

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A Feasts & Mass intentions 24th 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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A World Communications Day 24th May 2020

Saturday 23 rd	6.00pm	The People of our Parish
Sunday 24 th	11.00am	John Whitehouse RIP (Recently)
Monday 25 th		St Bede, Priest & Doctor
Bank Holiday	10.00am	Gina Azzopardi RIP Recently (Welch)
Tuesday 26 th		St. Philip Neri, Priest
	9.15am	Annie Ryan RIP (FM)
Wednesday 27 th		St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop: National Feast
	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 28 th	9.15am	Matthias McGrath RIP (Anniv)
Friday 29 th May		Blessed Maurus Scott – Woodford Green & Chigwell
	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP

PENTECOST SUNDAY A DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH 31st May 2020

Saturday 23 May	6.00pm	Private intention
Sunday 24 th May	11.00am	The People of our Parish

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS at MASS: SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER A 24 May 20

READING: ACTS 1:12-14 The Apostles join in prayer with Mary, Mother of Jesus

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 26: I shall see God's goodness in the land of the living

READING: 1 Peter 4:13-16 Thank God we have been called to be a Christian

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11 Jesus offers his 'Priestly Prayer' for his disciples and ourselves

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders, and £361 in envelopes given in by parishioners to the Priest's House. You can also make donations online for our Parish or to specific funds or charities (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

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.

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 phone, letter or e-mail or stating the intention, and the Mass will be offered in our church as soon as possible. Mass cards are available from the Priest's House.

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/Lebohanga

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) 24th May 2020

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – 'The Church is a praying community'

Today, the Sunday after the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord into heaven, is World Communications Day, on which we should be celebrating our peaceful co-existence with God within our local community and throughout the world. But there are communication breakdowns at many levels: in some of our families, in many of our faith communities and throughout the world's social and political relationships. This is made more difficult during the period of lockdown which we are experiencing at this time.

But what about communication with God? What about prayer? All three readings at Mass this weekend point towards the need for good communication with God. We are told in the 1st reading that, after Jesus' Ascension into heaven, all 11 Apostles and some followers gathered together for 'continuous prayer'. Despite being in a state of shock and devastation, they naturally turned to God in prayer! What an example for us. Do we naturally turn to God and share our joys and problems with him?

In the 2nd reading, we are encouraged to give forthright witness to our Christian beliefs, and to be proud of doing so! This is particularly witnessed by our devotion to prayer. Prayer creates and nurtures a personal relationship with God, which can be continuous even whilst we are engaged in other activities. The Holy Spirit is our link and supports us in all our efforts to remain in touch with God.

In the Gospel reading, we see a supreme example of a perfect prayer – perfect communication between Jesus and God the Father. It reminds us that we should always try to discern the Father's will for us in every detail of our lives and intensify our love for all our fellow human beings.

Keep safe. May God bless you all!!

Deacon Duncan

1st Reading: Acts 1: 12-14; 2nd Reading 1 Peter 4: 13-16; Gospel: John 17: 1-11
You may hear these readings at a streamed Mass, or read them privately in your Bible.

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/>

RECENTLY DIED: We pray for the repose of the souls:

VISITACIÓN MATEOS RIP, mother of Paula Herrero, our parishioner and a member of our Music Group, who died in Spain on Sunday, 22 April. Her Funeral has been celebrated there. **May she rest in peace.**

FATHER PAUL DYNAN RIP, Priest of our Diocese and formerly Parish Priest of Tilbury, Stanford-le-Hope & Basildon. Due to ill health, he retired last October to his home in Chelmsford, where he died on Sunday, 17th May. **May he rest in peace.**

We pray for the repose of their souls and that the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen their families and all who mourn.

WE PRAY FOR ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR: Keiran McClean & Beatrice Cox (23/5), Rosemary Batten, Joyce Ryan & Daniel Willmore (25/5), Laurie Diffeley & Sally Ward (26/5), Richard Faydle (27/10), Lawrence Ford & Agnes Blunt (28/5), Alice McGarry (29/5), Fr John Timmins (30/5). **May their souls, and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen**

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL: Margaret White, Albert Fuller, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Paula Hall, Frances Wells, Ann & Bill Dowd, James Bullen, The Toohey Family, Fr Tom Jordan and Fr Michael Butler. **Please contact a Priest or Hospital Chaplain if you, your relative, or a parishioner, is ill in hospital or at home so that they may receive ministry and/or the sacraments.**

YOUR GIFT AID & OFFERTORY ENVELOPES for the financial year from 6 April can be collected from the porch at the side of the Priest's House. Parishioners who do 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 COMMUNIONS: 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.

