

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS – Saturday 21st to Sunday 29th December 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT A Expectant Mothers Sunday 22 December 2019

Saturday 21 st	6.00pm	Michael Aitken RIP (Aitken)
Sunday 22 nd	9.00am	People of our Parish
December 2019	11.00am	Madeline Murphy RIP (McDonough)
	3.00pm	Latin Mass in the Tridentine Rite
4.30pm Rehearsal	5.30pm	Children's Nativity Play and Carol Service
Monday 23 rd	9.00am	Sr Susan's Intentions (Palmer)

CHRISTMAS

THE BIRTH OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS Eve	5.30pm	Singing of Christmas Carols
Tuesday 24 th	6.00pm	Deceased Members of Lennon/Lechley Family
December 2019	8.30pm	Carols & Readings
	9.00pm	People of our Parish

CHRISTMAS Day

Wednesday 25 th	9.00am	Private Intention
Thursday 26 th	11.00am	Private Intention
	10.00am	St Stephen, The First Martyr
	10.00am	John McInerney RIP Anniv (McInerney)
Friday 27 th	9.00am	St John, Apostle & Evangelist
	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Saturday 28 th	10.00am	Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
	10.00am	Private Intention

SUNDAY 29th

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Saturday 28 th	6.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday 29 th	9.00am	Private Intention
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: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT A 22 December 2019

Page 7	Beginning of Mass	Page 66	Preface 2 of Advent – Expecting Christ
Page 90	Collect & Readings	Page 25	Eucharistic Prayer 2
Page 11	The Nicene Creed	Page 56	The Communion Rite,
Page 14	Preparation of Gifts	Page 93	Post Communion Prayer

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: £173; Loose: £341.75; 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**

0THE 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A 22 December 2019

Dear Parishioners,

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means God with us” is presented to us by St. Matthew (1:18-25) as fulfilling the prophesy of Isaiah (7:14). Christ's birth, which we celebrate at Christmas, shows “God is with us”. God became man, in Jesus, to bring God to us, and bring us to God. Mary was the first person to welcome Jesus into the world, in obedience to God's will, when she said, “I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done unto me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Joseph, her husband, a man of faith, received the Word of God, and made his decision to obey it with regard to his relationship with Mary. The challenge for us, as it was for Joseph and Mary, is to live our relationships and lives according to God's plan and put his will before our own. By living according to God's will, great things can be achieved for, in and through us, as they were with Mary and Joseph.

Many families in our parish are blessed with the gift of new life in children. When we look at the face of an infant, we could be looking at the face of Christ. He, the newborn child in the manger was like us or any child and God's glory was made perfectly visible to us in the face of Christ. He became like us in all things, except sin, and took on our human nature in order to share with us the nature of God.

Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, has a message of peace from God to people of goodwill. God places in the human hearts an expectancy and desire for peace and reconciliation at Christmas. In this season, he calls for divisions to be healed, and hatreds abandoned and converted into love. Christmas can be difficult for families beset by divisions, rancour or personal hostilities. When families come together at Christmas they have a sense that they are intended, by God, to be united in love and to go forward together as people who are freed from past hurts. So, whilst a message of peace to people of good will was given two thousand years ago at Christmas, it is a message which is addressed anew to each one of us today.

We see conflicts and wars between peoples and nations, and yet God wants us to pray and work for peace. Some people belonging to particular races, religions or nations believe their wars, terrorism or violence, that cause suffering or death, are all right, but those of others are wrong. Christ the Prince of Peace, offers the gift of peace to people of good will at Christmas, and through him God tells us and all peoples and nations, that he wants peace in every home, nation and place.

May Christ, the Prince of Peace bless & protect you at Christmas. Fr John

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES & CONFESSIONS:

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, HARLOW: Sunday 22nd December 5pm

EPPING: Sacrament of Penance on Christmas Eve 11.00am to 12 noon

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday 22nd December Christmas Carol Service & Nativity 5.30pm in Church

CHRISTMAS EVE: Carol Singing at 5.30pm and Mass at 6.00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE: Carol Service with Readings at 8.30pm and Mass at 9.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am

St STEPHEN'S DAY: Mass 10.00am

CHRISTMAS MARKET UPDATE: Following this year's very successful Christmas Market the amount banked after expenses was **£5,214.46**. Since then we have banked further sums of money bringing the magnificent amount raised to **£5,575.11**. In addition to this we will also claim any gift aid due on Patron donations. An enormous **THANK YOU** to Janet, Nina and everyone involved in this imaginative and very successful community event. It displayed the teamwork, hospitality, energy and creative talents of so many good people in our parish.

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 over 100 cookbooks – which have been well received.

CTED CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: We invite, once again, anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch in our Church Hall with us, on Christmas Day: 12.30pm for 1pm. Couples alone and carers are 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, especially by our guests.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY & CAROL SERVICE: **THIS Sunday 22nd December** we have our Christmas Nativity & Carol Service in church. Parents & 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.**

CHRISTMAS FILM AFTERNOON: Thank you to Emma Armstrong for organising our recent Christmas film afternoon.

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

DECEASED: We pray for the repose of the soul of **LEONARD TAYLOR RIP**, who died on **Sunday 15th December**. Funeral arrangements pending. **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.

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

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.

VIDEOS OF RECENT STUDY DAYS in the series on the "Year of the God who Speaks" are available. Fr Adrian's day 'Beginning with Genesis', and the day with Fr Nicholas King SJ on 'The Scriptures in Advent' are free to view Just go to the home page on www.whatgoodnews.org and click on 'Watch latest event'.

"EPPING FOODBANK: **Dear all**, in replacement of the Grocery stall, which we did not have at this year's Christmas Market, we ask you to donate one item for our local Foodbank. This week we have a box in the church porch for you to leave your donations. **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**. We're the car-sharing Refugee action convoy which takes a bunch of, 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!

COME AND SING IN A WORLD PREMIERE: Join with Adoramus as we give a World Premiere performance of composer Robin Stephenson's **MISSA BREVIS**. Our excellent professional orchestra will be coupled with Dvorak's Te-Deum and Symphony No.8. Concert on **Sat 28 March** at East Barnet School. Weekly Rehearsals begin **Tues 7 January 2020** at Christ Church Cockfosters 8pm-10pm. For details contact md@adoramus.com or phone 02083670042

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.

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