

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 29th February to Sunday 8th March 2020

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Year A 1st March 2020

Saturday 29 Feb.	6.00pm	Mary Canny RIP (Canny)
Sunday 1st	9.00am	Rody Meagher RIP (Hayes & Coyne families)
March 2020	11.00am	The People of our Parish
	6.00pm	THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Monday 2 nd	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 3 rd	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 4 th	12.15pm	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 5 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Friday 6 th	Lent Fast Day for CAFOD in solidarity with the poor overseas	
	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP

7.30pm THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS and Mass for

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A 8th March 2020

Saturday 7 th	6.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday 8 th	9.00am	Geraldine & John Trinder RIP Recently (Knight)
March 2020	11.00am	People of our Parish
	6.00pm	THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays: 11.00am to 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm

MORNING PRAYER of DIVINE OFFICE 15 minutes before 9am weekday Masses.

BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after 9am weekday Mass.

UNIVERSALIS: www.universalis.com for daily Mass readings, Lectio Divina, Prayer of the Church in The Divine Office and Spiritual Reading for each day of Lent.

SPIRITUALITY & LENT: <https://aleteia.org/category/spirituality/>

A LENT RETREAT 2020 – Journeying with Jesus daily: www.sacredspace.ie

PARISH MASS BOOK: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Year A 1 March 2020

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WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME: Please contact a Priest or Hospital Chaplain if you, your relative, or a parishioner, is ill at home or in hospital so that they can have pastoral visits.

OFFERTORIES: Offertory Envelopes: £327.50; Loose: £252.66; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £53.02. Thank you for your generous offerings.

CAFOD COLLECTION at all Masses next weekend following Lent Fast Day on Friday

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**

MIRACLE HOUR: a prayer book with 12 different forms of prayer, of five minutes. Can be used for an hour or a couple of sections each day. In the church at £3.50 each.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

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Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

Email: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 234092

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Year A 1st March 2020

Dear Friends,

“Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1-11). Today many people not only doubt or discount the nature and existence of God, but they also dismiss the reality of temptation, evil and the devil. Jesus was very hungry and weak in his forty days in the wilderness and subjected to temptation by the devil. It is said the devil does not bother with those who are not really dedicated to doing good and God’s will, for they will not change the world very much or better the lives of people, or help prepare for the coming of God’s kingdom, as we pray for the in Lord’s Prayer.

Jesus had three temptations presented to him by the devil that went to the heart of his mission and work, for they centred on self. First, was his need for food and to work a miracle for his own benefit. Second, was a temptation to do something attention seeking but foolish, and then expect God to send angels to rescue him. Third was the temptation to obtain power and exercise control over peoples and nations, but sell his soul for that. Later in his teachings, Jesus said, “What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul” (Mark 8:36). When Jesus, in physical weakness but spiritual strength, had rebuffed the temptations, “the devil left him to return at an opportune time” (Luke 4:13).

Our reading from Genesis Ch2:7-3:7 tells us that temptation was there from the beginning and was centred on self and self-exaltation. Adam and Eve had the desire to elevate themselves to be their own god, by being disobedient and ignoring the command of the God who created them. Each of us has our own temptations –some come from the devil and some come from our inner self and some from the world. We are like our first parents more than Jesus in dealing with temptations. Jesus told his disciples, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves, but be wise as serpents and gentle as doves” (Matt 10:16).

During Lent we are called to journey with Jesus into the wilderness of our life – not alone but with him. He is our source of wisdom, who enables us to see our life as it is. He is our strength who helps us resist the temptations that come from world, our own nature and the devil. Above all he is the Saviour who has been to the wilderness and redeems us and forgives us, when fall into sin.

May the Lord bless us with a grace-filled season of Lent. Fr John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: Our next First Communion session for the children will be in the Hall on **Wednesday, 4th March at 5.45pm.**

SVP RAFFLE TICKETS on sale at all Masses THIS weekend. Prizes £3000, £2000 £1000 and many £100s. Tickets at £1 each, £5 a book. If parishioners complete one stub we will do the rest (free!) Proceeds to local & international causes. Many thanks.

BAKE SALE LAST SUNDAY: Many thanks to all who baked delectable cakes, helped sell them and all bought them before Lent. It raised **£252.10** for our parish.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER for women & men will be celebrated at the United Reform Church at 2.30pm on **March 6th**. Everyone is invited to attend. If you wish to participate in the service, please contact Dorothy Whitehouse on 01992 577173.

