

OUR CHURCH WILL BE OPEN for limited times, this week for people to visit for private prayer around the times of the celebration of Mass. Since Monday last, the 6th July, we have been allowed to celebrate Mass with people and a congregation. For the time being there will not be a Sunday 9am Mass but 6pm instead.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A SEA SUNDAY 12th July 2020

Saturday 11 July 6.00pm Private intention

Sunday 12th July 11.00am The People of our Parish
6.00pm Private intention

Monday 13th St Henry II, Holy Roman Emperor
9.15am Private intention

Tuesday 14th St Camillus de Lellis, Priest
9.15am Private intention

Wednesday 15th St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor
12 noon Vera Doherty RIP PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME

Thursday 16th Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9.15am Private intention

Friday 17th 7.30pm Bishop Thomas McMahon, former Bishop of Brentwood,
40th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 19th July 2020

Saturday 18th 6.00pm Catherine & Anthony Steel: Golden Wedding Anniversary

Sunday 19th 11.00am Special intention (G.P.)

July 2020 6.00pm The People of our Parish PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME

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

READINGS at MASS: FIFTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME 12th July 2020

READING: Isaiah 55:10-11 The Word of the Lord carries and fulfils his will

PSALM 64: Some seed fell into rich soil, and produced its crop

READING: Romans 8:18-23 Creation, retains the hope of being freed like us, from slavery to decadence, to enjoy the glory and freedom of the children of God

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-23 A sower went out to sow seed & some fell on good ground

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders, for Offerings of £320 given in to the Priest's House over the past two weeks, and for online Offerings of £80 to our parish for parish 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.

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



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A Sunday 12th July 2020

My dear Friends,

The Lord said, "The Word goes forth from my mouth and does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do" (Isaiah 55:10-11). In Genesis 1 we see that when God uttered a Word there was a new creation. The structure of the readings at Sunday Mass shows us the Word of God that was prophesied in the Old Testament was fulfilled in the person of Jesus in the Gospel. Isaiah speaks of the Word of God being sent forth into the world to fulfil God's purpose and save his people. Jesus is the Word of God become man, who perfectly fulfils God's plan, through obedience to his Father's will. Jesus speaks the Word of God in offering prayers, prophecies, teaching and miracles. God's love for mankind is shown through his sending his Son, as the Saviour of the world. Jesus as "The Word made flesh" comes to bring people grace and new life to, so that they grow in right relationship with God and their neighbour.

When a person is Baptised the Word of God is spoken from the Bible, but more than that, Jesus the Word of God comes to live in their heart. The Word of God is the seed of faith planted in the heart, that grows and bears fruit in a person, when nurtured. The Word of God and gift of faith enables a baptised person to grow in the image and likeness of Christ, so that he or she becomes integrated and holy. The Word of God shapes the life of a person, so that it is possible to make good choices between right and wrong and live a moral life, centred on God and others rather than self. God does not want his word or grace to be fruitless, which is why it is essential for us to turn to the Word of God for guidance and encouragement, hope and consolation. We need to treasure the Word of God and protect the gift of faith, which the Lord has given us so that we do not lose his grace, which enables us to flourish and live in a good relationship with God and people.

May the Lord bless and protect you and yours. Fr John

CHURCH REOPENS FOR MASS: Our Church reopened for Mass, following the times for private prayer, on Monday of last week. We are most grateful to everyone who made this possible and the **Stewards/ Ushers** who have been in attendance for the private prayer openings and celebration of Mass during the week. Our thanks to the **Laundry Team** who have taken care of the church linen during the whole of the lockdown, which still needed to be done. Thank you to our **Flower Ladies** who have decorated the church with lovely flower arrangements.

We now have the required authorisation to celebrate Mass with people on weekdays and weekends, provided all necessary and reasonable COVID-19 precautions are in place. For people's safety, we must ensure we are compliant with all the conditions of opening and cleansing the church. To ensure the safe opening of our church and to prevent a transmission of the virus and avoid contributing to a second wave, we ask you to please follow the instructions below:

