

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 9th to 17th May 2020
CHURCHES ARE CLOSED, but in Catholic tradition priests celebrate Mass daily.
Due to the danger of the Coronavirus spreading, we are not allowed at this time,
to celebrate Mass with a congregation, but Mass is offered daily in our church.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A 10th May 2020

Saturday 9th 6.00pm Elizabeth McEvoy RIP (FM)
Sunday 10th 11.00am The People of our Parish
Monday 11th Blessed John Rochester, Priest & Martyr of our Diocese
9.15am Slattery Family deceased RIP
Tuesday 12th St John Houghton, Priest & Martyr of our Diocese
9.15am Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 13th St Erconwald, Bishop, Co-Patron Saint of our Diocese
12 noon Douglas Bere RIP (FM)
Thursday 14th St Matthias, Apostle & Martyr
9.15am Holy Souls RIP
Friday 15th May 9.15am Holy Souls RIP

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A 17th May 2020

Saturday 16 May 6.00pm Private intention
Sunday 17th May 11.00am The People of our Parish

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS at MASS for FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A 10 May 2020

READING: ACTS 6:1-7 Election of the first (seven) deacons to care for the poor

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 32 May your love be upon us, O Lord,

As we place all our hope in you.

READING: 1 Peter 2:4-9 You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, to praise God

GOSPEL: John 14:1-12 Jesus teaches, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life".

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders and some given in envelopes by parishioners through the letterbox of the Priest's House. You can also make donations online for our Parish or to specific parish funds (e.g. Cafod) at: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping//>

MASSES, SERVICES, RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING & ONLINE SERVICES

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/>

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.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

10 May 2020

Dear friends,

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me", Jesus said (Jn.14:1-12). On Good Shepherd Sunday, last week, we heard Jesus say, "I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe" (Jn.10:1-10). Today he says, "do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me". He has come to lead people along the Way of Truth to Life with the God who created and sustains us with love. God's gift to people of every time and place is his Son, Jesus Christ. Through Christ, God saves people from sin and eternal death. Through Christ, God blesses people with grace and mercy so that they may have life. Through Christ, God comes to people and enables to know God and go to him with faith and love. This teaching is central to the Christian faith, and key to how God saves people through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is the Saviour of the world.

When Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me"(Jn.14:1-12) he makes the greatest claim about his mission and purpose as the Son of God, sent to save people. He does not say I've come to show or point out the Way, but "I am the Way" and by following him and living in his Way we know we are on the Way to God. Jesus did not come to tell us about the Truth, for he is the living Truth, and by looking at him, we can see the nature of God in word and action. Jesus is the Life for he came so that we "may have life, life to the full" and he shares the life of God with us.

When we think of Jesus as the Way, let us ask ourselves: what way am I living? When we think of Jesus as the Truth, let us ask ourselves; Is the truth important to me? Do I listen to and read the Truth in the Word of God, given to me in the Bible? Do I give more attention to gossip, news about finance, politics, sports or whatever, than I do to the truth that God loves me and loves each one of us?? Thinking of Jesus as the Life, do I recognise that my life and that of others is gift from God who sustains life and has called us to return to him? Do I thank him that through Baptism I am grafted on to him like the branch to the Vine, and that the waters of Baptism gives me new life? Do I recognise that in receiving him in Holy Communion, we become deepen communion with him and one another?

May Jesus, our Saviour, bless and protect you and your families. Fr John

PARISH FACEBOOK GROUP: Our parish now has a Facebook Group on which we will post daily updates, and links to parishes and activities around our 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 it 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 pray for the repose of her soul and ask that the Lord may send his, Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console her family and all who mourn at this time.

WE PRAY FOR ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR: John Teasdale, Donald Wood & Diane Harrington (10/5), Kathleen King, Percy Flower & Doug Bere (13/5), Bernadine Potrykus (15/5), Eric Sands & Ronnie Barrett (16/5), Arthur Williams & Angela Riccoboni (17/5). **May their souls, and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen**

TWO NEW SEMINARIANS have been accepted to train for the priesthood for our diocese, starting in September. There are some promising enquirers at present and we ask you to keep them and any others who might consider 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 might be interested or want to explore possibilities or think you may have a vocation to be a priest, please contact Fr Mark Swires on vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you or anyone you know wishes to have Mass offered for a particular intention 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. Mass cards are available at the Priest's House.

