

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A Divine Mercy Sunday 19th April 2020
ALL CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED. In Catholic tradition priests celebrate Mass daily. Due to the danger of spreading the Corona virus, we are not allowed at this time, to celebrate Mass with a congregation, but the Mass is offered daily as below.

Saturday 18 6.00pm Hannah Robinson RIP Anniv.(McCready)
Sunday 19 April 11.00am Tess Doherty's intentions (Palmer)
Monday 20th 12 noon Holy Souls
Tuesday 21st 12 noon Holy Souls St Anselm of Canterbury, Bishop & Doctor
Wednesday 22nd 12 noon Mary Canny RIP (Canny)
Thursday 23rd St George, Martyr & Patron Saint of England, National Solemnity
12 noon Gunvor & Peter Edwards RIP (Anniv)
Friday 24th St Mellitus, First Bishop of London & later Canterbury
12 noon The People of our Parish
Saturday 25th St Mark, Evangelist
6.00pm Patrick Lennon RIP Anniv (Lechley)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 26th April 2020

Sunday 26 April 11.00am James Sullivan RIP Anniv (Sullivan)

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: on request and by arrangement at this time

MASS AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: www.churchservices.tv/westminster

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: www.churchservices.tv/timetable/

DAILY SERVICE on BBC RADIO 4 (198 meters) at 9.45am Sundays at 8.10am

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

DAILY PRAYER & MEDIATIONS at www.sacredspace.ie

More at <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/>

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS at Mass: Second SUNDAY of EASTER A 19 April 2020

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47 The first Christians shared everything in common

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 117 Give thanks to the Lord, his love has no end

NT READING: 1 Peter 3:6-9 God gives us a new birth by raising Jesus from the dead

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 The risen Lord appears asks Thomas to touch his wounds

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your Offertories of £800 in Standing Orders & £95 in envelopes, and £20 for Norway House Homeless Centre, put in by parishioners through the letter box of the Priest's House in the past week. Our Diocese has set up an online system to make donations. Donations can now be made online to our Parish for Offertories or particular funds (e.g. Cafod) or purposes in our parish at: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping/>

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

qw

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516
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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER A Divine Mercy Sunday 19 April 2020

Dear friends,

Jesus said the Thomas "Put your finger here: look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe"(John 20 19:31). The apostles and women did not believe Jesus would rise from the dead, which makes them credible witnesses to his resurrection. Thomas is the most credible witness, for he was certain of his refusal to believe the testimony of the others and said, "unless I touch his wounds, "I refuse to believe". Jesus appeared again to his disciples eight days after his resurrection, and challenged Thomas' lack of faith and asked him to touch the wounds in his hands and side. Jesus wounds were wounds of love, which came from being faithful to the truth and sacrificing himself in love for all people to the will of God. Because Jesus, the new Adam, was obedient to God, he was the first to be raised from the dead to new life, and share fully in the glory of God, through his resurrection and ascension.

The meaning of Jesus' resurrection has been the subject of controversy and study through the ages. St Paul tells us that it is the foundation on which our faith is built and that "if Christ is not risen from the dead our faith is in vain". St Thomas had a conversion when the risen Lord spoke to him and invited him to touch his wounds, the reality of his presence in the world. When our risen Christ presents himself to us in Holy Communion, our prayer to adore him could well be the words of doubting Thomas who humbly said, " My Lord and my God".

Some people find it difficult or impossible to cope with the wounds or hurts of others and that can apply to emotional or mental wounds as well as bodily ones. Jesus point us to his wounds and asks us to see his them as the price he paid for loving God his Father and each one of us. The greatest love involves the greatest sacrifice and Jesus offered his life as the perfect sacrifice to take away peoples sins. By shedding his blood, Christ brings us into a new life-giving relationship with God. In receiving the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass, we receive the Risen Lord who gives us new and eternal life. Let us contemplate the wounds and sufferings of Christ and those of other people, and pray that through his wounds and sufferings all of us will be healed and raised up to share in his life.

I wish to thank everyone for the Easter greetings and gifts and especially for their offers of help and concern at this time. We thank God we are keeping well and pray for those going through difficult times. *May God bless you. Fr John*

OUR PRAYER FOR ALL AFFECTED BY CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC:

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, we turn to you in our distress. In faith we pray: look with compassion on the afflicted, grant healing to the sick, peace to the dying, eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, 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 and service to people, through Christ, our Saviour. **Amen**

We pray for doctors, nurses, all working in hospitals, the NHS & Emergency Services: For all who are ill at home or in hospital, for carers looking after people who are elderly or vulnerable in care homes or at home. For all who feel stressed on being isolated or alone and depend on the goodness of others. For our families, ourself and those in need at this time. 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 ask Mary the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church to pray with us and for us.

IN NEED OF URGENT HELP: If you or someone you know urgently needs help in this time, please contact the Priest's House. We will endeavour to assist through parishioners who have volunteered to help, the church, Foodbank or local agencies. Simple things like a phone call or e-mail can be a real comfort for many at this time.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK at home or in hospital: 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 appropriate ministry.

