

Our Lady of Fatima: 22nd December 5pm

Waltham Abbey: 20th December at 7.30pm with Fr John Corbyn

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday 24th December Christmas Carol Service & Nativity 5.30pm

Christmas Eve Masses at 6.00pm and 9.00pm for CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am

Boxing Day Mass 10.00am

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 part of a Christmas gift to your family or friends. We have now sold 93 of the cookbooks – which have been well received.

CHRISTMAS WRAPPED UP: Don't have time to wrap presents? We can help!! **Saturday 21st December 2pm-7pm**. Please see flyer for more information.

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. On Christmas Eve we need help from 10am - 12noon to lay the tables and prepare for the lunch. Gifts, drinks and items you wish to donate can be taken to the Hall or phone Mary) to arrange collection. Your help and generosity is deeply appreciated.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY & CAROL SERVICE: Next **Sunday 22nd December** we will have our Christmas Nativity & Carol Service in church. Parents and children taking part please 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.

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

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Our next Holy Sacrifice in the beautiful Traditional Rite will be offered at our Church next Sunday, **22 December, at 3 pm**. Texts of readings, hymns & chants in English as well as Latin will be provided.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: Children & families in Essex & East London have direct therapeutic support from our highly experienced counselling team. We directly support children and adolescents on a 1:1 basis or the whole family. We help children with various issues including anxiety, emotional health, bereavement, behaviour, bullying, family separation and illness. Sessions take place during the day or after school at our counselling suites at our offices in Rayleigh. There is a sessional charge but support may be given if required. If you feel your child may benefit from our services or you would like more information, please contact Sarah D'Lima - sdlima@bccs.or.uk or 01268 947061.

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

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

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

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.

‘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!'

USED POSTAGE STAMPS. Please save the postage stamps you receive at Christmas, and at other times, and place them in the ‘Used Stamps’ box under the post-tray in the church porch. The stamps will be taken to St Clare Hospice, from where they are sold for Hospice funds. It may seem strange to us, but our UK stamps are ‘foreign’ stamps to stamp collectors in all other countries of the world.