

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

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December: ST STEPHEN, Deacon & First Christian Martyr

10.00am John McInerney RIP Anniv (McInerney)

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 27 December 2020**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Lucia Winn RIP Recently (Coward)

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Rosa Rahma RIP Recently (Slee)

December 2020 11.00am The People of our Parish **(This Mass will be streamed)**

LATIN MASS 3.00pm Christmas Latin Mass sung according traditional rite

**You can join in our 11am Mass on Sundays, that is streamed online – details inside.**

Monday The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

28<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am Sr Susan Asher's intentions (Palmer)

Tuesday: St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop & Martyr & Patron of English Clergy

29<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am Judy Atkins RIP Recently (Poole)

Wednesday Sixth day in the octave of Christmas

30<sup>th</sup> December 12 noon Justin, Sandra, Joshua & Phoebe Protero (Prothero)

Thursday Seventh day in the octave of Christmas

31<sup>st</sup> December 20 10.00am Mary Nihill RIP Recently (Poole)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

January 2021 12 noon Duncan & Dorothy Whitehouse's intentions **Note time**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY Year B 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.00pm Francesca Bergonzi RIP (Bergonzi)

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.00am Tullia & Giovanni Borelli RIP (Mansell)

January 2021 11.00am The People of our Parish **(This Mass will be streamed)**

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

**MASS READINGS: THE HOLY FAMILY: JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH B 27.12.20**

ECCLESIASTICUS 3:2-14 Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents

PSALM 127 O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

COLOSSIANS 3:12-21 Family life and Christian relationships in and with the Lord

LUKE 2:22-40 The child, Jesus, grew in grace and favour, with God and people

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

**LOOK SHEETS for young children are available in the church 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/>**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS & GIFTS: Thank you for your Offerings on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

December of **£800** in standing orders, **£330.55** in Church and **£10** for CAFOD. Offerings

in church on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day in our Diocese are personal gifts by

parishioners to support the priest(s) of their parish. Thank you for your generous offerings

at Christmas and for the many Christmas Cards, greetings, and gifts in this holy season of

Christmas. *May the Lord bless and protect you and your families. Fr John*

## **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**

**THE HOLY FAMILY: JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 27 December 2020**

*Dear friends,*

“When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord” (Luke 2:22-40). Today as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth, we think not only of the problems and difficulties they faced but also the stresses and challenges many families face in our time. This past year with the threats from the coronavirus and the lockdowns has been very difficult for many families. Some have had to struggle in limited accommodation and are unable to go out feel an intensity of stress on being cooped up together. Family members in care homes are deprived of family visits to sustain their contact, relationships and emotional and mental wellbeing. Others families who live in areas of war and conflict, oppression and discrimination move out to join the world's vast procession of refugees and asylum seekers and leave everything perhaps even to lose their life.

Looking at the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we see people in our time can identify with them. Mary and Joseph did not have a privileged existence but had to struggle with poverty and escape as refugees to Egypt in order to protect the life of their child, Jesus, who was in danger of being killed by king Herod. However, at the beginning of their child's life they bring him up to the temple in Jerusalem to present and dedicate him to the Lord and for the service of God. At a Baptism I think the journey parents make in bringing their child to church for Baptism is a parallel spiritual journey to what Mary and Joseph made as they brought their child to the Temple and presented him to God for dedication.

We see too the goodness of human nature in adverse circumstances as many take risks in difficult situations to care for and help others, especially the vulnerable. The holy man, Simeon, desired to see God come to people at a sad time. As he interceded and prayed for people, we need to follow his example and intercede for those in pain or who suffer in some way. We first belong to our own family, but we also belong to God's family in the church and to the wider human family. As we receive much from each one of these, we also have the responsibility to contribute to and strengthen each of them with our acts of service and our prayer.

As we come to the end of this year, I wish to thank you for your prayerful support, active help and care during the year. *I wish you and your families a very safe, healthy and happy New Year. May God especially bless & protect you. Fr John*

**LIVESTREAMING MASSES:** Our thanks to Shea Lolin who set up and operates the streaming of Mass from our Church on Sundays at 11am and Christmas. We need a few people to help livestream our Masses. The system has been set up, so we just need a small group to share the responsibility on a rota basis. You only need to help every few weeks. You don't need to be a technical wizard, just someone comfortable with a laptop and able to learn the system. Training and step-by-step instructions will be given. Please contact Fr John or the Parish Office if you can or are willing to help!

