

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 4th October 2020

Saturday 3rd 6.00pm Our sick & infirm at home, in hospital & care homes

Sunday 4th 9.00am The People of our Parish

October 2020 11.00am Jemima Keyser RIP & Family (Garwood)

Monday 5th 9.15am Private intention

Tuesday 6th **St Bruno, Priest**
9.15am Private intention

Wednesday 7th **Our Lady of the Rosary**
12 noon Anne Curtin RIP (Crouch)

Thursday 8th **St Osyth, Religious - Saint of Clacton-on-Sea**
9.15am Private intention

Friday 9th **St John Henry Newman, Priest - National Feast**
9.15am Special intention (C)

TWENTY- EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 11th October 2020

Day of Prayer for Prisoners & their dependants - Prisoners week 11 – 17 October

Saturday 10th 6.00pm Iza Holmes & Ray Patterson RIP Anniv (Holmes & Dark)

Sunday 11th 9.00am Santos & Julian Ruvalcaba RIP Recently (Cullen)

October 2020 11.00am The People of our Parish

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: available on request at any time to Fr John

MASS READINGS: TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY Ordinary Time A 4 October 20

ISAIAH 5:1-7 God's vineyard is the house of Israel, God's people

PSALM 79 "The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel"

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-9 The peace of God surpasses all understanding & will guard you

MATTHEW 21:33-43 God, the vineyard owner, said they will respect my Son, Jesus

CAFOD CHILDREN'S LITURGY <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

MASSES, SERVICES, RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING & ONLINE SERVICES

DAILY SERVICES WITH MASS: www.churchservices.tv/timetable/

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/>

BBC ESSEX at 95.3 and 103.5FM Sunday programme from 6.00am to 9.00am

OFFERTORIES: Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders, and Offerings of £231.90 in church last weekend and for Cafod £10. You can make offerings to our parish online, and also make specific donations to charities our parish supports at: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping//

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY was on Friday last: CAFOD envelopes were given out at Masses last weekend. Our retiring collection this weekend is for CAFOD to aid their for the poor in the developing nations overseas.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS for 2021 Details of plans will be published shortly.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE paper is available free in the porch - please take one!

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/Lebohng

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 4 October 2020

Dear Friends,

Jesus told the parable, "The landowner planted a vineyard, fenced it round, dug a winepress, leased it tenants and went abroad" (Matthew 21:33-43). The vineyard and the vine were powerful images for the Jewish people. God led his people out of slavery in Egypt and says "I brought you like a vine out of Egypt" (Ps.79). Last Sunday we had the parable of the vineyard owner asking his two sons to go and work in his vineyard, but they were self-centred at that moment and refused to go. People who live on and from the land have a real attachment to their land, and are as much rooted to it as the vines or crops they cultivate on it.

This weekend we are planting two vines in our church grounds for they symbolise to us what Jesus said, "I the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much, for apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5). Jesus was giving the parable to a group who knew they were "God's chosen people" and thought that belonging to the group was all that mattered. Jesus challenged them just as he challenges us, to bear good fruit in the way we think, speak and act, for he says "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:15).

We are part of the Lord's vineyard and through Baptism we are grafted on to him. Though he left the world in body terms at his Ascension into heaven, he is the master of the vineyard who will return. Then he will call us to account as to how we have used the talents and gifts he gives us as individuals and as a nation. He requires us to use them in ways that serve the needs of others and give glory to God. In recent times, there has been a decadent populist culture of centring on self as an individual and a nation. Putting self first is worst for it panders to our selfish instincts but goes against Biblical teaching in both the Old and New Testaments, which commands people to focus on love of God and neighbour.

We also see in this parable, violence by the tenants who seek to get what does not belong to them, without any respect for the rights or life of others. That kind of violence and arrogance, in terms of arrogating to one's self, what one has no right to or does not belong to one is not far away from us nowadays. What kind of Gospel or philosophy leads or guides is a key question for us as individuals and as a society. Do we want to bear good and life-giving fruit in society and in our own lives and thus contribute to the common good for the benefit of all?

May Jesus, the Lord of the Vineyard, help us bear fruit in good works. 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 this group, just click on the link below: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/26415423943/?ref=share/>

THANK YOU to our **Stewards/ Ushers** who manage Mass arrangements in church.

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 face covering or mask 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**
- **Please book your place(s) at the Mass you will attend. Arrive in good time for the Ushers to direct you to your seat. Special arrangements are made for people with a disability**
- **Sanitise your hands as you enter and leave the church.**
- **Do not touch things in the church other than at the place where you sit.**
- Each family will have a pew for 4/5 people. Single people from different houses can share a pew to keep social distance or a couple and one other person from a different household can share a pew.
- 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 coverings 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.
- Avoid breaching social distance by dispersing and not mingling. After each Mass, the Church must close for cleaning, to prepare 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 at home, safe.**

LIVE STREAM STUDY DAY: Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP will speak on the 'joy of the gospel'. The live stream can be followed www.ssppilford.org.uk and clicking on live stream remote events. This is the first of a series run by Catholic Biblical Association at: catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Congratulations to Alexander, Ella, Matthew, Joseph, Laluna, Luisa, Grace, Alexandra, William, Charlotte, Arthur, Clara, Peter, Ciara, George, Grace, George, Matthew and their families who celebrated first Holy Communion in our parish over the past five weeks. The families and our parish is truly grateful to our team of Catechists: Mary, Stella, Pat, Miriam, Carron, Anna & Natalie, who worked with the children and their families since September 2019. We thank them for the excellent preparations they did with the children and families to prepare for first Holy Communion in this difficult year.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD & ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR: Reginald Ivey, Fr Michael Hopkins (3rd), John Hurley (4th), Fr Henry Healy, Fr David Logue, Malachi Jorde (5th), Judith Hudson, Canon Edward Heery (6th), Margaret Eaton, Fr Harold Cahill (7th), Fr Alfred Clements (8th), Madeline Heagerty, Pope Pius XII (9th), Sybil Mullen (11th). **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL: May the Lord touch them with the healing power of his Holy Spirit, working in and through all who care for them at this difficult time.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – Our Lady of the Rosary Youth Mass on Instagram at 8pm on Wednesday, 7 October. In November “BCYS voices” on YouTube, begins with **Fr Paschal Uche**, consider the pain and problem of racism, and potential for us, young Catholics, to build the world in the image of Jesus Christ – where everyone is welcomed, valued and loved, in the beautiful diversity of every race. Details at www.bcys.net, on Instagram & YouTube @BrentwoodCYS.

STELLA MARIS (APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA) CENTENARY MASS: This year Stella Maris (formerly Apostleship of the Sea) is celebrating 100 years of supporting seafarers, fishers, and their families. To mark the start of our centenary year we will hold a live-streamed Mass celebrated by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia of Glasgow. Parishioners are invited to join us online to share in this very special celebration on **Sunday 4th October 4th at 3pm. The Mass will be streamed live at www.stellamaris.org.uk/centenarymasss**

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL Messages to Loved Ones in hospital. Family members and 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 Video calls can be made to patients on Kingsmoor, Harold, Lister, John Snow & Locke Wards from 2 to 4pm every day. More information available at paht.virtualvisiting@nhs.net

VOLUNTARY ACTION EPPING FOREST is a registered charity giving relief boxes to individuals and households who struggle financially, partly due to Covid 19. They have a base in Thornwood. See the poster in the church or contact Nick on **07967726851**. It runs a befriending service that people can contact on **07708171116** for assistance Visit their website at: <https://vaef.org.uk/covidresponse@vaef.org.uk>