PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD Year A 5 April 2020

ALL CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED due to the danger from the Corona virus.

<u>PUBLIC MASSES & SERVICES with a congregation will not be celebrated in our or other churches for the near future due to the dangers from the Corona virus.</u>

This position will continue until our bishops are advised by the Government & NHS that it is safe for people to congregate and meet in numbers. Priests in parishes will offer Mass in private daily, to invoke God's protection on his people. We pray for deliverance from this virus that threatens the wellbeing of communities and nations, at home and abroad. Useful information is on the website of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales and the statement by Cardinal Vincent Nicholls is to be found at www.cbcew.org.uk/

WE PRAY FOR: doctors, nurses, all working in hospitals, NHS and Emergency Services. For all who are ill at home or in hospital, for carers who look after people who are elderly or vulnerable in their homes or care homes. For those who feel the stress of being isolated or alone and depend on the goodness of others. For our families, ourselves and all in need at this time. We can reflect and pray on the Stations of the Cross and how many share in Christ's sufferings. We can light a candle at home (being careful and safe in doing so) and ask Jesus, the Light of the World to be a light and Saviour for God's people at this time of need, and we can ask Mary the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church to pray for us.

SACRAMENT of PENANCE by request and arrangement at this time.

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

EWTN DAILY MASS and more at: https://www.youtube.com/user/EWTN

DAILY MASS Leigh-on-Sea: Our Lady of Lourdes Church at https://lourdesleigh.org/
Bishops Stortford: St Joseph & English Martyrs: www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford
In Brentwood Diocese: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/covid-19-can-parish/
DAILY SERVICES WITH MASS: www.churchservicestv.com

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR KIDS: www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0qv7c4PsrA

CAFOD KIDS ZONE: https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Kidz-Zone (worth visiting)

DAILY SERVICE on BBC RADIO 4 (198 meters Long Wave) at 9.45am

SUNDAY SERVICE on BBC RADIO 4 on 92.3FM at 8.10am

BBC ESSEX at 95.3 and 103.5FM Sunday programme from 6.00am to 9.00am

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

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS for PALM SUNDAY Year A 5th April 2020

FIRST GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey to Hosannas OT READING: Isaiah 50:4-7 A prophecy on how Jesus would be tortured and abused RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 21 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me NT READING: Philippians 2: 6-11 Jesus humbled himself to death on a Cross GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14-27:66 Jesus' Last Supper, passion, crucifixion and death

GREAT THANKS: In this challenging and very difficult time, when people have to cope with many difficulties and the unexpected, there have been extraordinary acts of kindness and caring by people of all ages in the area to others that they do not know. We are all most grateful for this caring and sharing of concern and love in the area.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Registered Charity Number: 234092

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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD A 5th April 2020

Dear friends,

"His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as all men are" (Philippians 2:6-11). In this text, St Paul speaks of the divine and human nature of Jesus, who gave up his glory and was humble by going through suffering and death on the Cross. On Palm Sunday the Church takes us into the passing popularity of Christ. In Holy Week, we go through his sufferings and being glorified through death on the Cross, on Good Friday. Christ, the innocent Lamb of God was put to death and through his sufferings, death and resurrection God gives the promise and hope of eternal life to all who place their faith in Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

It is sad this year that with the closure of the churches, due the Corona virus, Holy Week liturgies will be celebrated without a congregation in churches. The Mass of Chrism will not be celebrated in Holy Week, but later in the year. On Maundy (Holy) Thursday evening the Mass of Our Lord's Last Supper, when Jesus changed bread and wine into his Body and Blood and told us: "Do this in memory of me", is celebrated. The washing of his disciples feet showed his humble service and his giving us a New Commandment to "love one another as I have loved you". On that night remember his Agony in the Garden, and pray with him and for all those who are suffering their own agony and tribulations at this time.

On Holy Saturday Christians remember and meditate on Jesus in the tomb and the grief so many people suffer around the world on mourning the death of their loved ones. At the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ's triumph over suffering and death in his glorious resurrection. In our homes, we can participate in these sacred mysteries though using online broadcasts of Holy Week and Easter services. This is the most important week in the Church's year when we celebrate God's great love for us, and the new life of grace he gives us through Christ.

This year we see people around the world, united in one human family, all sharing in the insecurity and sufferings caused by the Corona virus. People's sufferings can be linked with Christ's sufferings of in Holy Week. By his going though suffering, death and resurrection, we are given the hope of overcoming our sufferings and death, and coming to share in the glory of his resurrection and eternal life.

