

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 6.00pm Matthias McGrath RIP (Anniv)  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.00am In Thanksgiving (Hollinshead)  
February 2020 11.00am People of our Parish  
12.30pm Thomas Benjamin Wilton-Keely BAPTISM

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> St Anne Line, Martyr: Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Year 2  
Today is also the feast of St Blaise, Patron Saint of those who suffer from ills of the throat.  
We will give the Blessing of St Blaise for protection from ills of the throat after Mass.

9.00am Lois Gosnell RIP (FM)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

9.00am Ruby Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin: Day of Prayer for Victims of Human

Trafficking & those who support them and combat modern day slavery

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A Racial Justice Sunday 9 February 2020**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm People of our Parish

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Andreas Kyrou RIP (Kyrou)

February 2020 11.00am Joan Scannell RIP (Vine-Morris)

**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: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020**

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Page 11 The Creed Page 56 The Communion Rite,

Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 302 Post Communion Prayer

**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: £260; Loose: £269.04; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £74. 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](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 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD A**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020**

*Dear Friends,*

Holy Simeon said, "Now, Lord, you can let your servant go in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all the nations, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to your people, Israel" (Luke 2:22-40). On this feast, we celebrate Mary and Joseph taking their infant, Jesus, to the Temple to present him to God. They were fulfilling the Law handed down to Jewish people, from the time of Moses. In doing that, God's presence and mission in Jesus was recognised by two elderly devout people in the Temple. Simeon and Anna, because they had the gift of faith and the action of God in their lives, were able to see God's presence, action and purpose in the child Jesus.

Traditionally this feast is called Candlemas Day, for at the beginning of Mass we have a blessing and lighting of candles. Candles in the church represent to us the presence of God and that Jesus is "The light of World". Through him the light triumphs over darkness and good triumphs over evil. Jesus says, "Anyone who walks with me will have the light of life". Parents bringing their children to church for Baptism are threading in the footsteps of Mary and Joseph who were presenting their child to God. They receive a Baptism Candle which shows that through Baptism the child has received the light and life of Christ. This should give us great confidence in the nearness of God to us in life's journey.

Christ's birth is celebrated with light and candles at Christmas, and this Saturday we bless candles for use in church and our homes. The Sanctuary lamp calls us to honour the presence of Christ in the Holy Communion that 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 life.

On the feast of St Josephine Bakhita on Saturday we think of and pray for the great numbers of people who are subjected to human trafficking and slavery in our time. This is not just in foreign countries but also here at home where we have many people whose dignity is neither recognised or honoured. They are subjected to exploitation, poorly paid if at all and live in terrible conditions. We need to become more aware of them and seek to protect their rights and dignity.

*May Jesus, the Light of the world, enlighten you and your families. Fr John*

**FRANK KURTEN RIP:** We pray for the repose of the soul of Frank Kurten, our parishioner, who died on Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> January. **May he rest in peace.** *We offer our sympathy to his family, and pray that the Lord sends his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and all the families who mourn at this time.*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:** Our next session for the First Communion children will be on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 5.45pm** in the Hall.

**PAX CHRISTI:** Pax Christi International celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. We have sent a cheque from our parish for £200, representing the proceeds from our parish collection and the amount in the collection bottle, to Pax Christi. *If you wish to support Pax Christi's work for peace in our world, please put your donation into the bottle at the back of our 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.

**RED MISSION BOXES** used by many parishioners are a way to support the Church's missionary work and aid people in poor countries. Please take your box from the church porch. If you have not got one, please take one. This is an way to help spread the Gospel in developing nations and help 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<sup>th</sup> February.** All aged 14+ are very welcome. The February Mass includes a live interview with Rob Green, a former Champion 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](http://www.bcys.net)

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

**THE ANNUAL LOURDES MASS** will be celebrated at Brentwood Cathedral on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February** at 3 pm. This is an opportunity to give thanks for graces received in Lourdes and to seek prayers for the sick. During the Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated for those who are ill or infirm.

**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.

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

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020** –

Fundraising this year will start with our annual event **NEXT Saturday, “Dancing to the Elevators”**. Commencing at 7.30pm followed by The Elevators 5 piece Pop/Rock band at 8.30pm until 11.30pm. This is a very popular event so to avoid disappointment we advise buying tickets in advance. Tickets at £7 per adult/£3 for children will be on sale after all Masses or by calling to the priest's house next week on

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> or Friday 7<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 2pm

**THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM NORWAY HOUSE:** “Our children's Christmas party took place on 20<sup>th</sup> December....Through your generosity and fundraising for our Hostel we were able to provide food, drink and an entertainer It is truly humbling that our community came together so fantastically to help our homeless families, especially with the economic climate so challenging for most people. We really would not be able to provide such a great experience for the children without your support so thank you all very much!”

**ENQUIRERS' EVENING** for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February** at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton. Details from Fr Mark Swires - [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**SPONSORED SLEEPOUT: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April,** in the grounds of Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Begins at 8pm with a film & talk; or arrive at 11pm for Mass. Sleepout midnight – 7am. In freezing weather, it is very difficult for those sleeping on the streets. The Sleepout is a way of raising money for homeless charities and helps understand what it feels like to sleep outside. Groups, register by emailing [frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org); individuals register at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net). Open to anyone aged 15-105 (those aged 15-18 must be part of a group, with parents consent).

**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, Ireland, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020,** led by Bishop Alan Williams. £649.00 per person sharing. Contact Patricia on email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com) or phone 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557.

**THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** a children's charity delivering vital mental health services in schools throughout the diocese wishes to appoint Trustees to their board to guide & develop their work. Details [www.bccs.org.uk](http://www.bccs.org.uk) or email Bernadette, Director on [bfisher@bccs.org.uk](mailto:bfisher@bccs.org.uk)

**MONTHLY PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING:** Sion Community, on behalf of the Diocesan Service Team, will hold their next Praise and Worship evening **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.** [www.sioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.sioncommunity.org.uk)