

WELCOME TO MASS IN OUR CHURCH on Sundays & weekdays. People must comply with covid regulations in keeping social distance, sanitise hands and wear a mask. It is necessary to book a place in Church for Christmas and weekend Masses.

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT B EXPECTANT MOTHERS DAY 20 Dec 2020

Saturday 19th 6.00pm Lucia Winn RIP Recently (Coward)

Sunday 20th 9.00am Giovanni Borelli RIP Anniv. (Mansell)

December 2020 11.00am The People of our Parish

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

Monday 21st Dec 9.15am Deceased of the Jolly Family RIP

Tuesday 22nd 9.15am Collette Stevenage RIP Recently (Sr Susan)

Wednesday 23rd 12 noon The Crouch Family RIP (Crouch)

THURSDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE: THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

24th December 12 noon First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Masses 6.00pm Deceased of Lennon & Lechley Families RIP (Lechley)

will be streamed 8.00pm Private intention

FRIDAY: CHRISTMAS DAY: THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

25th December 9.00am Fr John Ryan RIP (McAdam)

11.00am The People of our Parish

Saturday 26th December: St Stephen, Deacon & First Christian Martyr

10.00am John McInerney RIP Anniv (McInerney)

SUNDAY 27th FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

December 2020 9.00am Rosa Rahina RIP Recently (Slee)

11.00am The People of our Parish

LATIN MASS 3.00pm Christmas Latin Mass sung according traditional rite

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on request to the Parish Priest

MASS READINGS: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year B 27th December 2020

2 SAMUEL 7:1-16 The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord

PSALM 88:2-29 I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

ROMANS 16:25-27 The mystery that was kept secret for ages is now revealed

LUKE 1:26-38 Mary, you are to conceive and bear a son, and name him Jesus

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 of £800 in Standing Orders

and £495.50 plus £240 for CAFOD at church last weekend. You can also make online

Offerings to our parish 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 comprehensive details of the parishes, churches and times of Masses, schools and the Liturgical Calendar, etc.

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 & Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT B Expectant Mother's Day 20.12.2020

Dear friends,

The angel Gabriel said: "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called son of the Most High" (Luke 1:26-38). The joyful mysteries of the Rosary, present us with key events of our faith on God coming into the world and becoming man. We celebrate the Annunciation today and see Gabriel coming to Mary and inviting her who is "full of grace" to be the mother of the Son of God. Mary is perplexed about this invitation and asks, "How can this come about, since I am a virgin?" The angel answers her saying: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God".

In Christian tradition we believe that when a woman conceives, the creative power of God is at work in the life and relationship of the parents. The Sunday leading up to the Birth of Jesus is named by the church as Expectant Mother's Sunday, when the church honours Expectant Mothers, prays for them and sees them as sharing with Mary in a journey of bringing new life into the world. Mothers who are expecting a child are recognised as being worthy of protection and honour.

Mary and her husband, Joseph's journey to the birth of her Son fraught with anxieties and difficulties. Joseph who knows he is not the father of child that Mary is expecting, is thinking of ending their relationship. In a dream an angel tells Joseph to "Take Mary home as your wife" and so we see that Joseph as well as Mary being open to receive the Word of God and respond to God's plan for them. Here is a model for all of us in thinking about the way we deal with difficulties and problems in life and relationships. A key question is not what do I or someone I love want in a self-centred way, but what does God want for us - which is surely the best! In these last days of Advent, as we make our journey to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas, may we be strong in our faith that the Lord is with us, as he was with Mary and Joseph, and wishes to be born anew in our heart.

We are coming to end of a difficult year that has brought problems and much pain to many people with the pandemic and its consequences. At Christmas we ask Christ the Saviour and Prince of Peace to touch the lives of all who have been affected or troubled to give them comfort, healing and peace.

May the Lord bless and protect you and your loved ones. Fr John

CHRISTMAS MASSES at EPPING CATHOLIC CHURCH 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**

There is a limit on the numbers allowed in our church, so, you have to book for a CHRISTMAS MASS you wish to attend. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

For important changes to the Mass booking system – please see separate notice. Our bishops recognise that there will be difficulties for people to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. So, they encourage people to go to any Mass they can attend in Christmas week or during the Christmas season

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 simple but necessary role ensures 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 or drop a note into the Priest's House. **WE URGENTLY NEED MORE USHERS TO HELP AT CHRISTMAS MASSES: PLEASE let Fr John or our Parish Office know if you can help.**

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/>

CHURCH CLEANING & SANITISING AT CHRISTMAS MASSES: Our church will need cleaning & sanitising after each Christmas Mass. With enough volunteers it would take only 20 minutes. We would be grateful for parishioners help to clean so that the church will be safe and ready for the next Christmas Mass.

TRADITIONAL LATIN SUNG CHRISTMAS MASS: A Latin Mass according to the Traditional Rite will be offered at our Church next Sunday **27th December** at 3pm. The celebrant will be Mgr Gordon Read. Current regulations will be observed

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.

PRAY FOR DECEASED RELATIVES, FRIENDS & PARISHIONERS: ANNIVERSARIES: Fr William Guinevan, David Sebire (20/12), Brigid Nix, Joseph Hawes, Margaret Munday, Fr Arthur Cowd (22/12), Len Pegrum, Bishop Brian Foley (23/12), Anthony Matthews, Betty O'Mahoney (24/12), John O'Leary, Joyce DeBoise (25/12), Fr Francis Greenan (26/26), Muriel Matthews, Dorothy Knight, Fr Francis Wilson (27/12). **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 heal them with the power of his Holy Spirit.

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 17th December to 6th January. Video of the talks can be accessed at 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)

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 poster in church or contact Nick on **07967726851**. People can contact its befriending service on **07708171116** for assistance or go to: <https://vae.org.uk/covidresponse@vae.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 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

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA POSTERS: Please take a poster, remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

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

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.

Booking to attend Sunday Mass and 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, 21st 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: duncanjcjwhitehouse@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.