

OUR CHURCH WILL BE OPEN at limited times, for people to visit for private prayer around the times of Mass, and people are welcome to attend all Masses.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 26th July 2020

Saturday 25 July 6.00pm Frances Wells intention
Sunday 26th 9.00am Private intention
July 2020 11.00am The People of our Parish
Monday 27th 9.15am Smith & Whitehouse families deceased RIP (Whitehouse)
Tuesday 28th 9.15am Private intention
Wednesday 29th St Martha
12 noon Private intention
Thursday 30th St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor
9.15am Private intention
Friday 31st July St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
7.30pm Private intention
Saturday 1 August St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 2nd August 2020

Saturday 1st 6.00pm The People of our Parish
Sunday 2nd 9.00am Doug & Bobby Dew RIP Anniv. (Heughan)
August 2020 11.00am Christopher Hayes & Family (Goswell)

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

READINGS at MASS: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME 26 July 2020

READING 1 Kings 3:5-12 Solomon asks for a heart to discern between good & evil

PSALM 118 God's Word gives light and teaches the simple

ROMANS 8:28-30 With those God justified, he shared his glory

GOSPEL Matthew 13:44-52 The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure beyond price

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders.

For Offerings given in church on the weekend of £276.50 on 12 July of, and £451.50 on 19 July, and for online Offerings for our parish or parish 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.

THERE IS NO OBLIGATION ON PEOPLE TO ATTEND MASS at this time, due to risks and dangers to personal and public health from the pandemic.

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/Lebohlang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A 26 July 2020

Dear friends,

“The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. When we cannot choose words to pray properly, the Spirit expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words” (Rom.8:26-27). Jesus described the Holy Spirit as “The Paraclete”, “The Advocate”, “The Counsellor” and “The Comforter”, whom he would send from the Father. With those words, he told us that the Holy Spirit acts within us and for us, just like an Advocate. St Paul tells us the Spirit prays for us when we are incapable of offering to God the prayer we need to make. The Spirit, who knows what is best for us, according to the mind of God, offers that prayer to the Father for us and on our behalf.

All the readings in today's Mass focus on wisdom. Solomon, a young king, asked God for the gift of wisdom and was given the gift far more than any other person. Wisdom is a gift from God but it is not the same as worldly wisdom, for it is the pearl of great price that we may have to pay a price for and make a sacrifice to receive it and respond to it. Wisdom enables people to see God's will and purpose being worked out in their life and the world. It is immensely precious for it gives us a vision for life and the ability to understand and accept the purposes of God, our Creator in difficult times.

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit to strengthen us to live in relationship with God and people. Wisdom, the first gift of the Holy Spirit, is always there for us, like a foundation, to guide our thoughts, words and actions. It Confirms and strengthens us for our vocation in life. *“O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the light of that same spirit, we may be truly wise and every rejoice in his consolation, through Christ, our Lord.*

The holiday season has come after months during which we have had to cope with changes due to the pandemic. It ends a broken academic/school year and marks a new beginning as children move to new classes, schools, colleges or working life. We pray that God blesses them and their families, so that, like the young Christ, they may “grow in grace and favour with God and people”. *May God bless and protect you and your families, and give you rest and refreshment in this holiday season. Fr John*

CHURCH OPEN FOR MASS: Our church is open for Mass and private prayer. We are most grateful to the **Stewards/ Ushers** who have been in attendance for Mass during the week and at weekends and **Sandra Torello** for doing the cleaning .

We must ensure we comply with all conditions and precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This requires Stewards/Ushers, the consistent cleansing of the church after each Mass and all of us following following the instructions below:

- That we maintain the social distance of 2 meters in Church with people who do not live in the same household. This determines how many parishioners we can accommodate in the Church at any time.
- Our church can safely accommodate in total a minimum of 23 single people or a maximum of 54 depending on the number in a family or household.
- Each family (max 4/5) will have a pew. Two single people from different households will share a pew. Not all pews can be used to keep distance.
- 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 Masses, 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 in the church, depending on numbers and you may have to queue to enter the Church in a safe and 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 as you enter the church, or you can make your donation online 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 – you enter by the front door and leave by the Sacristy and door by the Priest’s House.
- Do not leave your seat until instructed by the Ushers for Holy Communion. On Sundays please take your belongings with you and leave.
- 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.
- When you have received Holy Communion on Sunday, leave via the Sacristy and sanitise your hands as you leave, at 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 to avoid breaching social distancing and the Church has to be closed for cleaning and the hall toilets cannot be used at this time.
- 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.

