

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.

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.

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 care homes or at home. For those who feel stress on being isolated or alone and depend on the goodness of others. For our families, ourselves and those in need at this time. We can reflect and pray on the Stations of the Cross and how many are sharing 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 in 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/bishopstortford

In Brentwood Diocese: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/covid-19-can-parish/

DAILY SERVICES WITH MASS: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

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

OUR THANKS to kind people, of all ages, who have helped people in our area to cope with unexpected difficulties at this time. Reaching out with kindness and caring for people on their own or in need is the practice of charity. Simple things like a phone calls, e-mails or forwarding information on how to cope is a very real help for many.

qw

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 in going through suffering and death on the Cross. On Palm Sunday the Church shows us the passing nature of popularity for Christ, and people through the ages. 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 people around the world are united in one human family sharing in the insecurity and sufferings caused by the Corona virus. These sufferings can be linked to the sufferings of Christ in this Holy Week. “By his sufferings we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5 & 1 Peter 2:24). By Jesus going through suffering and death and then his resurrection, we are given the hope of overcoming our sufferings and death, and so come 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: We pray for the repose of the soul of **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.*

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

IN NEED OF HELP: If you, or someone you know is urgently in need help, please contact the Priest's House and we will do what we can to assist through the church, parishioners, the Foodbank or local agencies. We made a donation of £1000 from Parish funds to Epping Forest Foodbank in this time when many people are in great need.

CHARITIES our parish has made donations to: Aid to the Church in Need £1,000, Pax Christi £200, International Refugee Trust £200, Cardinal Hume Homeless Centre £200, St Clare Hospice £750, Norway House for the Homeless £750, Providence Row Shelter £200, Prisoners' Aid £250, The Passage Homeless Centre £150, Mercy Ships £150, Church's World Mission £250. Smile Train £100, **Thank you to all of you who support our parish with your offerings and help us assist others in great need.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Our first Holy Communion preparation course and the First Holy Communion Masses have now had to be postponed and new dates will be set for both 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: Thank you for Offertories of £800 Standing Orders and £160 in envelopes, and £80 for CAFOD. put by parishioners through the letter box of the Priest's House. Our Brentwood Diocese now has a system to facilitate online donations. Donations can be made to specific parishes and individual funds or purposes in a parish: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/>

A BIG THANK YOU to Pat Dowling, our parishioner, for repairing a pillar in front of our Church car park, which was damaged and uprooted by a large white delivery truck. It parked at the entrance to Church Hill on Monday 24 February at 2.05pm. On being driven up Church Hill it demolished the pillar and the driver was seen at 2.20pm on CCTV to get out, inspect the damage and then reverse the truck and drive away.

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/

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES have been delivered as usual this week and are available on a table by the door into the church and Priest's House.

MASS INTENTIONS: 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, and for that particular intention.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK, 5th of April 2020 are as follows:

Palm Sunday: The people of our Parish
Monday: Winifred (Win) Crouch RIP (Anniv) Crouch
Tuesday: Ann Goddard's intentions (Whitehouse)
Wednesday: Marie Cecilia & Family (Cecilia)
Thursday: Dan McEvoy RIP (FM)
Saturday Easter Vigil Private intention
Easter Sunday: The People of our Parish

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD & ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:

Paul Gallagher (21/3), Maurice O'Regan (22/3), Richard Tanti (23/3), Hannah Ibson (25/3), Kay McDonald & Michael Peachey (26/3), Albert Bridge & William Smart & Angus Cameron (27/3), Joseph Kupper (29/3), Effie Labouchardiere & Virginia Brovell (1/4), Molly Denihan (3/4), Bertha Tedder & Tommy Callaghan (4/4), David Clancy (6/4), Stephen Fitzpatrick (7/4), Betty Bere (8/4), Christina Gruby (9/4), Sally Rutland (11/4). **May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

PRAY FOR ALL AFFECTED BY PANDEMIC

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to we turn in our distress; in faith we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead and comfort mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out in love, so that together we may give glory to your name, through Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

CORONAVIRUS 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.

JUMBLE SALE: 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 cannot use it.

Holy Week

All the services that
will be
Live Streamed on
Instagram

*Palm
Sunday*

5th April

Mass
10.30am

*Holy
Thursday*

9th April

Mass
8pm

Shortly after 9pm,
quiet watching
with the Lord
(Adoration), until
10pm

*Good
Friday*

10th April

Service
of the Passion
of the Lord,
3pm

*Easter
Saturday*

11th April

Easter Vigil, in two halves.
8pm-8.45pm: Blessing of the
Fire, Exsultet, Readings
9pm-10pm: Gospel Homily,
Renewal of Baptismal
Promises, Liturgy of the
Eucharist, Easter blessing

Easter Sunday

12th April

Mass, 10.30am



All Orders of Service will be available at
www.bcys.net the evening before
[@brentwoodcys](https://www.instagram.com/brentwoodcys)

