

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS – Saturday 11 to Sunday 19 January 2020

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Year A) Sunday, 12 January 2020

Saturday 11 th	6.00pm	Intentions of Eileen White (Lechley)
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
January 2020	11.00am	Intentions of Rev Duncan & Dorothy Whitehouse
Monday 13 th		St Hilary Bishop & Doctor
Week 1 Year 2	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 14 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 15 th	12.15pm	Myrtle Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
Thursday 16 th	11.30am	Leonard Taylor RIP REQUIEM MASS
Friday 17 th		St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot
	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY is from the 18th to 25th January

SECOND SUNDAY OF Ordinary Time (A) PEACE SUNDAY 19 January 2020

Saturday 18 th	6.00pm	Pauline Smith-Galer RIP (Murray)
Sunday 19 th	9.00am	Private Intention
December 2020	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: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A) 12 January 2020

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WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME It is very important to contact a Priest or a Hospital Chaplain if you, 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: £151.50; Loose: £295.67; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £20. 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 complete and return it to the Priest's House. If our Parish Christmas Card was not delivered to you, then it is likely that we do not have your correct address or you may not have registered in our parish. If you are new to our parish, please complete a Parish Register form and introduce yourself to Fr John or Deacon Duncan who will be happy to welcome you to our church and parish community.

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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD Year A: Sunday 12 January 2020

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Why should Jesus need to be baptised at 28 years of age? Why was he not baptised as a small baby, as we are now baptised? But this was no ordinary baptism and certainly not like today's Christian baptism.

God had a plan for the saving of the world, including the Jewish people, who awaited the promised Saviour – a Messiah - to build upon their commitment to him. God's initial plan incorporated two principal figures – John and his cousin, Jesus; both being born in unusual circumstances through the power of the Holy Spirit. They grew up within their families to their late twenties. John became known as John the Baptist and God's role for him was to announce the coming of the Messiah to the Jews. The well-known account of the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan is the formal beginning of the Ministry of Jesus over the three years leading to his Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension into glory.

Poor John the Baptist is unable to understand why Jesus presents himself for baptism by John. 'Surely', John exclaims, 'it is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me!'. John had been preaching repentance and had actually got some of the Jews to undergo baptism, a practice normally reserved for converts to Judaism, and now here is the Messiah coming to submit himself to John's baptism. Jesus, the one who takes away the sins of the world, seems to confess himself a sinner by his humble ritual baptism. A deliberate public act of humility.

Jesus is baptised, is announced as God's chosen Son by the dramatic heavenly voice of God, and is thus 'confirmed' as the Messiah and will spend the next three years ministering to the Jews as the 'Suffering Servant', recognised by Isaiah some 750 years earlier. His Death, Resurrection and Ascension will fuel the growth of Christianity, growth which thrives to this day as a worldwide faith with a following of some 1.5 billion souls, of which you and I are a small but very important part.

God bless.

Deacon Duncan

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the repose of the soul of the following who have died recently: **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.**

HELEN DOWLING RIP who died on 31st December. She will be received into our church for the celebration of Requiem Mass on **Wednesday 29th January at 12.15pm**, followed by burial at Nazeing, All Saints Churchyard. **May she rest in peace.** We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to their families, that the Lord may send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen them at this time.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: Our next preparation session for the First Holy Communion children will be on **Wednesday 15th January at 5.45pm** in the Church Hall. Next weekend the **18/19 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 now begin their preparation for First Holy Communion.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: This weekend members of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children are appealing for support to continue their work in protecting unborn children. These helpless infants, in the womb, are under more and more threat from Pro-choice activists and the legal system. Please help S.P.U.C to continue the fight by giving generously.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Parish Council meeting is on **Wednesday 22nd January at 8pm** in the Presbytery. If you have any items for discussion please contact the parish office or speak to a Parish Council member.

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. **The NRSV Bibles are on sale in the church at £10** (normal price £20). This edition of the Bible has a selection of Catholic prayers and devotions, a theme index, and references for all the scripture readings in the Sundays of the 3 year cycle.

OUR PARISH COOKBOOK: “OUR CHERISHED RECIPES”: Thank you to all the parishioners who submitted their favourite recipes for inclusion in our fundraising Parish Cookbook and to the many parishioners who have bought one. Copies are on sale after all Masses. The price is £6 per copy or two for £10.

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.

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. We have a box in the church porch to receive non perishable foods & household goods for the Foodbank.

SAFEGUARDING of children and vulnerable adults in our parish: Information on Safeguarding in our parish is displayed on the church porch noticeboard. Our thanks to all who have completed the slips updating 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 up- date their contact details on a Safeguarding slip, which is at the back church, and return it to our Parish Office.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Saturday 8th February 2020 – this year’s fundraising will start with our annual event “Dancing to the Elevators”. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with various song genres with The Elevators five piece Pop/Rock band at 8.30pm until 11.30pm. This event is very popular and the dance floor is always packed therefore we recommend tickets be bought in advance to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced at £7 per adult/£3 for children. These will be on sale after all Masses from next weekend.

#Frdominic5000at50: Fr Dominic is turning 50 in September, and to mark the moment he is solo cycling 5000km between now and then – all without leaving Walsingham House at Abbotswick! He is raising money for the BCCS, Help Refugees, HCPT and Walsingham House and all the details are at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frdominic5000at50> where you can donate online. Or send cheques payable to “Fr D Howarth” to FrDominic5000at50, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Essex CM14 5SH.

RED MISSIO BOXES: The red Missio boxes, which many parishioners have, are a remarkable way to support the Church’s missionary work and 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. The boxes are a painless but immensely valuable way of helping the spread of the Gospel in developing nations and aiding and improving the conditions of those living in abject poverty.

EPPING CHORUS CONCERT (formerly ECCA) will sing Haydn’s Nelson Mass, Jenkins’ Te Deum and Parry’s ‘Hear My Words’ at their New Year Concert on Saturday 25th 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!

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY is holding its **Annual Charity Ball at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge on Saturday 7th March from 7pm**. Tickets are on sale at £55 per person, which will include a drinks reception and three course dinner along with a full evening of entertainment. Tables are of 12 making this a fantastic night out whilst at the same time raising vital funds for BCCS. As tickets for this event sell out quickly, please contact Julie asap to avoid disappointment: 01268 784544 / 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

USED POSTAGE STAMPS. Please place used postage stamps in the ‘Used Stamps’ box under the post-tray in our church porch.