

PENTECOST SUNDAY A DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH 31st 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.

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

Saturday 30th 6.00pm Private Intention
Sunday 31st 11.00am People of our Parish
Monday 1st June Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Week 9 Year 2 9.15am Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 2nd Ss. Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs
9.15am Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 3rd St Charles Lwanga, Martyrs of Uganda
12 noon Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 4th 9.15am Our Lord Jesus Christ, The Eternal High Priest
Friday 5th St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr – Apostle of Germany
9.15am Holy Souls RIP

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY A God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit 31st May 2020

Saturday 6 June 6.00pm Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 7 June 11.00am The People of our Parish

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS at MASS: PENTECOST SUNDAY A 31 May 2020

READING: Joel 3:1-5 God will pour out his Spirit on all men and women

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 103: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth

READING: Romans 8:22-27 The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness

GOSPEL: John 7:37-39 Jesus promises the Spirit to those who believe in him

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders, and for £183.50 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/bishopstortford

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/Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

PENTECOST SUNDAY DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH 31.5.20

Dear Friends,

“Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth”, we say in response to Psalm 103, today. Genesis (Ch.1v2) tells us “There was darkness over the deep and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters”. When God spoke, the power of his Spirit worked and there was a new creation. When mankind disobeyed God and sinned by giving into the temptations of the devil, it was a rejection of God and putting self first. Jesus, the Word of God, put God's will first. Speaking of the Holy Spirit coming to people there would be a new creation as mankind's relationship with God and each other is re-created.

Sin in the past and today breaks our relationship with God and between people. Because people's relationship with God was broken, Adam and Eve and their offspring could no longer be at home with God in God's Garden. Having sinned and rebelled against God, they blamed each other and so relationships between people were also broken and they could no longer understand each other or work together to build the fabled Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9).

Jesus, our Saviour, by sending the Holy Spirit, brings about a restoration of relationship between God and people at Pentecost; he heals divisions between peoples of different nations and races. The coming of the Holy Spirit, touched the lives of many in Jerusalem at Pentecost and enabled people to understand each other and overcome differences through the language of love (Acts 2:1-11).

Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit, for all whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain they are retained” (Jn.20:19-23). Jesus gives us his Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation, but through the power of his Spirit, we are able to repent of our sins and receive God's forgiveness. Through the ministry of bishops and priests, the Holy Spirit of God brings forgiveness from sin and reconciliation with God and one another. That is why it is important for us to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Penance or Reconciliation – though we are in a kind of wilderness in that regard at present. The Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, makes us holy and offers to God the prayer we need to offer, but may feel incapable of making (Romans 8:22-27). The Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts, forgives, heals and sustains our relationship with God and one another.

May God's Spirit of wisdom and love be with you always. Fr John

PENTECOST SUNDAY: Mass is streamed today from Walsingham House with a message from Bishop Alan for the Diocese, and especially for Confirmandi, as Pentecost Sunday is the day when many young people would have been Confirmed. All details at www.bcys.net/events/pentecost including the details of YouTube and Instagram Livestream. Weekly Youth Masses also continue each Wednesday at 8pm.

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 DECEASED: MRS MARGARET EILEEN WHITE RIP resident of Frank Foster House, Theydon Bois, who died on Monday 18th May. Her Funeral will be celebrated at Grange Hill Cemetery in June. **May she rest in peace.** We pray for the repose of her soul and that the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen her family and all who mourn.

WE PRAY FOR ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR: Fr John Timmins (30/5/14), Bishop John Petit, Canon Eric Goldingay, Fr Donald Clover (2/6), David Gooding, Canon Jerome Deedy (3/6), Roger Hayward (4/6), John Hannis (5/6), Elaine Mannion (7/6). **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: 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.

CORPUS CHRISTI Mass for **First Holy Communion children & 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 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*

CLOSURE OF CHURCHES since the 20th March it has been a difficult 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 and especially the children and families preparing for First Holy Communion. But it need not be wasted if we turn to the Lord in our home or room and pray in that "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 friend, brother and Saviour who is always there for us and with us, and giving us hope and confidence to go forward.

CHURCH HALL Our church hall will soon be re-opening for the pre-school. We are grateful to the Hall Committee members and especially Zoe & Barry Hersom and Emma Armstrong who have done a lot of work to facilitate this reopening.

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

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.

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/

ST PAUL IN ACTS During the Easter period we have been hearing excerpts from the Acts of the Apostles in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. It is from Scriptures such as these, which point to the priorities of Christian faith lived in the world, that we can reinvigorate our faith as we go forward from Pentecost to face new problems for the world and for the Church. Fr Adrian Graffy, Scripture scholar and parish priest of Gidea Park, has prepared a new talk 'Paul in Acts' which can be accessed by going to www.whatgoodnews.org/faith-talks

CATHOLIC PAPERS, MAGAZINES & MAGNIFICAT are on the 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.

FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL QUIZ: Take part in the Friends of Westminster Cathedral Lockdown Online Quiz on **Tuesday 2 June at 6.30pm** on the Friends of Westminster Cathedral Facebook Page. The quiz is free to enter but we ask if you might make a £5 per head donation. Monies raised will help support Westminster Cathedral. Parish virtual teams are welcome and may communicate using Zoom, Microsoft Teams, What's App etc. For more details and to enter email christinawhite@rcdow.org.uk Please note that the Friends page is private and you will need to join the page in advance to take part in the quiz.

CHRISTIAN KITCHEN VAN APPEAL: Every night for nearly thirty years the Christian Kitchen has served hot meals to rough sleepers and people who are homeless in Walthamstow. It is an amazing project – along with meals the volunteers offer practical help and support wherever they can. They currently serve as many as 60 people per night. To serve hot food on such a scale from a mobile location takes a lot of work and over 100 volunteers, including from Our Lady & St George, Shernhall Street, and Our Lady of the Rosary & St Patrick, Blackhorse Road. Their van is old and new emissions charges scheduled for next year will make it impossible to run; so they are hunting for a new van and need to raise £60,000 to get one that is fully kitted out and able to sustain the project for many years to come.

Please help the Christian Kitchen, Walthamstow. They serve hot meals to 60 people a night, and are in serious need of a new van. Full details: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/christiankitchen/>

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

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

KID'S CORNER for PENTECOST SUNDAY

P	T	F	A	T	H	E	R	F	I	R	E
O	M	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	H	E
W	A	A	D	V	O	C	A	T	E	O	V
E	R	P	U	G	N	L	H	L	O	L	P
R	V	O	H	I	G	O	O	A	U	Y	E
F	E	S	E	F	U	V	M	N	C	S	N
U	L	T	A	T	E	E	E	G	T	P	T
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S	P	E	E	C	H	O	O	A	E	R	C
G	O	S	N	E	E	R	O	G	N	I	O
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T	S
G	A	L	I	L	E	A	N	S	A	O	T

PENTECOST
POWERFUL
GIFT
NATIONS
GALILEANS
ADVOCATE
HOLY SPIRIT

APOSTLES
TONGUES
LANGUAGES
HEAVEN
FATHER
WORD
COMMANDMENTS

ROOM
FIRE
SPEECH
MARVELS
LOVE
HOME

Kids Humour: How do bees get to school?
On the school buzz