

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A** 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**CHURCHES ARE CLOSED**, but in Catholic tradition priests celebrate Mass daily.

Due to the danger of spreading the Coronavirus, we are not allowed at this time, to celebrate Mass with a congregation, but the Mass is offered daily in our church.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A World Day of Prayer for Vocation 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.00pm Fr Kieran Dodd's intentions (Palmer)  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 11.00am The People of our Parish  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> The English Martyrs - National Feast of the Martyrs  
12 noon Ken Seaman RIP Recently (Kyrou)  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Holy Souls RIP  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> St John Payne, Priest and Martyr  
12 noon Roger Crampin RIP Recently (Kyrou)  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Holy Souls RIP  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE (Victory in Europe) Day  
12 noon Matthias McGrath RIP  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 6.00pm Elizabeth McEvoy RIP (FM)

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 11.00am The People of our Parish

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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS at MASS for FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER A 3 May**

**READING: ACTS 2:36-41** Peter tells people to save themselves through Baptism

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 23** The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

**READING: 1 Peter 2:20-25** Come to Christ the shepherd and guardian of your souls

**GOSPEL: John 10:1-10** Jesus is the shepherd and gate to enter God's kingdom

**OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders and £143 in envelopes, and £40 for CAFOD given by parishioners through the letterbox of the Priest's House in the past week. You can also make donations online to our Parish for Offertories, specific funds (e.g.Cafod) or purposes in our parish by going to:**

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping//>

**MASS AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: [www.churchservices.tv/westminster](http://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](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)**

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

**DAILY SERVICES WITH MASS: [www.churchservices.tv/timetable/](http://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](http://www.sacredspace.ie)**

**UNIVERSALIS: [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com) Daily Mass readings, Lectio Divina, Prayer of the Church in The Divine Office and Spiritual Reading for each day of Easter.**

**MASS FOR MIGRANTS on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 10.30am.** The direct link to YouTube live streaming of the Mass, be at 10.25am, <https://youtu.be/IGLfjz5wSHc> beforehand go to <https://bcys.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Migrants-Mass-Order-of-Service-3.pdf>

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## Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Email: [epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org)  
Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)  
Registered Charity Number: 234092

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A Good Shepherd Sunday 3 May 2020**

*Dear friends,*

Jesus said, "I am the gate of the sheepfold...anyone who enters through me will be safe" (Jn.10:1-10). Nowadays many people use gates to protect their security. The shepherd used the gate of the sheepfold to let the sheep enter into safety, and then he lay down at the gate to protect his herd so that one could only enter or leave through him. Jesus speaks of himself as the gate through which people may enter into safety and calls himself "The Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep". He also tells us that all who belong to him and know him, listen to his voice and follow him – safely in and out.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we have Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd", in which the Psalmist prophesies that God will send a shepherd to call people to follow him and lead them to safety. He will nourish and feed his people; lead them to food and water, give rest to their souls and revive their drooping spirits. He will guide them along the right path, protect them from evil and free them from fear. He will comfort them and prepare an eternal banquet for them – for he will always be faithful to them. All these hopes and prophecies were fulfilled in the person and mission of Jesus, "The Good Shepherd".

On Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church asks us to think about and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We have a vocations crisis in the affluent nations with far fewer people following a call from God to serve him and his people in the priesthood or religious life. Christ calls each of us to listen to his voice and to show love for God and people by following him and sharing in his work of being the Good Shepherd. We need to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life so that the Lord's Word may be preached to our own and future generations, and that the Sacraments and Bread of Life may be given to people for their spiritual food. If we are serious about vocations we will pray for vocations from our own families rather than someone else's. Each of us has his or her own vocation from God. By following the vocation God gives us, we give glory to him; we serve people and find our personal fulfilment in life.

We continue patiently with this testing lockdown time due to the Coronavirus. We think of, remember, and support one another with prayer and other contacts.  
*May God bless and protect you and your families, and loved ones Fr. John*

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS –GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

This Sunday, we celebrate Christ as The Good Shepherd, who leads people and calls them to follow him as we pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We pray that many will hear a call from Christ to serve both God and his 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.

