

PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND MASS IN OUR CHURCH from the 6pm Mass on Saturday, 5th December, on Sundays and Weekdays, subject to regulations.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B (Year of St Mark) 29 November 2020

Saturday 28th 6.00pm The People of our Parish

Sunday 29th 9.00am No Mass at this time today

November 2020 11.00am Lady Joan Russell RIP Anniv. (Hoare)

You can join in our 11am Sunday Mass, which is streamed and online – details inside.

Monday 30th Nov. St Andrew, Apostle & Patron of Scotland

Monday in Advent 9.15am Private intention (C)

Tuesday 1st Dec. 9.15am Matt Conrad's intentions (Palmer)

Wednesday 2nd 12 noon Curtin Family Deceased RIP (Crouch)

Thursday 3rd St Francis Xavier, Priest & Patron Saint of the Missions

MIGRANTS DAY 9.15am Bridget McGrath RIP

Friday 4 December 9.30am Holy Souls RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B (Year of St Mark) 6th December 2020

Saturday 5th 6.00pm Judy Atkins RIP Recently (Cullen) With people present

Sunday 6th 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

December 2020 11.00am The People of our Parish

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on request to the Parish Priest

MASS READINGS: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year B 29 November 2020

ISAIAH 63:16-64-8 Let the heavens open and rain down the just one (Jesus).

PSALM 79 God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us & we will be saved

1CORINTHIANS 1:3-9 We are waiting for our Lord, Jesus Christ, to be revealed.

MARK 13:33-37 So, stay awake; for you do not know when the Master will come.

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

LOOK SHEETS for children are available in the porch for collection

DAY BY DAY: Advent Children's Infant & Junior booklets are in the open porch

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/bishopsstortford

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD WEBSITE: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/>

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

Some parishioners have kindly given in Offerings for our Parish to the Priest's House,

for which we are grateful. Offerings can be handed in to the Priest's House or made to

our parish online at: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping/

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE paper is available free in the porch this week!

Please let us know at the Parish Office if you wish to order a copy of "The Catholic

otherwise we will have to terminate the supply of this paper at this time.

PRAYERS FOR OUR DEAD IN NOVEMBER: During November, we remember and

pray for our dead, especially for those of our own family. We place the Register of our Dead

at the Altar, and invite you to have the names of your dead placed at the Altar. Please use

the form and envelopes in porch, at the side of the Priest's House, and we will place them at

the Altar to remember and pray for them as the Holy Souls at Masses, during November.

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 and Lebohanga

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year B

29 November 2020

Dear friends,

Jesus said "Stay awake, because you do not know when the master is coming" (Mark 13:33-37). The word "Advent" means "coming" and in the four weeks of this short season of Advent we prepare for the coming of God as man, in the person of Jesus, at Christmas. One of our Advent hymns says: "The coming of our God, our thoughts must now employ; then let us meet him on the road with songs of holy joy". For Christians, the coming of God in the person of Jesus, is the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, especially those of Isaiah. When we talk about preparing for Christmas, i.e. Christ's-Mass, we often think of cards, shopping, presents, food and the material things we engage with in this season. But our spiritual preparation is also most important for us as Christians.

The opening prayer in today's Mass says: "Almighty God, we pray, grant to your faithful people, the resolve to run forth to meet Christ with righteous deeds, so that at his coming we may be gathered at his right hand, and be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom". We can all recall positives and negatives in our life. We can give thanks to God for the good we do, for the right relationships we choose and live by, and for the ability to have an outgoing love and care for others. On the other hand, it is important for us in this holy season, to recognise that there are aspects of our life which we need to bring to the Lord for healing and forgiveness. The times we should have been focused on God's will and others rather than ourselves. Times we should have been disciplined and made sacrifices for the cause of right - in our thoughts, words and actions. In recalling some of these aspects of our life we bring them to the Lord, the author of healing, and ask him to grant us forgiveness and cleansing from all that makes us unworthy of our calling as Christians and children of God, our loving Father.

The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the new Liturgical and Christian year. At a new year we look back on what has gone before and this year has been like none other that we have known. Aspects of life that we have taken for granted have been thrown into uncertainty and there is the insecurity that comes from being cut-off and self-isolating and that has affected many of our people. We use the expression "in the hands of God", so we should turn to him and ask him touch us with the invisible hands of Jesus, our Saviour. His hands reach out to us from the Cross and show us that he bears our wounds and hurts, and raises us up with himself to God, our Father. *May God bless and protect you. Fr John*

LIVESTREAMING OF MASSES: We are looking for a small group of people to help on a rota basis with livestreaming our Masses, especially as there are a number over the Christmas period. The system has been established and we are hoping to get together a small group to help spread the responsibility. You'd only need to help every few weeks. You don't need to be a technical wizard, just someone who is comfortable with a laptop and learning the system. Training and a step-by-step list of instructions will be provided. Please do let Fr John know if you can help!