**PLEASE HELP AS A STEWARD OR USHER IN CHURCH:** Our thanks to the stewards & ushers who have ensured we comply with regulations in church over the past several months and at Christmas. **This necessary role ensures we comply with regulations to keep people safe in church. Please contact our Parish Office, if you can help: email [admin@eppingparish.plus.com](mailto:admin@eppingparish.plus.com) or phone 01992 572516.**

**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/>

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

**PARISH REGISTER** Many thanks to Peter Day who very willingly and diligently delivered our Parish Christmas Card to the homes of Catholics in our parish. If you did not have one delivered to you it is possible that we do not have your correct address, or you are not registered in our Parish. Please, complete a Parish Register Form, that is available at the back of the Church, and return it to the Priest's House.

**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 to 6<sup>th</sup> January. Video of the talks can be accessed at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

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

**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.

**OUR GRATITUDE** to parishioners for their prayerful support and work in our parish community over the year. Many do much in ways that are often not seen and we are indebted to them. We have Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Church Cleaning, Sacristan, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers & visitors to Care Homes & hospitals, Servers & MC, Children's Liturgy, Holy Communion Catechists, singers & musicians, ushers and counters, laundry, Flower Arrangers and Gardening, Repository, Rota organisers, Parish Council, Finance Committee and fundraisers, Hall Committee, the Crib, Christmas & Easter cards delivery, St Vincent de Paul Society, hospitality & refreshments. Whilst many of these activities have been suspended for much of this year, we are all grateful to our parishioners who carry out these activities and services on our behalf and for us.

**WE PRAY FOR DECEASED RELATIVES, FRIENDS & PARISHIONERS**  
**MRS IRENE BASSETT RIP, who died on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December.** Funeral arrangements pending and subject to covid regulations. **May she rest in peace.**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** John McInerney, Fr Francis Greenan (26/26), Dorothy Knight, Muriel Matthews, Fr Francis Wilson (27/12), Maria & Otto Ekhorst, Sean Hayes, Kathleen Lynch, Eileen O'Loughlin (28/12), Patrick Matthews, John Delaney, Edith Maynard, Mary Canny (29/12), Viviana DuCasse, Michael Long, Canon John Byrne (30/12), Fr Brian Reeves (31/12), Thomas Moohan, Martin Melia, Madeline Turner (1/1), Bert Marsh (3/1). **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen**

**We our our sympathy to and prayers for all who mourn and pray that the Lord sends his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen them.**

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL AND CARE HOMES:** May the Lord send the healing power of his Holy Spirit down upon them and may he free them from every ill of mind, body and spirit. Through the ministry of all care for them, may he bless, protect and heal them.

**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)

**BRENTWOOD 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 Mass times, prayer groups, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies, religious orders and the Liturgical Calendar for the year, etc.

## CATHOLIC PARISH OF EPPING The Immaculate Conception

### HOW TO STREAM MASS at HOME

**Sunday Masses at 11am in our Church are live streamed. The live stream from Epping Catholic Church will be on You Tube .**

You do not need a Youtube account to watch. Using a laptop, computer or mobile phone, you can 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 or tablet) to watch the streaming on your television.

To view the Mass 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 have difficulty, type the URL (web address) 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 :



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

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## BOOKING TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS AT EPPING CATHOLIC CHURCH

### IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU BOOK TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS

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 being told on coming to church that it is full and one cannot go in, it is most important to book a place at a particular Mass.

1. It is important to book a place(s) to attend Mass on a Saturday evening or Sunday. If you will attend that Mass every weekend, your name will be put on the list permanently for that Mass. If you cannot come to that Mass on a weekend(s) it is important that you notify us so that places that are free can be allocated to others.
2. Please notify Deacon Duncan by 5pm on the previous Friday 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.
3. To make bookings for weekend Masses, change or cancel a booking email **Deacon Duncan** at [duncanjcjwhitehouse@gmail.com](mailto:duncanjcjwhitehouse@gmail.com) or phone 01992 577173. If we are over-subscribed for a particular Mass, he will contact you. The 5pm deadline for bookings on Fridays allows time for you to make other arrangements and free up a place for others.

### PRAYER IN TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us, You sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and bodies. Look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in many regions of Europe and the world, turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief. Deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers, grant eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the time of trial but deliver us from all evil. We ask this of Thee, who with **your** Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

**Mary, mother of health and hope of the sick, pray for us!**