

**WE WELCOME PEOPLE TO MASS IN OUR CHURCH on Sundays & weekdays, subject to regulations. It is necessary to book a place in Church for a weekend Mass. THIRD (GAUDETE or REJOICING) SUNDAY IN ADVENT B 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm BAPTISM: Alfie Ace Butler  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Georgina Fernandes RIP Anniv. (Murray)  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 9.00am The People of our Parish  
December 2020 11.00am David Jolly RIP Anniv (Jolly)  
You can join in our 11am Sunday Mass, which is streamed and online – details inside.

Monday St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor  
14 December 9.15am In thanksgiving (Crouch)  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.15am Deceased members of Ives Family (Ives)  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Fiona Garnier RIP (Crouch)  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Private intention  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.15am Helen Moloney RIP

**FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT B EXPECTANT MOTHERS DAY 13 Dec 2020**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Lucia Winn RIP Recently (Coward)  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Giovanni Borelli RIP Anniv. (Mansell)  
December 2020 11.00am The People of our Parish

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on request to the Parish Priest**

**MASS READINGS: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year B 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

ISAIAH 61:1-11 I Exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God

PSALM LUKE 1:46-54 My soul rejoices in my God

1THESSALONIANS 5:16-24 May you all be kept safe, for the coming of the Lord

JOHN 1:6-28 There stands amongst you, the one (Jesus) who is coming after me

**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/](http://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/)**

**MASS AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: [www.churchservices.tv/westminster](http://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](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopstortford)**

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

**OFFERTORIES:** Thank you for your generous Offerings of £800 in Standing Orders and £192 at church last weekend. Our thanks also for the £1368 raised for our parish in the Christmas Draw – see note and list of prize winners inside. You can also make online Offerings to our parish at: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping/](https://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 comprehensive details of the parishes, churches and times of Masses, schools and the Liturgical Calendar, etc.

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE** paper is available in the porch! We can no longer supply it free but if you wish to order a copy please contact our Parish Office. Otherwise, we will have to terminate the supply of the paper at this time.

## 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](mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)

Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

**THIRD: GAUDETE or REJOICING SUNDAY in ADVENT B 13.12.2020**

*Dear friends,*

John the Baptist said, "I am, as Isaiah prophesied, a voice that cries out in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord" (John 1:6-28). The musical, Godspell, opens with a haunting song, accompanied by the sound of a ram's horn, that calls on people and on us to, "Prepare Ye, the Way of the Lord". Advent is our time to respond to that call to prepare the Way of the Lord. While Jesus came into our world as a powerless dependant infant two thousand years ago, he wishes to come anew into our world again, "every day, every hour and every moment".

Some Christians call themselves as "born again Christians" and in a way they take up the words of Jesus who said, "Unless one is born of water and the Holy Spirit, s/he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven" (John 3:5). The kingdom of heaven came amongst us when Jesus was born into the world and he proclaimed it in his teaching and ministry. When parents are expecting a child they make prepare for their child to be welcomed into their home and family. When as Christians think of the Jesus, the Christ child, being born, we do not think of it just as a historical event, but as something that is present to us here and now, and we desire to welcome him into our world, our home, our heart and our lives.

Parents welcome Jesus into their child's life by presenting the child for Baptism or Christening, which means that s/he becomes like Christ and is adopted into God's family. Adults, with the help of God's grace at work in their lives, prepare with formation for their Baptism and grow in relationship with God as their Father and Creator, Jesus as their brother and Saviour, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier who lives in our hearts. Preparing the Way for that relationship is important not only at that time, but it needs to be sustained by being renewed constantly.

This has been a difficult year for people, at home and abroad, with the dangers and spread of the Coronavirus. The lockdowns and restrictions on association and movement have involved sacrifices and stress for many people. In that context we think of the words that open many of our prayers, like the Divine Office or Prayer of the Church, and the Rosary: "O God, come to our aid, O Lord, make haste to help us". God came to our aid in the person of Jesus on the first Christmas and he constantly comes to our aid in our trials and difficulties. That is the cause of our joy on this Rejoicing Sunday. So, we ask him, who promised to be with us always to be Saviour to his people at this time. *May God bless and protect you. Fr John*

**CHRISTMAS MASSES AT EPPING CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL BE ON:**

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY: Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> 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 CHRISTMAS MASS they wish to attend. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

**LIVESTREAMING MASSES:** We need a small group of people to help livestream our Masses on a rota basis, especially as we have a number of Masses over Christmas. The system has been set up and we hope to get a small group to share this responsibility. You 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 step-by-step instructions will be given. Please contact Fr John if you can or are willing to help!

**PLEASE HELP AS A STEWARD OR USHER IN OUR CHURCH:** This is a simple but necessary role to ensure we comply with regulations to keep people safe in our church. If you can help on a rota, please contact our Parish Office on 01992 572516 or email [admin@eppingparish.plus.com](mailto:admin@eppingparish.plus.com) or drop a note into the Parish Office.

