

PEOPLE ARE WELCOME TO ALL MASSES and our church will be open around the times of Mass for people to visit for private prayer. You will be most welcome!

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 23rd August 2020

Saturday 22nd 6.00pm Gina Ryan and family
Sunday 23rd 9.00am The People of our Parish
August 2020 11.00am Bridget Dolan's intentions (Bowles)
Monday 24th St Bartholomew, Apostle
9.15am Private intention
Tuesday 25th St Louis, King of France
9.15am Private intention
Wednesday 26th Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God
12 noon Brendan Curtin RIP Anniv. (Crouch)
Thursday 27th St Monica, Mother of St Augustine
11.30am Anthony (Tony) Robin Cummings RIP **Requiem Mass**
Friday 28th St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor
Note Mass time 9.15am Stan Holder RIP (FM) **Mass changed to the morning**
Saturday, 29th The Martyrdom of St John the Baptist

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A 30th August 2020

Saturday 29th 6.00pm Margaret Stubbs RIP (Stubbs)
Sunday 30th 9.00am The People of our Parish
August 2020 11.00am Private intention

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

MASS READINGS: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY Ordinary Time A 23 August 2020

ISAIAH 22:19-23 God places the key of the house of David on the prophet
PSALM 137 Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands
ROMANS 11:33-36 How rich are the depths of God, his wisdom and knowledge
MATTHEW 16: 13-20 Jesus gives Peter the keys of the Kingdom of heaven

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

UNIVERSALIS: www.universalis.com Daily Mass readings & Prayer of the Church

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders, and £369.50 Offerings in church last weekend, and £10 for Cafod. You can still support the Yemen Disaster Appeal through Cafod. For online Offerings to our parish, Cafod or parish charities go to: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping//>

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available every day or after Masses in the porch at the side of the Priest's House & Sacristy. We would love you to join our Gift Aid scheme and use Offertory envelopes. To arrange, please contact our Parish Office.

The 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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 23rd August 2020

Dear friends,

Jesus said, "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of the underworld will never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:13-20). Jesus asks the disciples, his friends, "Who do people say I am?" He did not have a crisis of identity but wanted to know what understanding people had of him and his mission. They gave him various answers but it was to Peter that the grace of faith had been given by God to recognise Jesus as "The Christ, the Son of the living God". Jesus' response was, that the faith Peter had just professed was gift of God, and that underpins our Christian belief that faith is gift of God, given to some but not to all – which we recognise from experience!

Since Peter had the grace of faith, Jesus chose him as "the rock on which to build his church and gives him the keys of the kingdom of heaven". Keys are the symbol not only of Peter but also of the Pope, who as the successor to Peter articulates the faith of the church and confirms the faith of his brothers and sisters. Peter was not perfect and let Jesus down because of his fears and human weaknesses. The fact that Jesus still chose Peter, and placed his trust in him, shows Christ redeeming frail human nature.

Keys are a symbol of the power to lock or unlock. For months we have had "lockdown" to keep an enemy virus out of our homes and lives. People lock doors for security and to keep out those who would harm them. People are locked up in prison but welcome the power exercised by a person with keys to let them out. Jesus set Peter free after his fall and gave him and his successors the power to set us free "from the slavery to decadence" or "bondage to decay" so that we might share in "the glorious freedom of the children of God" (Romans 8:21).

In Catholic tradition and ministry being set free from our sins and failings is exercised in a grace-filled way in the Sacrament of Penance, Confession or Reconciliation. Yet, many of us do not recognise our need to be set free by being forgiven. The Beatitudes (Matt.5) begin with, "Blessed are those who know their need of God". We need blessings to know our need to be forgiven and to forgive others. *God bless and protect you. Fr John*

FACEBOOK GROUP: Our parish Facebook Group posts daily updates and links to parishes and activities in our Diocese. James Ryan manages and monitors input for security and relevance. If you wish to join, just click on the link below. We hope this will be a great way for our parishioners and people to connect with one another. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/26415423943/?ref=share/>

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR MASS and we are most grateful to the **Stewards/Ushers** who have managed arrangements in church for Masses over the past weeks.