WE NEED MORE STEWARDS & USHERS IN OUR CHURCH for all Masses, when the church re-opens again for Mass with a congregation. This is a simple but necessary role to ensure we comply with regulations to keep people safe in church. If you can help on a rota basis, please contact our Parish Office on 01992 572516 or email admin@eppingparish.plus.com or drop a note into the Parish Office. **THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE MASS BOOKING SYSTEM – PLEASE SEE SEPARATE NOTICE.**

FACEBOOK GROUP: Our parish Facebook Group posts daily updates and links to parishes & activities in our Diocese. James Ryan manages and monitors the 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/>

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Sadly, we are unable to hold our annual Christmas Market (Bazaar) this year. However, we are holding a Christmas raffle with some fantastic prizes. Tickets are now on sale. For details please see flyer below.

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>

ST JOHN FISHER SCHOOL, LOUGHTON: We urge parents whose children will start in Reception Class in Primary School in September 2021 to consider sending their child to St John Fisher School for a very good education in a Catholic school.

The school is consulting on its Admissions Policy for September 2022 entry in accordance with statutory requirements. If you think of applying for your child to go to the school, or are interested in its Admissions Policy, please visit the 'Admissions' section of the school's website at www.st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk to see the consultation document. Whether or not you are concerned with the consultation, you can also experience a **Virtual Tour** of the school by visiting the Admissions section.

Responses should be sent or emailed, for the attention of Mrs K Spillman, Business Manager, to the school no later than 25 January 2021. They will be forwarded to the Governing Body to consider before the final policy is determined, which will be no later than 28th February 2021. Details of how to contact the school are on their website.

THE BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2021 is now on sale in the porch by the side of the Priest's House and Sacristy at £2.80. It gives details of parishes and churches, times of Masses, schools and the Liturgical Calendar.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES, FRIENDS & PARISHIONERS: ANNIVERSARIES: Georgie Sparks, Fr Patrick Bennett, Deacon Anthony Collings (28/11) Fredrick Murcott, Fr Francis Branney (29/11), Joan Fowler, Tom Tracey (30/11), Janet Austin, Fr Bartholomew (Bart) Lynch (1/12), Alfred Heagerty, Philip Purcell, Fr James (Pat) Hannon (2/12), Philip Darcy 9/12), Joh Goodman (5/12), Hans Bengesser, Michael Mulligan, Fr Brian Drea (6/12). **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console all who mourn.**

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL: May the Lord touch and comfort them with the healing power of his Holy Spirit.

THE PASSAGE is raising funds with the Big Give from 12 noon **Tuesday 1st to 12 noon Tuesday 8th December** to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (a company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid, for higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For details: ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk. Please give online at <https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL Messages to Loved Ones in hospital. Family members & friends of inpatients can send or collate personal messages to paht.messagestoalovedone@nhs.net A dedicated phone, **01279 868128** is available from **10am to 12noon on weekdays.** Video calls can be made to patients on John Snow & Locke Wards, Kingsmoor and Harold, Lister Wards, **from 2 to 4pm every day.** More information available at paht.virtualvisiting@nhs.net

COMPASS IN #ADVENT. Our lives are turned upside down at the moment due to **#COVID19** - Join the FCJ (Faithful Companions of Jesus) Young Adult Network to reflect on some of the characters in the **#Christmas** story whose lives were radically changed. Email us: CompassInAdvent@gmail.com For more information go to: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent> . How is God speaking to us through these stories today? Each Friday will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion. **Who? – Young adults 18-35. When? Fridays - 27th Nov, December 4th, 11th and 18th; Time? 7pm for one hour. Zoom link: email us on CompassInAdvent@gmail.com for the link and for any other information.** Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS for 2021 Details will be published shortly.

PARISHIONERS COMING BACK TO MASS & STREAMING

27 November 2020

Dear Friends,

After the latest changes to Covid regulations, we will happily celebrate Mass again, with people starting next Saturday, 5 December, at 6pm. During lockdown I celebrated Mass daily to pray for the protection of our people.

