

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 6.00pm Intentions of Sr Maria Kenny (Lechley)  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am The People of our Parish  
11.00am Eileen McNerney RIP (Garwood)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am Holy Souls RIP  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan St Raymond of Penyafort (Priest)  
9.00am Holy Souls RIP  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am Holy Souls RIP  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am Holy Souls RIP  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 6.00pm Intentions of Eileen White (Lechley)  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am Private Intention  
11.00am The 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: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 5<sup>th</sup> January

Page 7 Beginning of Mass Page 67 Preface of The Epiphany of The Lord  
Page 115 Collect & Readings Page 25 Eucharistic Prayer 3  
Page 11 The Nicene Creed Page 56 The Communion Rite,  
Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 118 Post Communion Prayer

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME: Maura Stone, Frances Wells, Paula Hall, Ann & Bill Dowd, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Mark Toohey, James Bullen, Fr Paul Dynan, Fr John Garrett & Fr Tom Jordan. **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 29<sup>th</sup> December: Envelopes: £252.50 Loose: £331.12; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £20. Thank you for your generous offerings.

THANK YOU!! Deacon Duncan and Dorothy express thanks to parishioners for the many gifts and Christmas Cards and good wishes which they have received and wish everyone a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.

HALL BOOKINGS Contact Arnold Verrall, preferably telephone 01992 001995 (dial 01992, even in Epping), or mobile 07764404813 or by email [arnold\\_verrall@email.com](mailto: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](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.org.uk)

Email: [epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto: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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (A)

5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

What can we learn from the Magi in relation to our personal life-journey?

The Magi were not wandering about aimlessly...they were going in a definite direction and with a specific purpose in mind. Despite occasional distractions, they kept moving steadily forward towards their objective, which was to worship the new-born King.

The journey of the Magi, encourages us to consider our own journey through life. Are we as enthusiastic as we should be in following **our personal star, which as good Christians, we believe to be the shining light of the promise of eternal life in heaven when we die.** In this context, 'our personal star' is the brightly shining star of our faith...a star of complete goodness and love, which we should reflect back to God and to our neighbour by the way in which we live our life.

Are we as attentive as the Magi in making it a priority to satisfy the deep desire of our hearts to love God? Or do we get so caught up in the daily distractions of life that our deep desire is hidden and cannot break through? We often think that our objective always to put God at the centre of our lives is unrealistic and involves the suppressing of our worldly priorities; such suppression would be meaningless and harmful unless it is the result of a **genuine and profound desire to put our aim to please God at the forefront of our lives** and so fully to be able to savour his love and tender care for us.

May God bless us all with a strong desire and determination to be truly faithful to him as we set out on another New Year in our personal journey towards our meeting with him. **Our personal star is shining brightly for us to follow.**

*Deacon Duncan*

**LEONARD TAYLOR RIP:** We pray for the repose of the soul of **LEONARD TAYLOR RIP** who died on 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> January in the Hall**.

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

**GOD WHO SPEAKS:** Pope Francis has designated this year as 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 selection of Catholic prayers and devotions, a theme index and references for all the scripture readings at Mass on the Sundays of Years A, B and C 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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) and click on ‘Watch latest event’.

**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 a copy (or copies!!) to your family or friends. We have now sold over 100 cookbooks – which have been well received.

**RED MISSIO BOXES:** The red Missio 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** We are updating our Parish Register and would appreciate your help, please. If you did not receive a Christmas Card, 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 31<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.calaislight.com) or on our Facebook Page. Choose Love!

**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.

**EPPING CHORUS CONCERT (formerly ECCA)** will be singing Haydn’s Nelson Mass, Jenkins’ Te Deum and Parry’s ‘Hear My Words’ at their New Year Concert on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in St John the Baptist Church, Epping. Free admission; Programmes £2.50 (to offset expenses). Interval refreshments available. Further information on our notice boards. Support will be greatly welcomed!

**USED POSTAGE STAMPS.** Please place used postage stamps 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. Our UK stamps are ‘foreign’ stamps to stamp collectors in other countries around the world.