**WE ESPECIALLY NEED MORE USHERS TO HELP AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES – PLEASE LET FR JOHN KNOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST.**

**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:** Many thanks to Adriana, Emma & Nina for all their hard work in organising the **Parish Raffle** that took place last week. The magnificent sum of **£1368** (including **£172** on Christmas cakes and gifts) was raised for our parish. Thank you to all our parishioners who supported this fundraising effort and to businesses in the town who gave prizes. The lucky prize winners were: John Ryan, Claudia Mansell, Petrassi, Terry Stokes, Mary Vine, Kay Podevin, Patricia, Junior Vianna, Mary Lawson, Karen Bennett, Johns Family, Jurgita Scavera, Antony Steel, Patricia, Noel Holland & Maciej Laskowski.

**CHURCH CLEANING & SANITISING AT CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Our church will need cleaning & sanitising after each of the Christmas Masses. With enough volunteers it should only take 20 minutes. We would be really grateful for parishioners help to clean so that the church will be ready for the next Christmas Mass & people be able to enter safely.

**PARISH WEBSITE:** Unfortunately we have had problems with the running of our parish website which prevented any updates being posted recently. Our thanks to Nick Duggan who worked so efficiently to get this fixed for us in the past week.

**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH:** Regrettably, the Christmas lunch, held in our Hall over many years, for those home alone at Christmas, cannot be held this year due to the limitations imposed by Covid regulations. Please pray for all who cannot have this wonderful event this Christmas.

**THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS:** Fr Adrian Graffy, Parish Priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared a series of reflections on the 'Christmas Gospels', the gospel texts read from 17<sup>th</sup> December until 6<sup>th</sup> January. Video of the talks can be accessed by going to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**USED POSTAGE STAMPS AT CHRISTMAS:** Please save postage stamps off Christmas Cards at Christmas (and throughout the year) and place them in the box at the **bottom of the bookcase in our Church Porch**. The stamps are delivered to St Clare Hospice at Hastingwood, where they sell them for Hospice Funds... a very worthwhile charitable donation. (Any queries to Deacon Duncan)

**USED AND DISCARDED SPECTACLES:** Please let us send these spectacles for recovery and future use in developing countries. A retired Optician and member of the local Rotary Club collects discarded spectacles and sends them to organised workshops inside a secure prison, where people process them before sending them abroad to various needy countries. As long as the lenses are in good condition/ the recovered spectacles offer the opportunity of improved sight to someone with poor sight. (Any queries to Deacon Duncan)

**PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES, FRIENDS & PARISHIONERS ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Geoffrey Pye, Fr Eamonn Magrath (12/12), David Jolly, Marie Verrall, Elizabeth Evans, Fr George Carolan, Fr William Evers, Fr Francis Kerrigan (13/12), Fr Gerald Kerr (14/12), Mary McEvoy (15/12), Reginald Ivey (16/12), Paulette Jarrold (18/12), Fr William Guinevan (20/12). **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 all who mourn.**

**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** **Send Messages to Loved Ones in hospital.** Family members and friends of inpatients can send or collate personal messages to [paht.messagetoalovedone@nhs.net](mailto:paht.messagetoalovedone@nhs.net) A special 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**. Details from [paht.virtualvisiting@nhs.net](http://paht.virtualvisiting@nhs.net)

**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 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](https://youtube.com/channel/UCAbSuwE8X5AOaugAT35hREw)

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



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

**Booking to attend Mass at Christmas 2020**

**IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU BOOK TO ATTEND MASS IN OUR CHURCH ON SUNDAYS AND AT CHRISTMAS**

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic regulations the capacity of our church for people attending Mass is limited to 55, where people are from the same household, or 23 individuals. To avoid the possibility of people coming to church only to be told it is full and one cannot go in, it is most important to book a place at a particular Mass.

1. Many parishioners already book their place to attend the normal Saturday and Sunday Masses. Booking a place at Mass also applies to the Masses on Christmas Eve at 12 noon, 6.00pm and 8.00pm and to the Christmas Day Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am.
2. To book your place(s) to attend a particular Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day please inform Deacon Duncan as soon as possible and preferably not later than Monday evening, 21<sup>st</sup> December.
3. It is also important to book a place(s) to attend Mass on Saturday evenings or Sundays. If you state that you are going to attend that particular Mass every weekend, your name will be put on the list permanently for that Mass. If however you are not coming to that Mass on a particular weekend(s) it is important that you notify us so that places that are free can be allocated to other parishioners.
4. Please notify Deacon Duncan by 5pm on the previous Friday evening for attendance at a weekend Mass on Saturday at 6pm or on Sunday at 9am or 11am. Bookings for multiple weekends can be made at the same time. If you are changing or cancelling a booking you have made for a particular Mass, please do so by Friday at 5pm.
5. To make bookings for Christmas or weekend Masses, change or cancel a booking telephone **Deacon Duncan at:** 01992 577173 or email: [duncanjcwhitehouse@gmail.com](mailto:duncanjcwhitehouse@gmail.com) or Deacon Duncan will contact you if we are over-subscribed for a particular Mass. The 5pm deadline for bookings on Fridays allows time for you to make other arrangements to attend another Mass here or at another Church.