

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 25th April to 3rd May 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 25th 6.00pm Patrick Lennon RIP Anniv (Lechley)
Sunday 26th April 11.00am James Sullivan RIP Anniv (Sullivan)
Monday 27th 12 noon The people of our Parish
Tuesday 28th 12 noon William Snowdon RIP & Family (Welch)
Wednesday 29th **St Catherine of Sienna, Virgin & Doctor**
12 noon Daphne McAdam RIP 1st Anniv (McAdam)
Thursday 30th 12 noon Giovanni Borelli RIP (Mansell)
Friday 1st May **St Joseph the Worker: Day of Prayer for Human Work**
12 noon Holy Souls RIP

Saturday 2nd May **St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A World Day of Prayer for Vocations 3rd May 2020

Saturday 2nd May 6.00pm Fr Kieran Dodd's intentions (Palmer)

Sunday 3rd May 11.00am The people of our Parish

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS at Mass: THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER A 26 April 2020

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14-33 The sufferings, death & resurrection of Christ

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 15 Show us Lord, the path of life

NT READING: 1 Peter 1:17-21 The ransom paid for you was the blood of Christ

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35 They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your Offertories of £800 in Standing Orders & £150 in envelopes, and £200 for Norway House Homeless Centre, donated by parishioners through the letter box of the Priest's House in the past week. You can make 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/>

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/bishopsstortford

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD WEBSITE: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/>

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: Livestream Saturday, 2 May at 10.30am
<https://bcys.net/events/migrantsmass/>

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

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.

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**

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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
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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER A

26th April 2020

Dear friends,

Jesus came up and walked by the side of the disciples but something prevented them from recognising him. He asked them, "What matters are you discussing as you walk along?" (Luke 24:13-35). Luke describes the bereavement the disciples were going through as they talked and walked to Emmaus on Easter Sunday evening. Jesus walked with them on the journey, but they did not recognise him. Like a good counsellor, he asked them to tell him all that had happened over the past few days. Their expectation that he would find a kingdom of Israel had been shattered by his crucifixion and death. They were confused by the women saying, "They had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive". Jesus let them express their confusion and pain; he listened to them and to draw out how they felt, asked them questions. By explaining the scriptures, he helped them understand God's plan, and after recognising him in the "Breaking of the Bread" they said, "did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road".

This Gospel gives us a model that can help families, friends or ourselves as we go through bereavement or troubled times in life. We all need friends to listen to us and our problems, who will walk with us at painful times on our journey through life, and help us accept God's plan in difficult or sad situations. Many find the meditation "Footprints in the Sand" helpful, as it shows Christ silently accompanying us as a friend on our journey through life, in good times and bad, though we may not recognise that he is always with us and never abandons us in the most difficult or darkest moments. The Word of God, which a person may share with us at testing times, can be like a shaft of sunlight that pierces the clouds of mist or sadness, when we feel oppressed or downcast. When we share that Word of God with others, or they share his Word with us, it is like Christ being present and speaking his Word to interpret, guide or comfort in that situation. That is why we need to listen to, read and share the Word of God.

I wish to express my gratitude to parishioners for your kindness and caring at this time. Thank you for your Easter Greetings and Offerings put in through the door of the Priest's House. Thank you also for the gifts and meals and food that have been handed in. I am most grateful for thoughtfulness and consideration in so many ways. We hope and pray that this pandemic crisis will soon be over.
May we recognise the Lord accompanying us through life. Fr John

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, as we celebrate Christ as The Good Shepherd, who leads people and calls them to follow him, we pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We pray that many will hear a call from Christ to serve God and people, and to share in his ministry as The Good Shepherd. We need to pray for vocations, so that the Gospel may be preached and the Holy Eucharist be celebrated for us.

PRAY 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.

MICHAEL COOPER RIP, husband of Breda, died on Saturday 18th April. His funeral took place on Tuesday last. **May he rest in peace.** We offer our sympathy and prayers for his family and all who mourn at this time. ***May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen them in their bereavement.***

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD & ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:

Fred Taylor (26/4), Jim Sullivan (28/4), Christine Gallacher, Dennis Tedder and James O'Sullivan (28/4) Pamela Anderson (1/5) Mary Carter and John Curran 2/5), DMargaret Smith-Carter, Duncan Wilkie and Tom Clark (3/5). **May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

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 receive appropriate ministry and/or the sacraments.

PARISH FACEBOOK GROUP: Our parish now has a Facebook group to which we will post daily updates, prayer and links to Masses around the Diocese. This will be managed by James Ryan. If you would like to join please just click on the link below. All requests to join and all posts will go through James before they go into the group so that he can monitor this for security and relevance. It will be a great way hopefully to connect the community.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/26415423943/?ref=share>

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.

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 & Priest's House. It is open during the daytime and you can pick up a Newsletter, 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.

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 to many at this time.

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.messagetoalovedone@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.

SVP RAFFLE: The results of the recent SVP Raffle are now available. Unfortunately, there were no winners from Epping!

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.

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.

A MESSAGE FROM BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC 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 want to let you know that we are still here for 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/>

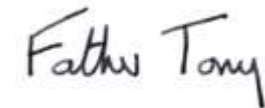
MESSAGE FROM MISSIO: Thank you very much for the gift of **£250.00** from your parish, which will help create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

I am grateful for your generosity and know that Sr Clara and her fellow Sisters in India will be greatly moved to know that your parish is praying for and supporting their ministry.

The Sisters have made it their mission to provide education, medical help, counselling and spiritual support to vulnerable children. The care provided by Sr Clara and the other Sisters impacts the children in profound ways; ***they start to see their worth and value as precious children of God.***

Our Church is a global community. We depend on one another; on our shared prayer and solidarity. The Sisters know that they are not alone. With your support they will be able to rescue more little ones from a lifetime of cruelty and despair. Thank you again for your gift and for holding missionaries like Sr Clara in your prayers.

With sincere good wishes



Fr Anthony Chantry
Missio National Director

**Sr Clara with Vandoosha* and Shorti*, who
were rescued from exploitation**