- We are maintaining the social distancing of 2 meters in our Church for people who don't live in the same household. This has an impact on how many parishioners we can accommodate in the Church at any time.
- Our church can safely accommodate in total a minimum of 23 people or a maximum of 54 depending on the number of families or single households.
- Each family (max 4/5) will have a pew whereas two single households will share a pew. Not all pews can be used due to keeping distance fore and aft.
- Due to this restriction in numbers and to avoid parishioners being unable to enter once the church is full, please let Fr. John know if you are going to attend any of the weekend services, you can do this by:
 - Email: admin@eppingparish.plus.com or Tel: 01992 572516 or 577173
 - A note/letter to The Priest's House at 11, Church Hill, Epping. If you can, it is advisable, to attend weekday Mass where there will be fewer people. Please follow the direction signs, depending on numbers and you may have to queue to enter the Church in a protected way.
- Please arrive early as our Ushers will direct you to your seat - we will seat you from the front and you will not be able to choose where you want to sit. Special arrangements will be made for people with a disability.
- The Offertory collection will be taken in a bag as you enter the church, or you can make an online donation at: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping//>
- As you enter the church please sanitise your hands and avoid touching things
- There will be A one-way system in operation.
- Do not leave your seat until instructed for Holy Communion, when it is your turn, please take your belongings with you.
- Holy Communion will only be given in one form, the Host on the hand, and one's hand should be stretched out fully to preserve distance from the priest.
- Once you have received Holy Communion, leave via the Sacristy and sanitise your hands as you leave, from the unit in the sacristy porch.
- Father John invites you to pray by the Crucifix in the Car Park after you receive Holy Communion, whilst keeping the 2 metre distance for others.

- Please disperse quickly as the Church will have to be closed for cleaning and to avoid breaches in social distancing.
- Unfortunately the hall toilets cannot be opened to the public
- If you have symptoms of COVID –19 or live with someone who has the symptoms, please do not come to church but stay safe at home.
- **There is no obligation on people to attend Mass at this time due to the risks and dangers from the Coronavirus pandemic.**

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

USHERS/ STEWARDS NEEDED FOR CHURCH & FOR MASSES

Thanks to all who offered to help as Ushers/ Stewards for the opening of our church for private visits, for prayer. If you or a family member (s) can help, please contact our Parish Office by email: admin@eppingparish.plus.com or phone 01992 572516 or drop in a note or this slip to the Priest's House.

I / We wish to be an Usher/Steward for Saturday or Sunday Masses:

Times

NAME(S).....

Address.....

e-mail.....

Telephone number(s).....

PETER PROTHERO RIP: We pray for the repose of the soul of Peter, husband of Pat, who died on Friday, 3rd July. **May he rest in peace. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen all who mourn at this time.**

PRAY FOR ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR: Dennis Verrall, Malcolm Silver (11/7), Fr John Watson, Linda Chandler, Patrick Heath, Gerald Heath (13/7), Maureen Golden (15/7), Alec Asher (17/7), Harry Gaughan (18/7), Fr Edmund Dobson, Peter Barry (19/7). **May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen**

SEA SUNDAY TODAY

KID'S CORNER

15th Sunday of Ordinary Time A

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| W | H | E | G | B | P | R | A | T | E | B |
| I | O | U | C | D | A | E | S | V | D | P |
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| H | O | V | P | A | T | H | O | E | B | O |
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|---------|----------|----------|
| Parable | Sow | Seeds |
| Path | Birds | Ate |
| Rock | Soil | Sun |
| Roots | Withered | Thorns |
| Choked | Crop | Revealed |
| Hearing | Eyes | Heart |
| Evil | Happy | House |

This word search is based on this Sunday's Gospel from St Matthew Chapter 13:1-23

Humour: What happens if you mix yeast with polish?
You rise and shine!

Around the world, today is observed as Sea Sunday. The Church thinks about and remembers all who live and work at sea. Seafarers are key workers, who are very important to our way of life.

- 90% of world trade travels by sea, as does
- 95% of all goods imported into the UK.
- 150,000 (approx) merchant ships arrive in British ports each year,

There are hundreds of thousands of seafarers working on ships who bring us the goods we use and consume every day. Many seafarers do not have the quality of life on board ships that every person has the right to expect. Globalisation has resulted in most seafarers being recruited from poorer developing countries where wages are lower, they work long hours for little pay, sometimes enduring dangerous working conditions, often lonely, tired and spiritually deprived. Seafarers can spend up to 12 months at a time on ships, away from their home, family and friends.

The Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) deploys port chaplains and ship visitors to welcome merchant seafarers to our shores regardless of race, nationality or creed. They visit seafarers on their ships or take them to well-equipped seafarers centres, and provide for their pastoral and practical needs. As many as 600,000 Seafarers who visit our shores each year are Catholics, and AOS chaplaincy teams give them an opportunity to be re-connected to the life of the Church and receive the sacraments, if they wish, and enable them to make contact with their families and have refreshment and rest. Whether or not a seafarer is Catholic or religious, Apostleship of the the Sea provides the care and presence of Christ and his Church to them in their situation.

