

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS – Saturday 25 January to Sunday 2 February 2020

Saturday 25th Conversion of St Paul - end of Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

THIRD SUNDAY of Ordinary Time A Sunday of the Word of God 26 January 2020

Saturday 25th 6.00pm Bridget McGrath RIP (Anniv)
Sunday 26th 9.00am Andreas Kyrou RIP 1st Anniv (Kyrou)
January 2020 11.00am Joan Scannell RIP (Vine-Morris)
3.00pm LATIN MASS in The Tridentine Rite
Monday 27th St Angela Merici, Virgin
9.00am Bishop Patrick Casey RIP (Anniv 1999)
Tuesday 28th St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor
9.00am People of our Parish
1.00pm Jacqueline Easton RIP FUNERAL SERVICE
Wednesday 29th 11.00am Helen (Eileen) Dowling RIP REQUIEM MASS
Thursday 30th 9.00am Constance Fernandes RIP (Anniv) (Murray)
Friday 31st St John Bosco, Priest
9.00am Holy Souls RIP

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, Candlemas Day: Sunday 2 February 2020

The blessing of candles will take place at all Masses: World Day for Consecrated Life

Saturday 1st 6.00pm Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 2nd 9.00am In Thanksgiving (Hollinshead)
February 2020 11.00am People of our Parish
12.30pm Thomas Benjamin Wilton-Keely BAPTISM

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: THIRD SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME A 26 Jan. 2020

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WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME: It is 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 have pastoral visits and receive the Sacraments

OFFERTORIES: Envelopes: £287; Loose: £285.46; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £97.41; Pax Christi: £133.55. Thank you for your generous offerings.

The RETIRING COLLECTION next weekend will be for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, to help their work in supporting children and families in our Diocese.

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

THIRD SUNDAY Ordinary Time: A Sunday of the Word of God 26 January 20

Dear Friends,

St Matthew in his Gospel quotes Isaiah 8:23-9:3, that “The people who lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned” (Matt. 4:12-23). We are still in winter with long dark nights, but it is already noticeable that the daylight is overcoming the darkness as the evenings begin to lengthen. Light and darkness are two of the great symbols in the Bible, especially in St John's Gospel. Light symbolises the presence of God as opposed to the darkness, which symbolises the devil. The coming of Christ as “The Light of the World”, shows the triumph of goodness which comes from God, over sin which comes from the Devil. Light enables us to go forward with faith, hope and love, whilst darkness blocks us progressing in the way of virtue and gives a cover to hide what is sinful and evil.

St Matthew's Gospel shows that Jesus life, ministry and teaching was founded on the Old Testament. Matthew gives Jesus' family history showing him to be descended from significant people in the Old Testament and that his life and teachings were fulfilling the prophesies. Christ's birth is celebrated with light and candles at Christmas, and next Saturday we bless candles for use in church and our homes, as we celebrate his Presentation in the Temple. The Sanctuary lamp calls us to honour the presence of Christ in the Holy Communion which is reserved in the Tabernacle. The principal light or candle in the Church is the Paschal or Easter Candle, by the Baptism Font, symbolising Christ risen from the dead and that his life and light are present in the world, the church and our own life. The sharing of Christ's life and light is symbolised at Baptism as the Baptism Candle of newly baptised is lit from that Paschal Candle. Next weekend we will have a blessing of candles at all Masses. This will show us that we have received the life and light of Christ and that by God's grace we live and walk in the light of Christ for we are children of the light and not of darkness.

The following, is a good prayer for us to offer in our night prayers: ***“Lighten our darkness we beseech you, O Lord, and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of the night, for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen”*** (Book of Common Prayer).

May Christ, the Light of the World, guide us with his light. Fr John

RECENTLY DECEASED: JACQUELINE EASTON RIP who died on December 30th. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated in our church at **12.45pm next Tuesday 28th January**, followed by interment at Epping Cemetery. **May she rest in peace.**

HELEN (EILEEN) DOWLING RIP who died on 31st December. Requiem Mass will be celebrated in our church at **12.15pm next Wednesday 29th January**, followed by interment at All Saints Churchyard, Nazeing. **May she rest in peace.**

ROGER HARWOOD RIP who died recently. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Augustine's Church, Barkingside. We offer our sympathy to his son, Paul, a parishioner in our parish and his family.
May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console these families and all who mourn at this time.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN CHILD (S.P.U.C): Thanks for the generosity shown in the recent Appeal for the Society of the Protection of the Unborn Child (S.P.U.C). A cheque for £550 has been sent to the Society.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: Our next session for the First Communion children will be on **Wednesday 29th January at 5.45pm** in the Hall.

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.

PAX CHRISTI: Pax Christi International will celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. The movement continues to grow and flourish with more than a hundred member groups around the world. Many thanks for your donations last weekend amounting to **£133.55**. *If you wish to support the work of Pax Christi, please put your donation in the bottle at the back of the church or in one of the Pax Christi envelopes.*

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

YOUR ADDRESS ON PARISH REGISTER: If you have not registered in our parish or updated your address, please take a Parish Register Form at the back of the Church and complete and return it to the Priest's House. 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 RED MISSION BOXES boxes that many parishioners use are a great way to support the Church's missionary work and aid people in poorer countries. We ask parishioners to take theirs from our church porch. If you have got one, please take one. The boxes are an easy but invaluable way of helping spread the Gospel in developing nations and helping people who are living in abject poverty.

ROTAS: The new rota for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers is now available in the letter rack of the church porch.

YOUTH MASSES take place at the Cathedral every first Wednesday of the month at 8pm. The next **Youth Mass** will be at **Brentwood Cathedral at 8pm on Wednesday 5 February**. All aged 14+ are very welcome. The February Mass includes a live interview with Rob Green, a former Campion pupil who using his own resources went to Greece last summer to work in a refugee camp for a month. Hear his fascinating story, and be inspired about some unusual Lenten resolutions. Details at www.bcys.net

LENTEN REFLECTION AND REVISION RETREAT: Walsingham House at Abbotswick, 27th - 29th March. In school year 11-13? Struggling to find a quiet space to study for GCSEs, BTEC or A-levels? The weekend retreat will include reflective prayer, generous time for personal study, and relaxed social time, and will conclude with Mass. 8pm Friday 27th – 3pm Sunday 29th. Meals included. Cost £35.

THE EPPING FOREST FOODBANK provides emergency food packs to those in urgent need. If you, or anyone you know is in financial difficulty or serious need, vouchers for the Foodbank are available from our Parish Office, Epping & 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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Saturday 8th February 2020 –Fundraising this year 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 is a very popular event and the dance floor is always packed. To avoid disappointment, we advise buying tickets in advance. Tickets at £7 per adult/£3 for children will be on sale after all Masses.

#Frdominic5000at50: Fr Dominic will turn 50 in September, and to mark it he is solo cycling 5000km between now and then – all without leaving Walsingham House at Abbotswick! He is raising money for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, Help Refugees, HCPT and Walsingham House. Details of where you can donate online are at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frdominic5000at50> or you can send cheques payable to "Fr D Howarth" to FrDominic5000at50, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5SH

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, Ireland, 25th May 2020, led by Bishop Alan Williams. £649.00 per person sharing. Price takes in flight & 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with breakfast & dinner. All entertainment, excursions & lunches on days out included. Wheelchair accessible rooms & single room supplement £100. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and fully protected by ATOL T7613. Contact Patricia on email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com or phone 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557.

JOB VACANCIES: Please see church noticeboard.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS: We have Catholic newspapers on sale each week at the back of the church. The parish receives a small profit on each newspaper sold.