

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-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
Monday 31st St Aidan, Bishop & the Saints of Lindisfarne
Note Mass time 10.00am Private intention
Tuesday 1st St Sebbi, King of the East Saxons
September 9.15am Rachel & Ben on their Wedding Day (Sr Susan)
Wednesday 2nd 12 noon Fiona Garnier RIP Anniv. (Crouch)
Thursday 3rd St Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor, Apostle of England
9.15am Private intention
Friday 4th St Cuthbert, Bishop
Note Mass time 9.15am Special intention (HZ)
Saturday 5th 11.00am First Holy Communion Mass

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

MASS READINGS: TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY Ordinary Time A 30 August 2020

JEREMIAH 20:7-9 The Word of the Lord has meant insult and derision Jeremiah
PSALM 62 For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God
ROMANS 12:1-2 Offer your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God
MATTHEW 16:21-27 Anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself

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

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders, and £337.40 Offerings, & £10 for Cafod in church last weekend. You can still support the Yemen Disaster Appeal with Cafod donations to our parish or online donations to our parish and our charities: 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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 30 August 2020

Dear friends,

Jesus said, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:21-27). Jesus made three prophecies of his approaching passion, death and resurrection. The most poignant one is when he was coming down from the mountain where he was transfigured in prayer, and spoke of Calvary, the other mountain he would climb, to be crucified and glorified. The reaction of Peter and the apostles who were with him at that time was expressed by Peter who said, "Heaven preserve you, Lord, this must not happen to you". They did not think they were associating themselves with someone or a project that would end in suffering and death, but thought they would be occupying important positions and status in a new kingdom of Israel.

To be called to serve God or people is a privilege, which is why we use the word "Vocation" to describe that service. To respond to a vocation requires renouncing self and putting first the response and responsibility to God and to people. That can involve self-sacrifice, like Jesus committed himself to when he did not run away from sacrificing himself in suffering and death. Yet, his disciples' response to his prophecy and arrest in the garden of Gethsemane was to run away, which we too might be tempted to do

Jeremiah, (Ch.20:7-9) like the other prophets, felt mocked, insulted and derided for carrying out his responsibilities as a Prophet and preaching the Word of God. He wanted to escape and run away from the mission to which God had called him – yet there was a "fire burning in his heart and imprisoned in his bones" that compelled him to carry out his vocation.

A person who loves and is in love with another, or parents with love for their child(ren) should be able to understand and respond to this instinct which is a gift of God, given to us in our heart. Putting self first, the me complex and self-fulfilment are the fashion of our time. When we pursue those lines of thinking or ways of life we soon come to realise that we want more and are not really happy or satisfied. So, to serve God and others, we ask the Lord to give us a self-sacrificing disposition and a generous heart.

May the Lord bless you in your own special vocation. 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 manage arrangements for the Masses in church 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: We thank all who consistently help as Ushers/ Stewards at the 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS will be celebrated in our church on Saturday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th of September & 3rd October. We congratulate the children and their parents who have prepared so well for First Holy Communion.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD & ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR: Patrick Matthews, Frank Blake, Barbara Gaughan (29th), Canon John Sloan (30th), Luke O'Connor (31/8), Canon John Walsh 1/9), Canon Cyril Shepherd (2/9), Mary Furlong (3/9), Bridget Day, Fr Patrick Cavanagh (4/9). **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL: May the Lord touch them with the healing power of his Holy Spirit and through the ministry of nurses, doctors and all who care for them free them from every ill of mind, body & spirit.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS IN OUR DIOCESE FROM SEPTEMBER

Canon Brian O'Shea, Parish Priest of Grays is retiring.

Canon Tom Lavin, Parish Priest of Lexden, is retiring to Knock, Ireland

Fr David Prior, Parish Priest of Witham is retiring in Witham

Mgr John Armitage, from Walsingham to be Parish Priest Canning Town

Fr Andrew Forsys from Canning Town to be Parish Priest at Lexden

Fr Martin Hardy to be Parish Priest at Grays

Fr Nixon Gomes to be Parish Priest at Witham

Fr Barthoomew Blaj to be Parish Priest at South Woodford

Fr Adrian Lowe, newly ordained, to be Assistant Priest at Wanstead

Fr Paschal Uche, newly ordained, to be Assistant Priest at Colchester

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 said, "I feel like I have been in Lourdes for the five days. Pilgrims of all ages found the week had a great impact and if want to watch it and pray again, it is on YouTube at www.youtube.com/c/brentwoodeys 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