We must comply with statutory and diocesan regulations and precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus and remain open. The most important principles are:

- **Face coverings are obligatory in the church unless you are exempt.**
- **In wearing a mask or face covering maintain social distance of 1 metre from the people not living in your household. If you are exempt from wearing a face covering you must maintain a distance of 2 metres.**
- **Enter by the Church door & leave by the Sacristy, in a one way system**
- **Sanitise your hands as you enter and leave the church.**
- **Do not touch things in the church other than at the place you sit.**
- Each family will have a pew for 4/5 people. Single people from different houses will share a pew to keep social distance or a couple and one other person from a different household can share a pew.
- Arrive early for the Ushers to direct you to your seat. Special arrangements are made for people with a disability.
- The Offertory collection is taken as you enter the church, or donate online at: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping//>
- To receive Holy Communion or a blessing, do not leave your seat until guided by an usher. **On Sundays**, please take your belongings with you, as you will not return to your seat, but leave by the Sacristy.
- **Communicants should unloop their face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace their face covering.**
- **Holy Communion will be given to you only from the host into the flat of your outstretched hand, as you stand at a distance from the priest.**
- On Sundays when you have received Holy Communion, leave the church immediately by the Sacristy & sanitise your hands in the Sacristy porch.
- Please avoid breaching social distancing by dispersing. The Church has to close for cleaning after each Mass, in preparation for the next Mass.
- 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.**

USHERS/ STEWARDS NEEDED IN CHURCH FOR ALL MASSES: Our thanks to all who consistently help as Ushers/ Stewards at Masses. If you would like to help, please contact our Parish Office by email admin@eppingparish.plus.com or phone **01992 572516** or drop a note into the Priest's House.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD & ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:
ANTHONY (TONY) ROBIN CUMMINGS RIP, who died on Saturday, 15th of August. He will be received into our church on Wednesday, 26th August. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 27th, at 11.30am, followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May he rest in peace.**

Attendance at the Requiem Mass is restricted to the family and close friends.

We offer our sympathy and prayers for his family and all who mourn at this time. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them.

WE PRAY FOR ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:

Josephine McGlynn, Liam Downey, Benito Pascale, Fr George Gresley, Fr Sean Sheils (22nd), Joyce Peck, Mike Collett, Canon Vincent Cameron (23rd), Joseph Hayes, Thomas Tormey (24th), John Gee (26th), David Squires, Susan Perry, Fr Bernard Collings (28th), Patrick Matthews, Frank Blake, Barbara Gaughan (29th), Canon John Sloan (30th). **May they rest in peace.**

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

FRIDAY MASS: Very few people have been attending the Friday evening Mass, so from next Friday, we will change to the morning time of 9.15am.

CATHOLIC PAPERS, MAGAZINES, BOOKLETS will no longer be supplied in our church. The sale or return system ended earlier this year, so we have had to pay for the unsold, which is most. We regret any inconvenience that this causes

18 HOUR CHALLENGE: Lourdes in our Living Room. Someone who has watched the pilgrimage said, "I feel like I have been in Lourdes for the last five days. Thank you. I even bought croissants for breakfast!". Pilgrims of all ages found the week had a great impact and if you missed or want to watch it and pray again, it is on YouTube at www.youtube.com/c/brentwoodcys - turn a Staycation into a pilgrimage! For comments or questions, email info@bcys.net or phone 01277373959. **The 18 hour challenge has raised over £5,250** so far, to be split between CAFOD and BCYS. Congratulations to all who took part, and thank you to all who has donated. details www.bcys.net

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL Messages to Loved Ones in hospital. Family members & friends of inpatients can send personal messages or collate messages to paht.messagestoalovedone@nhs.net A dedicated phone **01279 868128** is available from 10am to 12noon each weekday when a staff member or volunteer will write your dictated message and get it to the patient. Video calls can be made to patients on Kingsmoor, Harold, Lister, John Snow & Locke Wards from 2 to 4pm every day. For families to arrange 10 minute video calls and find out how to link a call on a secure video line email paht.virtualvisiting@nhs.net