EASTER GREETINGS: In Holy Week we sent out Easter Greetings, by post, to all the homes in our parish with a Catholic resident. If you did not receive one, please let us know so that we can ensure our address system is up to date and correct.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION We will inform Parents of the new dates for the preparation course and the First Holy Communion Masses as soon as arranged.

CATHOLIC PAPERS, MAGAZINES, MAGNIFICAT & CHILDREN'S Easter Booklets are on a table by the side door into the Church, Sacristy and Priest's House. It is open during the day time and you can pick up your paper or magazine. The Catholic Herald has now moved from being a weekly to a monthly publication.

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/

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 in our church as soon as possible – and probably in private at this time.

GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES for this new financial year beginning 6th April 2020 can now be collected from the porch to the Sacristy by the side of the Priest's House. Any parishioner who currently does not have envelopes and would wish to have them, please contact our Parish Office. We ask parishioners who have envelopes to **contact Michele Murphy, on 07973363577** if your circumstances or details have changed. We encourage parishioners to use Offertory envelopes, and especially for taxpayers to **Gift Aid** your donations to the church. This increases the value of your offerings to the church by 25% and at no cost to yourself.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD & ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:

Mr & Mrs Verani (18/4), Charles McGarry & Ellen Gladdon, Roger Minnis (19/4), Dorothy Aylett, Freda Vincent, Tommy Power & Des Toohey (20/4), Bob Nolan (21/4), Ned Nihill, Hannah Robinson, John Monroe, William Hunt and Margaret Johnson (22/4), Jim Parello (23/4) Joan Jennings, Eileen Luker & Tom Geoghan (24/4), Fred Taylor (26/4). **May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?: Fr Adrian Graffy writes: Some Christians are putting about some bizarre opinions on the present pandemic that can mislead and worry people. We should be guided by what Pope Francis says, that the present situation is an opportunity to build a better world by listening to God's word, providing for the poor, and looking after creation. Here is a helpful excerpt from the Good Friday sermon by the Papal Preacher, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa:

“God is our ally, not the ally of the virus! If these scourges were punishments of God, it would not be explained why they strike equally good and bad, and why the poor usually suffer the worst consequences of them. Are they more sinners than others? No! The one who cried one day for Lazarus' death cries today for the scourge that has fallen on humanity. Yes, God "suffers", like every father and every mother. When we will find this out one day, we will be ashamed of the accusations we made against God in life. God participates in our pain to overcome it. Did God the Father desire the death of his Son in order to draw good out of it? No, he permitted human freedom to take its course, making it serve, however, his own purposes and not those of human beings. This is also the case for natural disasters like earthquakes and plagues. He does not bring them about. He has given nature a kind of freedom as well, different of course to that of human beings, but still a form of freedom — to evolve according to its own laws of development. He did not create the world as a programmed clock whose movements could all be anticipated. Some call it “chance”, but the Bible calls “the wisdom of God.””

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL is closed to visitors and a charity with whom I (Melanie) volunteer has a service for patients. Family & friends can send, or collate messages to patients at: paht.messagestoalovedone@nhs.net There is a new dedicated phone line **01279 868128** between 10am and 12noon each weekday when a staff member or volunteer will write down the messages for particular patients. Details at: www.bishopsstortfordindependent.co.uk/news/message-to-a-loved-one-new-way-to-contact-patients-in-pah-9105668/

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

CORONAVIRUS VOLUNTEERS: Everything Epping Forest manages a contacts database of people willing to act as “community volunteers” who could assist with deliveries etc to “self- isolating” people in the district at this time. If you would like to be added to the database, and are happy to have your contact details passed on to anyone requesting them, email everythingeppingforest@gmail.com with: your name, contact number, Area (town, village, streets) where you are willing to help.

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. Everything Epping Forest will not be responsible for arrangements between parties. Anyone using this initiative does so on the understanding that arrangements between volunteers and anyone in need are the responsibility of those individuals. Everything Epping Forest will only pass on contact details to anyone requesting them as part of the initiative.

A MESSAGE FROM BRENTWOOD CHILDRENS’ SOCIETY:

At BCCS our priority has always been to keep children and families at the centre of our work and during this unprecedented time, this has never been more important. We wanted to let you know that we are still here for these young people – we continue to keep in touch with schools and families via phone and video links and to offer help and support where we can during this period of lockdown.

Unfortunately, we anticipate that the need for our work is likely to increase once we come out of our current situation. As you will be aware, this will be a very difficult time for many and especially for those children and young people who were already facing challenging family situations, anxiety or abuse.

We are looking ahead to different ways of funding projects for schools around coping with bereavement and loss as well as support for parents and teachers with transitioning children and young people back into school; we anticipate this may prove difficult for many.

If you know of a family who is struggling at this time, please do speak to us or ask them to contact our Head of School Services, Catherine Munns cmunns@bccs.org.uk
The link to our webpage is: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/>