YOUR GIFT AID & OFFERTORY ENVELOPES for the financial year starting 6 April can be collected from the Sacristy porch at the side of the Priest's House. Any parishioner who does not have envelopes and would like to have them, please contact our Parish Office. We ask parishioners who have envelopes and do Gift Aid to **contact Michele Murphy, on 07973363577** if your circumstances or details have changed. We encourage all parishioners to use Offertory envelopes, and especially 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. If you require a letter advising how much Gift Aid you contributed in 2019.20 please contact Michele.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Children in our parish would have been receiving First Holy Communion at this time. We regret that we are still unable to say when we will celebrate this joyful Sacrament for the children and their families. Our Catechists, who have been preparing the children for first Reconciliation and Holy Communion, have repeatedly said what a wonderful group they are and how well they have prepared. We look forward with faith, and hope it will be possible to have

this joyful celebration soon. We will inform parents of the dates to complete the preparation and celebrate the First Holy Communion Masses, as soon as possible.

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, care homes, 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, alone and depend on the goodness of others. For our families, ourselves 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

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/

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. 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. Video calls are now also available for patients on John Snow Ward, Lister Ward, Locke Ward, Harold Ward or Kingsmoor Ward between 2-4pm, seven days a week. Family and friends of inpatients can email paht.virtualvisiting@nhs.net to arrange their 10 minute video call and find out how to join their call that will be hosted on secure video conferencing software.

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 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.

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.

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, or as a parish community via your parish at <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping/>

APPEAL FROM POPE FRANCIS: Pope Francis & the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar met in Abu Dhabi to sign the Document on Human Fraternity, on February 4, 2019, calling for the reconciliation of people of goodwill in the service of universal peace. With the support of the United Arab Emirates, who are committed to harmonious coexistence through dialogue & understanding, the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity was founded www.forhumanfraternity.org/ Pope Francis has made this appeal: “As prayer is a universal value, I have accepted the proposal of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity that on Thursday May 14th believers of all religions unite spiritually in a Day of Prayer, Fasting and Works of Charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the Coronavirus pandemic. **Please remember: Thursday May 14th**, all believers together and believers of different traditions, to pray, fast, and do works of charity.” Do join in this in whatever ways you can for the good of all.

CATHOLIC PAPERS, MAGAZINES, MAGNIFICAT & CHILDREN’S Easter Booklets are on a table by the side door of the Priest’s House & Church Sacristy. It is open all day every day you can pick up a Magnificat, Newsletter, magazine or paper. The Catholic Herald is now being published only once a month.

PRISONERS AID UPDATE: Extract from a message from PACT CEO, Andy Keen-Downs. “We continue to do all we can to support prisoners and their children and families to keep in touch and to cope. This includes forming a new partnership

with The Smallwood Trust, which means we are now providing **emergency financial aid to mothers who are leaving prison** who are facing destitution.

We have created ‘Pact Packets’ to help families, and especially children, through this very difficult time of not being able to visit their loved one in prison. You can read more about this here: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/news/pact-packets-brand-new-remote-support-resources>.

We are also providing 20,000 men and women prisoners with a free ‘Writing Home’ pack, including a guide on letter writing and a free stationery pack. **Our Helplines and volunteer befrienders are providing a lifeline for thousands more worried families.** We can only achieve these things thanks to being able to work in a spirit of partnership with our colleagues in HM Prison & Probation Service, and thanks to the continuing support of our friends.

We need our friends more than ever in the months to come. Once again may I thank you for so generously responding to our Spring Fresh Start campaign, not only with monetary donations but also with your messages of support and prayers. **You are enabling us to make a difference in the lives of prisoners and their families.”**