

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

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

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

Baptism 12 noon Noel Brendan Whittaker

Sunday 6th 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

December 2020 11.00am The People of our Parish

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

Baptism 2.00pm Darragh Owen James Gadsby

Monday 7th Dec. St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

9.15am Judy Atkins RIP Recently (Palmer)

Tuesday 8th Dec. **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Dedication of our 9.15am Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Wednesday 9th 12 noon Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Thursday 10th 9.15am Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Friday 11th Dec 9.15am Judy Atkins RIP Recently (Poole)

7.30pm Mass to Celebrate the Dedication of our Church on the Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 12th 12.30pm Baptism: Alfie Ace Butler

THIRD (GAUDETE or REJOICING SUNDAY OF ADVENT B 13th December 2020

Saturday 12th 6.00pm Georgina Fernandes RIP Anniv. (Murray)

Sunday 13th 9.00am The People of our Parish

December 2020 11.00am David Jolly RIP Anniv (Jolly)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on request to the Parish Priest

MASS READINGS: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year B 6th December 2020

ISAIAH 40:1-11 Prepare a Way for the Lord, make a straight highway for our God

PSALM 84 Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help

2 PETER 3:8-14 We are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth

MARK 1:1-8 Prepare a Way for the Lord, make his paths straight

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 handed in Offerings of £426 to the Priest's House for our

Parish during the recent lockdown, and £50 for Cafod, for which we are most grateful.

Our grateful thanks also for the Offerings to our parish which have been made online

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

THE BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2021 is 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.

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

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B Mark) 6 December 2020

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

What do I want for Christmas?

How many times each year are we asked what we would like for Christmas?
How many times each year do we ask others what they would like to receive?
It's a good and often asked question, but what is a good, sincere Christian reply?

When I was young, my thoughts centred around what my 'Christmas Stocking' would contain. Almost certainly an apple and an orange and possibly a tube of fruit pastilles and some 'Jelly Babies'. My parents would usually have something like a toy or a box-game of some sort to give to my brother and me – which we would share. We never had the opportunity to ask for something for ourselves – that was never an option!

How times have changed!! From long before 'Black Friday' each year, the expectations of many people, including both the young and some of more mature years, reflect the affluence of our society generally and, in many households, the cry of 'I would like, please' has given way to a loud 'I want'.

As Christians, in the general purchasing stampede we should be mindful of the fraught needs of others locally and around the world, and, whilst being thankful for what presents we are given, we should always show a genuine concern for those who are less fortunate than we are ourselves. Christmas is a very good time to show our love of God and our neighbour, as we place our generosity to others ahead of our own personal wellbeing.

Maybe the question we should ask at this time is 'What do I want to do for God and my neighbour this Christmas?' It will give us plenty of food for thought!!

God bless.

Deacon Duncan

CHURCH HEATING SYSTEM: The new heating system, costing about £11,000, was installed in our church last week. It is an upgrade of the previous system with fan assisted radiators and includes putting new radiators in the church porch, Reconciliation room and the Sacristy. We are most grateful to a parishioner, who wishes to remain anonymous, who gave an extremely generous donation to our parish some time ago. Our Parish Finance Committee decided at the time that whilst there were no conditions attached to that donation, it would be fitting to keep it for a significant project in our parish. It has now paid for this heating system, from which and we can all benefit, thanks to our parishioner's generosity. Our thanks also goes to David Mansell for his guidance and direction of this project, as he has saved us a lot of extra costs. Over the past two years, David, with help of Claudia his wife, has created beautiful and much admired flowers and colour in the church grounds, bringing many compliments from people.

