

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-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A 6th September 2020

Saturday 5th 6.00pm Hannah & Therese Robinson RIP Anniv (McHardy)

Sunday 6th 9.00am The People of our Parish

September 2020 11.00am Fr Tom Jordan RIP Recently (Crehan)

Monday 7th 9.15am Veronica Beard RIP Anniv (FM)

Tuesday 8th The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 9.15am Special intention

Wednesday 9th 12 noon Blodwen Curtin RIP Anniv (Crouch)

Thursday 10th 9.15am Private intention

Friday 11th 9.15am Private intention Note Mass time

Saturday 12th 11.00am First Holy Communion Mass

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A 13th September 2020

Saturday 12th 6.00pm Private intention Education Sunday

Sunday 13th 9.00am Joy Fayre RIP Recently (Knight)

September 2020 11.00am The People of our Parish

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

MASS READINGS: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY Ordinary Time A 6 September 2020

EZEKIEL 33:7-9 I will hold you responsible, if you do not speak to the wicked man.

PSALM 94 O that today you would listen to the Lord's voice, harden not your hearts

ROMANS 13:8-10 Love is the answer to every one of the commandments

MATTHEW 18:15-20 Strive earnestly for reconciliation and putting things right

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 £469.15 Offerings and £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 by the side of the Priest's House and Sacristy. We would love you to use Offertory envelopes, and to join our Gift Aid scheme if you are a taxpayer. Please contact our Parish Office by post, telephone or email if you would like to follow this up.

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 may cause to anyone.

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 6 September 2020

Dear friends,

“O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your heart”(Ps.94). This response to Psalm 94 in today's Mass is familiar to everyone who prays the Divine Office, as many of us say that Psalm every day at the start of the Prayer of the Church. I remember a priest giving a retreat saying that a person with a hardened heart was the most difficult to open-up, break down or change. There is a danger for us, especially in ageing that as the arteries harden so do attitudes. The hard-hearted person is unable to change as they are trapped in their attitude and unable to move out of it to others. Jesus in today's Gospel, calls us to go out self to others, especially those who have gone astray or need to be reconciled. He uses the same imagery that he used with Peter about setting people free and tells us he is present, “where two or three are gathered in his name” especially in the process of reconciling and healing (Matthew 18:15-20).

Eyes and ears are wonderful faculties given to us by God. However, we may be only open to hear or see what already conforms to or confirms our existing mind-set. In our conscience, we have an inner sight and hearing, where Jesus, “The still small voice of calm” speaks to us and calls us, “Learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart”(Matt.11:29). When we surround ourselves with noise or busyness we drown out his voice, and fail to hear what areas of life he is calling us to grow in or change.

Jesus in calling his first disciples, called those who were humble and open to conversion or change of lifestyle, of mind and heart. We, and those we love, may find it difficult to change, forgive or reconcile. Then we need, if we believe Jesus is our Saviour, to bring those difficulties to him in prayer. We ask him to help us use the faculties God has given us to reach out to forgive and reconcile. For that change to take place in myself or others it has to come from within, from the heart. And so we ask the Lord to free us from hardness of heart and “A pure heart create for me, O Lord. Wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin” (Psalm.50).

May God bless and protect you and your families. 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, for 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 help as Ushers/Stewards at the Masses and need more. 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 are being celebrated in our church on the **Saturdays 5, 12, 19, 26 September & 3 October. We congratulate the children and parents who have prepared so well for first Holy Communion. They now have the privilege of receiving our Lord with us in Holy Communion.**

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD & ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR: Veronica Beard (7/9), Mgr Michael Wilson (8/9), Alan Neal (9/9), Elsie Hayes, Fr Charles Johnson, Fr Conrad Smith (11/9), Joseph Pinto (12/9), Fr Thophilius Borer, Archbishop George Andrew Beck (Third Bishop of Brentwood), Canon James V Hemming, Deacon Arthur Woods (13/9). **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY has registered for the Fun Walk which normally takes place at the Barleylands Farm site in Billericay. This year, participants and parish groups are invited to walk 2k or 5k **anywhere they wish at any time in September** and ask for sponsorship from friends and family to help support our work. Details and sponsorship forms are available on www.bccs.org.uk under the Events/Virtual Fun Walk tab or follow us on social media for updates. We would be happy to hear from parish or family groups who would like to walk for us – please email Libby: lphillips@bccs.org.uk

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

JOB VACANCY: Our Diocese is looking for a **Site Manager** for the Brentwood Cathedral Site to manage routine maintenance of the buildings and grounds at the Cathedral. A job description is available on request but the key elements are as follows: overall premises management; maintain premises in a safe and healthy condition; identify things requiring repair or maintenance and action as required; ensure all matters are logged as appropriate; liaise with Contractors as required. The closing date is **Friday 2 October**. For more information and a full job description and person specification contact recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2021 We will soon make an announcement on enrolling children for the 2021 first Holy Communion course. However, we need to celebrate this year's first Holy Communion before going on to the next year.