CHURCH CLOSURE: Our churches closed on 20th March and this has been a real wilderness experience for all of us unable to go into church to pray privately or go to Mass and receive Christ in Holy Communion. It has disrupted the normal growth of life and faith for many, but especially for the children and families preparing for First Holy Communion, which we would celebrate at this time. But it need not be wasted if we turn to the Lord in our home or room and pray in our "secret place" (Matthew 6:6) and the Lord will be there for us. We reflect on the image Jesus gave us of "the grain of seed in the ground" (John 12:24) lying there silent and unseen, but growing in a hidden place. So we turn to the Lord in our home and family and relate to him as our dear friend, brother and Saviour who is always there for us and with us, and gives us hope and confidence as we go forward to a new stage in life and community.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Mass for First Holy Communion children and their



families on Sunday 14 June, 10.30am. With a special message from Bishop Alan, and music recorded before lockdown from children's choirs across the Diocese. This Mass will be celebrated as a children's Mass, with simplified readings, and intercessions recorded by first Holy Communion children and will be offered for the children and their families. On both YouTube and Instagram we are BrentwoodCYS, and more details of the Mass are at <https://bcys.net/events/corpuschristi/>

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO COME AT PENTECOST

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created
and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*Let us pray. O God who has taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit
we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation,
Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

WE PRAY FOR 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 those who are elderly or vulnerable in care homes or at home. For all who feel stressed on being isolated, alone or dependent on others. We can ask Jesus, the Light of the World to be a light and Saviour for God's people in this time of need, and ask Mary the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church to pray for us

DOMESTIC CHURCH PARENT RESOURCES: The Diocesan news page has a link for articles useful to parents of school-aged children to enable them continue worship at home during Easter with their family while unable to gather for Mass. www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/domestic-church-resources-parents-covid-19/

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.

CHRISTIAN CONCERN CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT VULNERABLE WOMEN AT RISK & AGAINST DIY ABORTIONS: Message from Catrina, Chaplain at Gray's Convent School - "Women in abusive relationships can be pressured into having an abortion without the safe-guard of a one-to one confidential consultation with a doctor at a clinic as they can be forced to have DIY abortions causing untold damage to women and babies. Christian Concern wants to appeal the judgement on DIY abortions to protect vulnerable women and babies and to continue to expose the abortion industry's privileged access to the heart of government, undermining our democracy. To save you time, I have written a summary about the case that is attached. If you can support this campaign go to <https://us2.campaign-archive.com/?u=bed173cc9adfcad1e0e442a35&id=ecaabca805&e=f8bb6ee76d> The chief executive of Christian Concern commented:

"The U.K. government is going to extraordinary lengths to protect lives due to the threat of Covid -19, but it appears to fail to see the irony in opening up access to abortion and counting the lives that will be lost as a result of such action."

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

RELATIONSHIP DIFFICULTIES: If you are experiencing difficulties in your marriage, whether due to the additional stresses caused by the Coronavirus crisis or other reasons help is available. Marriage Care offers remote counselling or you may find Smart Loving Breakthrough <https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/> helpful. Visit <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/> Please don't leave it too late to contact us for help on **0800 389 3801** email appointments@marriagecare.org.uk

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL: Message to a Loved One in hospital. Family members & friends of PAH inpatients can send personal messages or collate messages to paht.messagestoalovedone@nhs.net. There is a dedicated phone line 01279 868128, available between 10am and 12noon each weekday when a member of staff or volunteer will write down a message and get it to the patient. Video calls are available for patients on Kingsmoor Ward, John Snow Ward, Lister Ward, Locke Ward and Harold Ward between 2-4pm, seven days a week. Family & friends of inpatients can email paht.virtualvisiting@nhs.net to arrange a 10 minute video call and find out how to join their call that to be hosted on secure video line

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.

INVITATION FROM THE NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK

- *Are you concerned about injustice in our world?*
- *Do you feel the need to take action and make your voice heard?*
- *Would you like support and encouragement?*

If the answer is yes, then please look at what the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) has to offer. The National Justice and Peace Network is a grassroots body with Catholic roots, working with groups and individuals of all faiths and none, who share its aims and values. It is based in England and Wales.

- Opportunities for action,
- access to related agencies,
- Information sharing,
- Friendship, solidarity and mutual support.

More details available from: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

You can sign up to the regular e-bulletin and check out their latest newsletter.

CRIME & ESSEX COURIER FRAUD ON THE INCREASE

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, call Essex Police on 101. Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040. Please see attached details of the current courier fraud. Following on from last month's alert around courier fraud, I draw your attention to a large number of these offences occurring across Essex, from Epping to Tendring to Leigh on Sea, and spreading into bordering counties.

Criminals are contacting elderly victims claiming to be from the bank, then within a very short time frame they attend the victims home purporting to be a courier to collect the victims bank card and to replace with a new card. They leave the victim with an envelope containing what feels like a bank card but transpires to be a gift card. The offenders then leave to withdraw victims' money. We have had a number of reports of men acting as the courier, often wearing a high visibility jacket – although this may not always be the case.

We ask all residents to be aware and ensure that this message is passed on to friends and family members, or those in self-isolation. If we can follow the idea of 'Tell2' – if you tell two people, who then tell two people etc, we can reach enormous numbers. An unbroken chain of 26 'Tell2' would reach 67 million people! Please spread this message to protect our elderly and vulnerable people. It starts with you!