**TWO NEW SEMINARIANS:** You will be pleased to know that the diocese has accepted two men to train for the priesthood, beginning in September and there are a number of promising enquirers at the moment. Please continue to keep these people and those who might be considering a vocation in your prayers.

**EVENINGS FOR ENQUIRERS:** Our diocese is continuing enquirers evenings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month using Zoom (online video). If you think that you might be interested or have a vocation to the priesthood, or want to explore the possibility, please contact Fr Mark Swires on [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

**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. James Ryan will manage it. If you would like to join, 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. We hope this will be a great way for our parishioners and people to connect with one another in our parish community:

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

**WE PRAY FOR MRS ELVA ROBINSON RIP,** late of Frank Foster House, Theydon Bois, who died on Sunday, 26 April. Her Funeral will be celebrated at Parndon Wood Crematorium, on Tuesday, 19 May at 1.45pm. May she rest in peace. We offer our prayers for the repose of her soul and that the Lord may send his, Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console her family and all who mourn.

**WE PRAY FOR ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:** Mary Carter & John Curran (2/5), Duncan Wilkie, Margaret Smith-Carter & Tom Clark (3/5) Patrick Butler & Cleonagh Jolly (4/5), Josephine Reith (5/5), Catherine Johnson & Anthony Gee(6/5), Donald Wood, John Teasdale & Diane Harrington (10/5). **May their souls, and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.**

**WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK at home & 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.

**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.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** If you or anyone you know wishes to have Mass offered for a particular intention or 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 most likely be in private at this time.

**GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** for this new financial year beginning 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**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.

**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES AT EASTER:** Lockdown can give us opportunities to dedicate time to read the Scriptures and celebrate our own Liturgy of the Word. During Easter, we read the Acts of the Apostles and see how the Easter Gospel of the resurrection of Jesus was preached in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Fr Adrian Graffy has recorded talks on the opening eight chapters of Acts that are available on [www.whatgoodnews.org/faith-talks](http://www.whatgoodnews.org/faith-talks)

**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/](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/domestic-church-resources-parents-covid-19/)

**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:** Message to a Loved One (in hospital). Family members and friends of PAH inpatients can send a personal message, or collate messages, and send to [paht.messagestoalovedone@nhs.net](mailto:paht.messagestoalovedone@nhs.net). Additionally, there is a dedicated phone line (01279 868128) which is available between 10am and 12noon each weekday where a staff member or volunteer will write down the message and get it to the patient.



**PARISH MEETINGS** due to be held this week on Tuesday for Justice & Peace, and Wednesday for our Pastoral Parish Council, have been postponed sine die.

**CHURCH UPDATES Re CORONAVIRUS:** For the latest updates please visit: [www.cbcew.org.uk/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/) and also go to [www.vaticannews.va/en/church.html](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

**CAFOD CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY APPEAL** was launched on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works will be devastating. Families without enough to eat, without access to clean water or healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. We are not able to hold physical collections in our church, but you can donate as individuals at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal](https://www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal), or as a parish community via your parish at <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping/>

**Dear friends,**

You, your families, teachers and priests are kept in our thoughts and prayers each day.

**We are Live Streaming!**

We are gradually improving our tech. This doesn't improve the quality of the homilies, unfortunately, but does mean that we can now Live Stream on both Instagram and YouTube!

All below events will be Live Streamed at the date/time advertised on both platforms. Order of Services will be available on the website.

**Wednesdays 8pm**

29th April

For those in Year 6, Year 11, Year 13 and those at University, whose exam years got ended so suddenly

**Weekly Youth Mass**

6th May

With the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BOCS) Helping us when things are difficult in lockdown

**Sunday 3rd May**

Mass at 10:30am

With Bishop Alan

For Good Shepherd Sunday Bishop Alan will be sharing a special homily for all the confirmand.

**Called to ACTS 4:32**

3rd-31st May

Current and former Walsingham House Team members reflect on a Saint that inspires them, in 90 second videos. Every day, a video will be uploaded at 4:32pm.

*With love and prayers from Fr Dominic, Joe, Harry, Beth and all the Walsingham House Team*