KID’S CORNER

The Holy Spirit

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
L	S	L	V	V	S	W	R	U	E	I	E
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	APOSTLES	ROOM
POWERFUL	TONGUES	FIRE
GIFT	LANGUAGE	SPEECH
NATIONS	HEAVEN	MARVELS
GALILEANS	FATHER	LOVE
ADVOCATE	WORD	HOME
HOLY SPIRIT	COMMANDMENTS	

CHILD’S WISDOM! Two children were praying by their beds at night. The youngest was praying out very loud saying “Dear Lord, I pray for a new bicycle and a new Playstation”. The older one leant over and said, “Why are you shouting out your prayers so loud? God is not deaf”. Then the young one said: “I know that, but I am making sure that Mum and Dad also hear my prayers and answer them”.

CAFOD & DISASTER APPEAL (dec.org.uk)

CAFOD and the DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE have launched an appeal to help save the millions of people in refugee camps around the world whose lives are threatened by Coronavirus. We hear little or nothing of the plight of these people in the news – only it seems of people in the West and the rich countries. Many of these camps are in the developing nations or areas affected by wars, conflicts and environmental dangers. In the Yemen, after 5 years of civil war, millions of families are now struggling to survive in circumstances where Corvid-19 could cause a major catastrophe.

In Yemen, coronavirus is a serious danger for children too. Two million under-fives need treatment for malnutrition. In 2018 it was estimated that 85,000 children had died of malnutrition in the previous three years. The pandemic is worsening food shortages in Yemen, threatening to push more children into malnutrition.

And for those who do fall ill, the situation is dire. After five years of civil war, 50% of health clinics and hospitals have been destroyed. Of those that do remain, only half have enough staff to operate properly. And after seeing the way hospitals were targeted during the war, many people are too afraid to go to hospital at all.

On top of this, the pandemic has led to a reduction in funding for aid programmes. The UN has been forced to close many of its programmes in Yemen, including nutrition programmes and programmes to supply hygiene and sanitation supplies to families.

The [DEC's Coronavirus Appeal](#) has been set up to raise urgent funds to help people in fleeing war and living in fragile states. DEC charities are already on the ground in Yemen helping those most in need, but they desperately need more funding to scale up their operations.

The people of Yemen have endured five years of civil war, a situation that is still ongoing. Millions have lost their livelihoods, their homes, and their loved ones. The hardships they have already faced only puts them more at risk from this new invisible danger. You can help by [donating to our appeal today](#).

The UK Government will match the first £5 million donated pound for pound to this appeal. Your support for people in need will go even further. This weekend we will have a basket in the porch for donations to this Disaster Emergency Appeal to assist for the suffering and threatened people in the Yemen.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are in the porch at 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 during this time.

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.

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).....

PRAY FOR ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR: Fr Michael Hannon, Fr Dermot Moore, Fr John Boardman, Fr James Cooney (25/7), James Scott, Ellen Day (27/7), Winifred Smith, Fr John Harding 928/7), Louis Vittoria, George Geen 29/7), Mary Lewis, Arthur Devereux (30/7), Fr Michael O'Sullivan (31/7), Harry Day, Maureen McClean (1/8). **May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

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

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

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.

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

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 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021: We will soon announce details of the application process for those wishing to prepare their children for Reconciliation &, first 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.

COMING TO SUNDAY/WEEKEND MASS – PLEASE LET US KNOW:

We ask people to let us know by email or telephone call or a note to the Priest's House or to Deacon Duncan if YOU are coming to a Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass. This is so that we can advise people if there may be too many people wishing to attend a particular Mass at the weekend. If the number is too high, it is not be allowable for us to let too many into the church for a particular Mass. This would obviously be an unfortunate situation, which we want to avoid. With the limited numbers now permitted in our church at any one time, only 23 single people, or 54 people from family groups can be in the same row. So please let us know in good time, like on Friday or Saturday morning at the latest we can advise people if there is going to be an accommodation problem in the church for a particular Mass. We would then advise people and avoid embarrassment or a feeling that “there is no room at the inn” when people come to the church door.

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 or joke-teller, email us at info@bcys.net and we will help you submit your act for a talent show. For those age 15-23 there is an a social programme and 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 remember Our Lady's 18 apparitions to St Bernadette) in a 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.

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