

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

**SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME A** 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Mary Canny RIP (Canny)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Mary Kelly's intentions (Flanagan)
February 2020	11.00am	The People of our Parish
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	The Seven	Holy Founders of the Servite Order
	9.00am	Rev Michael O'Rourke RIP (FM)
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Friday 21 <sup>th</sup>	St Peter Damien, Bishop & Doctor	
	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A** 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Geraldine & John Trinder RIP (Knight)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	Maggie Walsh RIP (Clohessy)
February 2020	11.00am	People of our Parish
	3.00pm	LATIN MASS in the Tridentine Rite

**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: SIXTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME 16 February 2020**

Page 7	Beginning of Mass	Page 69	Preface 3: Salvation of man by man
Page 136	Collect & Readings	Page 28	Eucharistic Prayer 3
Page 11	The Creed	Page 56	The Communion Rite,
Page 14	Preparation of Gifts	Page 139	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: £229.50; Loose: £254.58; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £36.79. Thank you for your generous offerings.**

**TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS:** Our next Holy Sacrifice according to the Traditional Rite will be offered at our Church next **Sunday the 23rd February** at 3 p.m. Texts in English and Latin will be provided.

**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**

**MIRACLE HOUR:** a small prayer book giving 12 different forms of prayer, of five minutes each, which could be used for a whole hour or one or two sections each day. On sale in the church at £3.50 each. Highly recommended.

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

Email: [epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)

Registered Charity Number: 234092

*Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa*

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The Sermon on the Mount reads very uncompromisingly – that is because it is very radical – it goes right to the roots of human life in the presence of God. That is what Jesus insists on – it is not enough simply to not do wrong, you must not even want to do wrong. The example he gives – violence, adultery, oath breaking – are not things that are extraordinary or inconceivable for human beings, and the sanctions he offers are frightening. Such passages from Scripture can have very different responses from people looking for faith.

At one level, the challenge can be so great that it can lead to despair – or even self-mutilation. At another its apparent impossibility can lead to abandonment of any attempt to control oneself (“it can’t really mean that so let’s just carry on as usual!”) Jesus offers a radical response to sin – it is so dangerous that any contamination can be fatal – Jesus asks us to take sin seriously – not to make us despair or lose heart, but to recognise the reality of it and the danger of it.

The first reading offers us some guidance in pondering this: “if you wish you can keep the commandments” – we should not despair. But “he has given no one permission to sin” – so sin is unacceptable. Ultimately as we know – and as the Christian faith clearly teaches us – sin can only be dealt with by the grace of God. As we hear so regularly, “This is my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins.” Human beings cannot deal with sin – only God can, but human beings are called to accept the grace of God to enable them to resist sin and receive the grace of God which cancels sin – that is how “to behave faithfully is within your power.” This is part of the wisdom that Paul talks of to the Corinthians (who were not renowned for keeping the Commandments!)

The Christian message of the Gospel has been revealed to us and it is Good News, not because it says sin does not matter, but because it says that sins – our sin – is dealt with by God through Christ. Part of our response to the Good News is to recognise sin for what it is, to renounce it and to seek forgiveness.

**(Written by Robert Draper in the current issue of “Pastoral Review”).**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** We pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr John Garrett**, of Stansted Parish in our diocese, who died on 12 February 2020. **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 at this time.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:** Our next session for the First Communion children will be on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 5.45pm** in the Hall.

**SAFEGUARDING children & vulnerable adults in our Parish:** Information is displayed on the church porch. Thanks to all who completed 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.

**JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP:** **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm there will be a meeting, in the priest's house, to discuss Justice and Peace, CAFOD, Pax Christi and our parish Dundee link. We urgently need members to join this parish group.

**LENT EVENTS ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:** *The Year of the God who Speaks* continues with a Lenten focus on the Gospel of John, which figures prominently in this year's liturgies. On **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February** Fr Victor Darlington, professor at St John's Seminary, Womersley, will lead a study day on 'John among the Gospels' from 10.30 until 3 pm at Christ the High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH). On the evenings of **11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March** beginning at 7 pm at the same venue Fr Adrian Graffy will speak about 'The Great Johannine Gospels'. These evenings will include a reading of the relevant gospel in parts. Please book your place for any of these events by email to [GPstudydays@gmail.com](mailto:GPstudydays@gmail.com) or by phone to 01708 449914. For further information [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**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.

**BAKE SALE: SUNDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> February after 9 & 11am Masses.** Donations of cakes & baked goods welcome. Please contact Adriana on 07828 118 909. If you would like to pre-order your favourite or make a contribution. Proceeds to our parish.

**THANK YOU:** We express our gratitude to Dorothy and Duncan Whitehouse, who have retired from the Hall Committee, having worked so conscientiously as members for a number of years. We would welcome, and need, new members for this Committee, which manages our Parish Hall. Please think about joining us.

**LENT LUNCHESES:** A chance to meet friends and support Christian Aid. Each Saturday in Lent, one of the Churches in Epping will offer a light lunch (soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee) between 12.30pm and 2pm. A suggested donation is £3 for Christian Aid. Please bring your friends. Everyone is welcome! The first lunch will be on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February** at St John's Church, Epping. Our Lent Lunch will be **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. Details of each venue will be published a week in advance.

**LENT COURSE:** We will hold a Lent course on Wednesday evenings, at 8pm, in the Hall starting on 4<sup>th</sup> March. It will centre on understanding the Bible and God's plan for you and me and will follow the "The Big Picture" which is a book and DVD presented by CaFE & the Bible Society. The same course is being run in the Loughton and Harlow parishes.

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY** will this year be on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. CAFOD offertory envelopes will be distributed at all Masses the previous weekend for collection on the weekend of **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> March**.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR TRAVELLERS:** The focus of this year's Racial Justice Sunday has been on celebrating the contribution that members of the Travelling Communities make to the Church. Following on from Racial Justice Sunday, there will be a special meeting on **Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm for anyone who is interested in assisting with the Sacramental Preparation of Traveller children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

The training will be led by Sister Philomena Purcell and will take place in the Pastoral Centre at the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Billericay.

If you are interested in attending please contact Father Dan Mason, the National Catholic Chaplain for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers on 01277 624891. All prospective Catechists will need to have a DBS certificate issued by the diocese.

**THE PASSAGE** is a Christian Charity working with homeless people. Please support a St David's Day concert in aid of The Passage at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on **Friday 28 February at 7.00pm**. The concert features the London Welsh Male Voice Choir with guest soloists Claire Jones (harp) and Aled Wyn Davies (tenor) and Guto Harri (Compère). Please book online through Eventbrite [stdavidsday.eventbrite.co.uk](http://stdavidsday.eventbrite.co.uk). Full details to book are on the website [www.passage.org.uk](http://www.passage.org.uk) or telephone 020 75921856 or email [info@passage.org.uk](mailto:info@passage.org.uk)

**PARISH CONCERT/SOCIAL NIGHT with the ELEVATORS:** We express our gratitude to everyone who organised, came and contributed to the Parish Concert/Social last Saturday. We are most grateful to Sheila and Steve Earl and their Band members who together with Chris Day, Tracey Quill and Joe Whitbread gave their time and talents. A wonderful evening was had by all. **It was also a successful fund raising occasion and raised £400 for our parish.**

**OPEN MIC NIGHT: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020.** All ages and abilities welcome to perform. Singers, with own accompaniment, poets, dancers, spoon players etc. £3 on the door. Please contact Sheila Earl on 07746021838 if you would like to put your name down. More details on poster in church porch.

**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.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES in DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY:** Please see details and job adverts in church porch.