LIVESTREAMING MASSES: We are looking for a small group of people to help on a rota for livestreaming our Masses, especially as there are a number over the Christmas. The system has been set up and we hope to get a small group to share this responsibility. You'd only need to help every few weeks. You don't need to be a technical wizard, just someone comfortable with a laptop and to learn the system. Training and a step-by-step instructions will be given. Please contact Fr John if you can or are willing to 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 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: Unfortunately, we cannot hold our Christmas Market or Bazaar this year. However, we are holding a Christmas Raffle with some fantastic prizes after 11am Mass this Sunday. Tickets are on sale after 9am & 11am Masses. Thank you to the many parishioners who have donated prizes and to the following businesses for their support: Harold's Park Farm, Nazing, The Merry Fiddlers, Fiddlers Hamlet, Poppy's Café, Epping, Smiths of Epping, Epping Sports Centre, Epping Barber Shop, Cardzone, Epping, Piccola, Epping and Stevenette Estate Agents. In return for their generosity to our parish at a difficult time we encourage you to support their businesses. Special thanks to our parishioner who has raised a magnificent amount through the sale of her beautiful Christmas cakes and festive chocolate orange cosy gifts.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Regrettably, due to the limitations imposed by the current Covid restrictions, the annual Christmas lunch, held each year in our Hall, for those home alone at Christmas will not take place this year. Please pray for all those who will be denied this wonderful event this Christmas.

ADVENT CAROL CONCERT ONLINE - THIS Sunday, 6th December, at 4pm, and then available throughout Advent. You are warmly invited to join Walsingham House at Abbotswick chapel as they present a concert of carols and readings for Advent. The link is www.youtube.com/c/brentwoodcys and you will find more information at www.bcys.net. The concert is **free** and donations are welcome to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and the Trussell Trust (who support and run foodbanks across the Diocese).

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 Primary School for a very good education in a Catholic school. The school is consulting on its Admissions Policy for September 2022 entry in. If you think of applying for your child to go the school, or are interested in its Admissions Policy, visit the school's website at www.st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk and 'Admissions' section of to see the consultation document and you have a **Virtual Tour** of the school.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES, FRIENDS & PARISHIONERS ANNIVERSARIES: John Goodman (5/12), Hans Bengesser, Michael Mulligan, Fr Brian Drea (6/12), Mary Ivey, Fr Michael Healy (7/12), Michael O'Mahoney, Alfred Gill, Ron Smith Gaylor, Fr Bernard Pownall (8/12), Colin Saunders, Beverley Ziadie, Jack Lafford, Fr John Lane, Canon Anthony McKenty (9/12), Anthony Turner Gladys Long (10/12), Julia O'Mahoney, Sam Butcher, Margaret Power, Bill Collier, Nancy Thorpe (11/12), Fr Geoffrey Pye, Fr Eamonn Magrath (12/12), David Jolly, Marie Verrall, Elizabeth Evans, Fr George Carolan, Fr William Evers, Fr Francis Kerrigan. **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen all who mourn at this time.**

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

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 church or contact Nick on **07967726851**. It runs a befriending service for people to contact on **07708171116** for assistance or go to: <https://vaef.org.uk/covidresponse@vaef.org.uk>

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

CHANGES TO OUR MASS BOOKING SYSTEM

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 in our church, i.e.60. 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 telephone on 01992 577173 or email at: duncanjcwhitehouse@gmail.com Deacon Duncan will notify you if we are over-subscribed at a particular Mass. The 5pm deadline for booking will allow time for you to make alternative arrangements to attend weekend Mass elsewhere if necessary, and for people to come to Mass in our church when we are limited in the numbers we can accommodate.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Our Christmas Masses in Epping will be on:

**CHRISTMAS EVE: Thursday 24th December at:
12 noon, 6.00pm and 8.00pm**

**CHRISTMAS DAY: Friday, 25th December at:
9.00am and 11.00am**

As there is a limit on the numbers allowed in our church, people have to book for the Masses they wish to attend. **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

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.

PARISHIONERS COMING TO MASS & STREAMING

CATHOLIC PARISH OF EPPING **The Immaculate Conception**

HOW TO STREAM SUNDAY MASS AT 11am at HOME

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,