

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 28 December - Sunday 5 January 20

SUNDAY 29 December 2019 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	The People of our Parish
Monday 30 th	No Service in Church today	
Tuesday 31 st	9.00am	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Wednesday 1 st January:	MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD	
2020	10.00am	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Thursday 2 nd	St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors	
	9.00am	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Friday 3 rd January	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	
Note time	7.30pm	Holy Souls

SUNDAY 5th January 2020: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 4 th	6.00pm	Sr Maria Kenny's intentions (Lechley)
Sunday 5 th	9.00am	The People of our Parish
January 2019	11.00am	Eileen McNerney RIP (Garwood)

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: The Holy Family: Jesus, Mary & Joseph 5 January 2020

Page 7 Beginning of Mass Page 66 Preface 1 of The Nativity: Christ the Light
Page 106 Collect & Readings Page 25 Eucharistic Prayer 3
Page 11 The Nicene Creed Page 56 The Communion Rite,
Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 109 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 Sunday 22nd December: Envelopes: £179.57; Loose: £372.92; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £100. Thank you for your generous offerings.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS & GIFTS: The Offerings at Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses in our Diocese, are personal gifts by parishioners to support the priest(s) of their own parish. I thank you for your very generous offerings this Christmas and especially thank you for the many Christmas Cards, thoughtful notes and gifts you gave me at Christmas. *May the Lord bless you and your families for your kindness. Fr. John*

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 29 December 2019

Dear Friends,

The birth of a child brings great joy to parents and relatives, and forms a family that touches the wider community. The birth of the child Jesus, brings joy to Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and Wise Men, and to people through the ages, down to our own time. Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, became a member of the human family like us in every way, and shared the holiness of God with all men and women. In the Christian family, we thank God our Father for giving us Jesus his Son to be our brother and Saviour. In this holy season of peace and goodwill, people desire to come together as a family. Through his Son becoming part of the human family, God has placed in people's hearts the desire to be one family and to live in peace, harmony and love.

Before Jesus left this world to return to his Father, he prayed the words, "that they may be one" (John 17), so that all who believe in him would be united as one family. This desire for unity in the human family is felt in the hearts of people everywhere during the Christmas season. People who cause disharmony, pain or suffering are seen to be in conflict with the nature of this season. Yet, the truth is that Jesus comes as the Prince of Peace to bring peace to people of good will and to effect reconciliation between people and with God. He comes to heal divisions in families and between peoples and nations. Through his great command to "Love one another as I have loved you", he seeks to unite people in one mind and heart. Let us ask him to help us in the Christmas season to let go of resentments, to forgive past hurts and to be lovingly united in our families.

"O God, who was pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life. In the bonds of charity and the joy of your house, may we delight one day in the eternal rewards of heaven" (Collect of the feast of the Holy Family).

The word Eucharist, which means thanksgiving, we use to name the prayer of consecration in the Mass. At the end of the year, we thank God for the graces and blessings of the year and the ways he has helped us cope with difficulty and testing times. We also offer our thanks and gratitude to God and to others for the ways they have helped us and other people, especially in our own parish community, to serve God and one another in a much better way.

May God bless you, your families & friends with a very happy New Year.

CTED CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: Our thanks to Mary Morgan and the wonderful team who provided Christmas Day Lunch for 79 people in our hall. Many people gave their time and talents to create a most enjoyable and fulfilling Christmas Day for the many guests, who might otherwise have felt that they were home alone.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY & CAROL SERVICE: Our thanks to the catechists, parents and grandparents who prepared the children for the Christmas Nativity Play and Carol singing in our Church last Sunday, the 22nd. It was a marvellous and moving celebration by the children who had little preparation time, but carried it off in a way that must have left their parents feeling very proud and all of us impressed.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATIONS: The next preparation session for **Parents** of the First Holy Communion children will be in the Church Hall at **8pm on Wednesday 8th January**. On the weekend of the **11/12 of January** the children who celebrated First Reconciliation before Christmas will be presented with their First Reconciliation Certificates and Prayers of Blessing will be offered for them and their parents as they begin First Holy Communion preparation. The next session for the children will be **at 5.45pm on the 15th January in the Hall**.

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.

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 BIBLE 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’.

FROM EPPING FOODBANK - A BIG THANK YOU! A huge thank you to everyone who brought in donations for Epping Foodbank. Very many local families will have a happier Christmas and new year thanks to your generosity.

THE 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.

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.

LEONARD TAYLOR RIP: We pray for the repose of the soul of **LEONARD TAYLOR RIP** who died on 16th December. He will be received into our church for the celebration of Requiem Mass on Thursday, 16 January at 11.30am, followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May he rest in peace.** We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to his wife and family, that the Lord may send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen them at this time.

RED MISSION BOXES: The red mission boxes, which many parishioners have, are a remarkable way to support the Church’s missionary work and to help people in poor countries. We ask parishioners to take theirs from our church porch. If you have got one already please take the renewal one. These boxes are a painless and an immensely valuable way of helping the spread of the Gospel in developing nations and aiding and improving the conditions of those living in poverty.

BOOKING MASS INTENTIONS: To book a weekend Mass intention, for a particular date or time, like an anniversary Mass, it is advisable to contact the Parish Office about three months beforehand. Weekend Masses often get booked up well in advance and it is not always easy to accommodate people at the last minute. Initial booking can be made by phone or e-mail contact with our Parish Office.

PARISH REGISTER Our thanks to parishioners who so willingly and diligently delivered our Parish Christmas Card to the homes of Catholics in our parish. If you did not have one delivered to you it is possible that we do not have your correct address or you have registered in our Parish. Please, complete a Parish Register Form, that is available at the back of the Church, and return it to the Priest’s House, or give it to Fr John or Deacon Duncan after Mass.

“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 & 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.