We are asked to pray for seafarers and all who minister to them on our behalf. For many seafarers and crews on merchant ships and cruise liners it has been especially difficult with the coronavirus pandemic. Many have not been allowed in to countries or ports to dock for refreshment, to leave a ship, change crew or to go back to their home country or family. Some have been confined to their ships for extraordinarily long periods with the consequent stress, loneliness and distress that can bring.

We remember, give thanks and pray for all who are working at sea. They perform some of the most important and essential roles, that enable us to live the kind of life, which until recently, we may have taken for granted.

LORD JESUS, who walked on the waters, save them
OUR LADY, Star of the Sea, intercede for them.
HOLY ANGELS OF GOD, protect them.

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 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 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.

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: Messages 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 & 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

THANK YOU: The young mother, Asylum Seeker with two young children, has now moved from Epping to Clacton. She is most grateful to parishioners, parents, the church and all here in Epping who have generously supported and provided for her and her children's needs, through difficult times over the past weeks.

JUMBLE & JUMBLE SALE: We very much regret that we are unable to take jumble at the moment as the storage shed is full and we are unable to say when we may be able to have a Jumble Sale due to the need to protect everyone.

REFERENCES FOR SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2021: Parents and carers who want a Priest's reference to support an application for a school place for their child in **September 2021** must have been consistently attending Sunday Mass over the years. If parents go to Mass in another parish - that is the place to see the priest. This attendance record for families is obviously will not be affected by the difficulties which have prevented people going to church or Mass during the pandemic. Please contact Fr John in September if you have been attending Mass in our parish and you require a school reference for your child.

CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD – DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:

If you are passionate about supporting local volunteers, and have strong experience in training and networking in the charitable sector, this could be your perfect job! Please visit <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/developmentofficer/> for the Job Description and full details of this significant new role, which will help enhance our Gospel mandate to serve and recognise Christ in the poor, and in those on the edges. The deadline to apply is **October 2nd 2020** and the start date is January 2021

MASS INTENTIONS: If you or anyone you know wishes to have Mass offered 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.

FACEBOOK GROUP: Our parish Facebook Group posts daily updates, and links to parishes and activities around our Diocese. James Ryan manages it and if you wish 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/>

Our thanks to James for continuing to post news and do updates on our Parish Facebook page, which serves as another means of communication at this time.

LOURDES IN YOUR LIVING ROOM: Join Bishop Alan & hundreds of pilgrims from our Diocese in a week of pilgrimage including daily Mass, Rosary, Angelus, Morning and Night Prayer, daily Reflections ... and a Talent Show! For the virtual Marian (Torchlight) procession we welcome photos of you, family members and friends, alone or together, holding a lighted candle. Please send them to info@bcys.net by **Sunday, 12 July**. If you are a singer, entertainer dancer, joke-teller or, email us at info@bcys.net and we will help you submit your act for the talent show. For those age 15-23 there is an a social programme, and full details of the whole pilgrimage can be found at www.bcys.net, with links to YouTube.

18 HOUR CHALLENGE: To mark the beginning of Lourdes week, young people will use the 18 hours they would spend on a coach (and remembering Our Lady's 18 apparitions to St Bernadette) in a wide variety of creative ways – including 44 of them (and Fr Dominic) each walking 18 miles, together covering the distance from Brentwood to Lourdes! Money raised will go to the BCYS and the CAFOD “Summer of Hope” Appeal. Sponsorship can be offered at www.bcys.net/donate or posted to Fr Dominic, 18 Hour challenge, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Brentwood CM14 5SH (cheques to “Brentwood Catholic Youth Service”). Our target is £1800 and we will be most grateful for all sponsorship.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available in the porch by the side of the Priest's House Thanks to our Gift Aid Co-ordinator, Michele Murphy, who has continued to process our Gift Aid Offertories and donations throughout this time.

CATHOLIC PAPERS, MAGAZINES & MAGNIFICAT are available by the side door of the Priest's House & Church Sacristy. It is open every day and you can find Newsletters, Catholic Universe, The Tablet, Catholic Herald & Magnificat.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021: We will soon announce details of the application process for those who wish to prepare their children for first Reconciliation &, Holy Communion in 2021. Children should be in School Year 3 or older in 2020/21 and it is essential that the families have been attending Mass.