

WELCOME TO MASS IN CHURCH on Sundays & weekdays. You must book for Mass in Church at weekend Masses. See below to comply with current regulations.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (B) 3rd January 2021

Saturday 2nd 6.00pm Francesca Bergonzi RIP (Bergonzi)
Sunday 3rd 9.00am Tullia & Giovanni Borelli RIP (Mansell)
January 2021 11.00am The People of our Parish (This Mass will be streamed)

You can join in our 11am Sunday Masses which are streamed online – details inside.

Monday 4th 9.15am Lee Pomeroy RIP Anniv. & Family
Tuesday 5th 9.15am John & Jean Adshead's intentions

WEDNESDAY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6th January 10.00am Sr Susan Asher's intentions
The Epiphany 8.00pm Sr Bridget Scannell's intentions
Thursday 7th 9.15am The People of our Parish
Friday 8th 9.15am Mrs Patricia Scannell's intentions

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B) SUNDAY, 10th January 2021

Saturday 9th 6.00pm The People of our Parish
Sunday 3rd 9.00am The Toohey Family
January 2021 11.00am The Crowley Family

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on request to the Parish Priest

MASS READINGS: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY B 3.1.2021

ECCLESIASTICUS 24:1-12 Wisdom opens her mouth to speak and glories in God

PSALM 147 The Word was made flesh and lived amongst us

EPHESIANS 1:3-18 God determined we should become his children through Jesus

JOHN 1:1-18 The Word (Jesus) was made flesh, and he lived amongst us.

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/bishopstortford

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

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your Offerings of **£800** last week in standing orders and **£177.80** in Church, **£50** for the Christmas Draw, and two donations of **£50** for our parish, and **£200** to CAFOD. Thank you for your generous offerings at the Christmas Masses, that are personal from parishioners to their priest(s) in our Diocese. Thank you also for your great kindness with the many Christmas Cards, greetings, and gifts to me at Christmas.

I wish you all a blessed, happy and very safe New Year. Fr John

STAY SAFE IN CHURCH: We have heard churches are being checked to ensure correct procedures are followed to prevent the spread of Covid19. Cleaning and ventilation are essential. Twice in the past week, our Diocese has sent us instructions to protect people and limit the spread of this dangerous virus. In Epping Forest, we are in the most infected area of England - Thurrock and Brentwood are next. Everyone must wear a mask or a face covering in church, except when reading. We must sanitise our hands as we enter and leave church, keep social distance of 2 meters (6 feet), not interact with people who are not in our group, inside or outside church, scan the QR code or register our attendance for track and trace as we enter the church. If you have tested positive for Covid19, or been instructed to quarantine, or display Covid like symptoms, you must not come to church.

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY 3rd JANUARY 2021

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

After 9 months of particular difficulties, I pray that we may all have peace and well-being during 2021.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear the prologue of St John's Gospel, which we heard during Mass on Christmas Day and which is now proclaimed anew to give us a timely reminder of just how wonderful and powerful is our God. We hear of His miracles on behalf of mankind from the time of the creation of the universe up to and including the birth of Jesus. During this time of Tier 4 pandemic restrictions, it would be time well spent if we can return to John 1: 1-18 to savour the miracle of creation and to marvel at the infinite magnitude of God's achievement – all for us as his chosen people!

It is good to realise that God needs each of us to play our part as his 'foot-soldier' in the growth and development of his earthly kingdom. In his goodness, we have been allocated a specific task to perform for him in our lives; we might call it 'our way of life'. This responsibility is non-transferrable to someone else. If we do not carry our allotted tasks they will simply not be done and God will be 'sold short'! It is for us to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in fulfilling our given responsibility.

Perhaps we might soon be able to return to some form of normality in our lives with the prospect of being able to meet again at Mass and savour each other's company in the real presence of God in the Sacrament. Meanwhile, we pray that normality may return to our way of life and peace and contentment may return to our lives.

We pray that God will bless us and keep us safe from the virus.

Deacon Duncan

HELP LIVESTREAM MASS: We need a number of people to help live-stream our Masses on a rota basis. The system has been set up but we need people to share the process. You only need to help every few weeks. You don't need to be a technical wizard, just at ease with a laptop and able to follow a system. Training and step-by-step instructions will be given. Please contact Fr John if you can help!

PLEASE HELP AS A STEWARD / USHER IN CHURCH: We thank our ushers & stewards who ensure we comply with covid19 regulations in church and we need more people with this role to **keep people safe in church. Please contact our Parish Office, if you can help: email admin@eppingparish.plus.com or phone 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/>

PARISH ADDRESSES Our thanks to Peter Day who delivered our Parish Christmas Card to the homes of Catholics in our parish. If you did not have a Parish Christmas Card delivered to you, it is possible you have not registered in our Parish or we do not have your correct address. Some have been returned to us where people moved.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS: Please complete a Parish Register Form if you are new to our parish, changed your address, or not had a Parish Christmas card delivered to you. Forms are available at the back of the Church, and when completed should be returned to the Priest's House, so that we keep our Parish Register up-to-date.

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

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

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>

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

WE PRAY FOR DECEASED RELATIVES, FRIENDS & PARISHIONERS
MRS IRENE BASSETT RIP who died on Friday, 18 December. She will be received into our church for the celebration of Requiem Mass at 10.15am on Friday, 15 January, to be followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. Funeral arrangements are subject to covid regulations. **May she rest in peace.**

ANNIVERSARIES: Bert Marsh (3rd), Canon Patrick McKenna (4th), Sheila Hayes, Elsie Clayton, Fr Francis Heenan (5th), Patricia O'Callaghan, Carmen Reith, Dan O'Halloran, Ann Stewart, (6th), Canon John Bloomfield, Patricia McGrath (7th), David Asher, Patricia Hair (8th), Ernesto Bungay (9th), Anne Condon (10th). **Eternal rest grant unto to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen**
We 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 & CARE HOMES:
May the Lord send the healing power of his Holy Spirit down upon them and free them from every ill of mind, body and spirit. Through the ministry of all care for them, may he protect, bless 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 & DISCARDED SPECTACLES: Please let us send these spectacles for recovery and future use in developing countries. A retired Optician and member of Epping Rotary Club collects discarded spectacles to send them to organised workshops inside a secure prison, where people process them before sending them abroad to 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 who may not be able to afford glasses. (Queries to Deacon Duncan).

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL **Send Messages to Loved Ones in hospital.** Family members and friends of inpatients can send or collate personal messages to paht.messagestoalovedone@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

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE is on sale in the porch! We can no longer supply it free but if you wish to order it please contact our Parish Office..

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 and hospitals and chaplaincies, religious orders and the Liturgical Calendar, etc.

LOOK SHEETS for young children are available in church for collection

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 a built in speaker. 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

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.

AUSTEN IVEREIGH LIVESTREAM EVENT: On Saturday 30th January from 11 am to 12.30pm Dr Austen Ivereigh will speak on the book he recently co-authored with Pope Francis. *'Let us Dream'* presents the Pope's vision for the post-pandemic future. How should we move forward from the multiple coronavirus crises? To access this livestream event please go to www.ssppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. The event, is sponsored by Gidea Park parish in conjunction with Brentwood Interfaith, will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org Questions for Austen may be emailed to adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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 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!