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY on **Friday 6th March** is the 60th anniversary of the first Family Fast Day led by our founding mothers. For sixty years it has been an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest members of our global family. Please give whatever you can to help people like Sister Consilia - a nun and trained pharmacist who treats people in rural Zimbabwe to continue their vital work. If you would like to support CAFOD's work by offering your time, please contact Chris Driscoll at brentwood@cafod.org.uk or call 01263 551293. Please take the CAFOD envelopes that are being given out at all Masses this weekend for your donations, and for collection next weekend.

SAFEGUARDING children & vulnerable adults in our Parish: Very important information is displayed on the church noticeboard. Thanks to all who completed slips updating their address & 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 the Safeguarding slip in the church, and return it to our Parish Office.

EASTER LILIES: Parishioners can remember deceased relatives or friends at Easter by putting lilies in the church flower arrangements. There will be a memory book, on display in the church, listing the names of all those remembered. A suggested donation is £3 a lily. Please put this in an envelope (there are red ones in the church) and mark it 'Easter Lily in memory of.....' and put it with the Offertory collection or the Presbytery letter box. If you are a tax-payer you can Gift Aid your donation by using the Donations envelope in the Church, or one of the envelopes in your box.

LENT LUNCHESES: Meet friends & support Christian Aid on the Saturdays in Lent, when 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 next lunch will be on **Saturday 7th March** at Life Church, The Box, Epping. Our Lent Lunch will be **Saturday 28th March**. Details of each venue will be published a week in advance.

JUMBLE SALE: Diary date: our next parish Jumble Sale will be on **Saturday 24th April**. Please start sorting any clean jumble and leave in the church porch.

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK gives 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 and other places locally.

NRSV Catholic Edition Bibles on sale in church at £10

LENT BIBLE COURSE: We will hold a Bible course on the Wednesdays of Lent, starting **4th March, at 8pm** in our Hall, following "**The Big Picture**": a book & DVD by CaFE & the Bible Society to understand The Bible & God's plan for us. Books will be supplied and the course will also run at Loughton & Harlow parishes. This is linked with the "Year of the Word" – the God who speaks to us in Sacred Scripture, The Bible. Please take a read the little leaflet on that this weekend.

ST JOHN'S GOSPEL IN LENT: *The Year of the God who Speaks* has a Lent focus on St John's Gospel, that is used in this year's liturgies. On the **11th, 18th & 25th March** starting at 7 pm Fr Adrian Graffy will speak on 'The Great Johannine Gospel' at Christ the High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Evenings will include a reading of relevant gospel in parts. Please book a place by phone to 01708 449914 or email GPstudydays@gmail.com Details www.whatgoodnews.org

LENTEN WORKS OF MERCY: Helpers of God's Precious Infants reach out in love and compassion to mothers in crisis pregnancies and those suffering the effects of abortion. The next Rosary Procession Vigil, will be held on **Saturday 14 March**, starting with Mass at 10am at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Grove Crescent Road, Stratford E15 1NS. Contact tel. 01727 763832 or e-mail marg@helpersuk.org

YOUTH MASS: St. Edmund's, Loughton, 6pm, Sunday, 29th March, 2020.

It has been agreed that we will hold this (our third) Mass for all the youth of our Loughton, Epping and Waltham parishes as detailed above. The arrangements will be largely the same as those of our earlier Masses and we hope that all the young people and others who did so much to make our previous Masses a success will be willing to get involved in the same way for this third Mass.

POUSTINIA PROJECT: As we prepare to celebrate the Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry, the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham hopes to find benefactors who can support their 'Poustinia' project. With a greater need for silence in today's world, many people need space to enter the silence of their heart and listen to 'the still small voice of God' I Kings 19:12. As a community of men and women in different states of life, we accompany people so they can live in the joy and freedom of Mary's 'Fiat' or 'Yes'. We hope that a parish, a group of parishioners or individuals can contribute to the project. We need to raise £100,000 to build two shepherd's huts & develop prayer gardens around them at our convent, House of the Divine Will. If you know anyone who can help please ask them to speak to Sr Camilla COLW (info@walsinghamcommunity.org or 01328 801018).

OPEN MIC NIGHT on **Saturday 14 March 2020 at 7.30pm in our Hall**. All ages, talents & abilities are welcome to perform. Singers with own accompaniment, dancers, poets, spoon players etc. £3 on the door. Details on poster in church porch. Bring your own refreshments. **To put your name down please contact Sheila Earls by e-mail: earls36@msn.com or phone or text on 07746021838 or complete the slip below and return it to the Priest's House this week:**

Name..... Telephone.....

Act(s) you would like to perform.....