Our parishioner Shea Lolin, has set up a youtube channel to stream Mass live from our church. Having spent many hours to eliminate interference that affected the sound, he has now been successful. We have live streamed 11am Mass from our church on the weekends of 8th, 15th & 22nd November. We will **continue** to live stream the Sunday 11am Mass from our church, this Sunday and on subsequent Sundays, provided we have people to help operate the system. Links to join in the Mass are in the instructions overleaf.

We still have some technical difficulties connecting with the broadband in the Parish Office, but intend to continue the streaming the Sunday 11am Mass when people are back in Church. We would welcome any ideas or technical skills people may have to offer to address these problems, so that it can be done safely and there is no danger of people tripping up on wires.

The new heating system is now being installed in our church and should be completed in the coming week. Due to the nature of our building, it will still be fan assisted but should be much quieter and more efficient than the present system. Some of the present units were obsolete and beyond repair as the necessary parts are not available – hence the need for a new system!

Wishing you and your families a safe and healthy time.

With prayerful good wishes.

Fr John (McGrath)
Parish Priest Epping

It is pleasing that the number now attending the weekend Masses during the Coronavirus restrictions stabilised at around the maximum levels which can be accommodated. To reduce the possibility of having to turn parishioners away at the door as the maximum numbers are passed, a **revised booking system will be introduced with immediate effect:**

- Those notifying that they will be attending the same Mass each week will appear on the lists automatically and do not need to be confirmed each week, but **please notify the occasions when you will NOT be present,** so that the seat(s) can be allocated to other parishioners.
- If you are not attending the same Mass every week, **please notify your proposed attendance by 5pm on Friday of each week (multiple weeks can be booked).**
- Changes to regular bookings and new bookings, should be sent directly to Deacon Duncan by email (duncanjcwhitehouse@gmail.com) or by telephone (01992 577173). Deacon Duncan will notify you if we are over-subscribed. The 5pm deadline for booking will allow time for you to make alternative arrangements to attend weekend Mass elsewhere if necessary.
- **In future, please do not send notifications to Fr John or to Margaret Lechley in the Parish Office. Deacon Duncan will be pleased to answer any queries which may arise.**

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO OUR MASS BOOKING SYSTEM

HOW TO STREAM SUNDAY MASS AT 11am at HOME
CATHOLIC PARISH OF EPPING
The Immaculate Conception

Sunday Mass in our Church at 11am will be live streamed from our Church on You Tube, during the present church closures. You do not need an account to watch. Last Sunday 80 people joined in live and 70 joined in later. If you have a laptop, computer or mobile phone, simply follow the instructions below. You will need speakers or headphones if your device does not have them built in. If you have a smart TV, you can pair a device (such as mobile phone or iPad) to watch on your TV.

To view the Mass simply search: **The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping** and visit the channel where you will find the live stream. All you then need to do is click on the live video.

If you cannot find it, you can type the URL (web address) directly into the address bar:
youtube.com/channel/UCAbSuwE8X5AOaugAT35hREw

If you have a mobile phone you can simply scan this QR code to take you to the channel :



Please let us know if you have any problems and we will try our best to help.



Dear Parishioner,
We hope this note finds you and your families well.

Sadly, we will not be able to come together for our usual Christmas market this year, but we would like to offer some community festive cheer in the form of a Christmas raffle.

We have been lucky enough to have fabulous prizes donated by local businesses, even at this difficult time.

There are two ways you can enter the raffle:

- 1) Fill in your name and number on the ticket stubs, tear them off and drop them into the Parish office in an envelope marked 'Christmas Raffle'
- 2) Enter remotely – let us know how many tickets you would like and we will assign tickets to you

Payment can be made in cash, or by bank transfer
(Reference your Surname and 'Raffle' to allow us to identify payments)

Sort code: 40-13-22 Account number: 81019821
Account Name: Catholic Church The Immaculate Conception, Epping
Books of tickets will be available in the Church porch to collect or by contacting the Parish Office at epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

If you are unable to get to Epping, please let us know and we are happy to come by and drop off or collect tickets

Emma 07791 235929

Adriana 07828 118909

The raffle will be drawn at 2pm on Sunday 6th December

Tickets are £1 each

Prizes Include:

Harold's Park Farm (Pick Your Own Christmas Tree)

Merry Fiddlers (Sparkling Afternoon Tea for 2)

Luxury Christmas Hamper

Poppy's Café Vouchers

Smith's Fish and Chips for 2

Epping Sports Centre Personal Training Sessions

Epping Barber Shop, gent's haircut

Bottle of Wine

M&S Beauty Gift Set

Wine Set (Opener, Thermometer, etc)

Piccola Cuddly Toy

Card Zone Christmas Candle Set

Sweetie Jar Filled with Sweets