May Christ's sufferings and death touch our minds and hearts. Fr John

RECENTLY DECEASED: ROGER CRAMPIN RIP, who died on Thursday 26th March. May he rest in peace. We offer our sympathy to family and friends and pray: That the Lord sends his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen them and all who mourn at this time.

<u>CHURCH UPDATES Re CORONA VIRUS:</u> For the latest updates please visit: <u>www.cbcew.org.uk/</u> and also go to <u>www.vaticannews.va/en/church.html</u>

PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS, in St Peter's Square, Rome this Friday evening at 5pm GMT. This service will be broadcast live to the world on the Vatican Media and can be followed on several languages, the Vatican website, Facebook Live or You Tube. It will have Scripture readings, prayers of supplication and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This extraordinary moment of prayer in the time of the Corona pandemic will last about an hour and will conclude with the Holy Father giving his Apostolic Blessing.

IN NEED OF HELP: If you, or someone you know is urgently in need of help at this time, please contact the Priest's House and we will do what we can to assist through the church, parishioners, the Foodbank or other local agencies. We have made a donation of £1000 from our parish funds to Epping Forest Foodbank in this time of great need. OTHER CHARITIES our parish has made donations to in the past week are: International Refugee Trust £200, Cardinal Hume Homeless Centre £200, Providence Row Shelter £200, Prisoners' Aid £250, Mercy Ships £150, The Passage Homeless Centre £150, Pax Christi £200, Aid to the Church in Need £1,000, Smile Train £100, Church's World Mission £250. Thank you to all of you who donate to our parish.

<u>MASS INTENTIONS:</u> If you or anyone you know wishes to have Mass offered for a particular intention or for anyone, living or dead, please contact Fr John at The Priest's House, by letter, e-mail or phone stating the intention, and the Mass will be offered as soon as possible in private in our parish, for that particular intention.

<u>OUR BIBLE COURSE in Lent, based on "The Big Picture"</u> will **NOT** continue at the present time but may resume later on when we are free to gather together again.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHANGES: Our first Holy Communion preparation and the First Holy Communion Masses have now had to be postponed and new dates will be set when it will be declared safe for people to congregate again in church.

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 may have ministry and the Sacraments.

OFFERTORIES: Many thanks for £800 Standing Orders and to parishioners who put their Offertory Envelopes through the letter box of the Priest's House.

<u>CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES:</u> Catholic newspapers & magazines have been delivered to us as usual this week. Anyone who wants to get a particular one please contact the Priest's House and we will see what can safely be arranged.

DOWRY OF MARY: REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND TO OUR LADY

On this Sunday in parishes throughout England there will be a rededication of the country to our Lady, who points the way to Jesus, her son as our Saviour.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FOR ENGLAND

O blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother. Intercede for our separated brethren that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the supreme Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee, in our heavenly home. Amen

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For a presentation vist: www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8dzDrvziXECOVID-19

DOMESTIC CHURCH PARENT RESOURCES: Find a link on the Diocesan news page, where they publish an article recommended to parents of school-aged children to enable them to continue worship in the home and continue the season of Lent / Easter with their families without gathering publicly for Mass.

www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/domestic-church-resources-parents-covid-19/

CORONA VIRUS VOLUNTEERS: Everything Epping Forest is managing a contacts database of people willing to act as "community volunteers" who could assist with deliveries etc to "self- isolating" people in the district during this outbreak. If you would like to be added to the database, and are happy to have your contact details passed on to anyone who requests them, please email everythingeppingforest@gmail.com with: your name, contact number, Area (town, village, streets) you are willing to volunteer in.

IF YOU NEED HELP or assistance and would like to contact a volunteer in your area, please email everythingeppingforest@gmail.com with "REQUEST" in the subject line or text 07710 447868 and state where you live. Please note that Everything Epping Forest will not be responsible for arrangements made between parties. Anyone taking part in this initiative does so on the understanding that the arrangements between volunteers and anyone in need are the responsibility of the individuals themselves. Everything Epping Forest will only pass on contact details to anyone requesting them as part of the volunteers' initiative.

<u>YOUTH MASS</u>: at 6pm, Sunday, 29th March, at St. Edmund's Church, Loughton, has had to be postponed, like many other public events at this time.

<u>JUMBLE SALE</u>: Our Jumble Sale will not go ahead as planned. Please DO NOT bring any jumble to the church at this time, as it is closed and we can not use it.

EPPING LENT LUNCHES: Unfortunately the remaining lunches, including our own, have had to be cancelled for this year due to dangers from the Corona virus.