

WELCOME TO CHURCH on weekdays & Sundays. To attend Mass in our Church at weekends, you need to book. Please change or cancel your booking if you will not attend the Mass you have booked, so as to free up a place for another person.

FEAST: St JOSEPH THE WORKER, Day of Prayer for human work 1st May 21

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B **2nd May 2021**

Saturday 1 May 6.00pm The People of our Parish

Sunday 2nd May 9.00am Pat Rimmer RIP Recently (Whitehouse) **Live streamed**

Live streamed 11.00am Joseph Stephenson RIP Recently (Vine-Morris)

Evening Mass - 5.00pm Special intention (DB)

Monday 3rd May **St Philip & St James, Apostles**

10.00am Special intention (J)

Tuesday 4th **The English Martyrs**

9.15am John Hudson RIP Recently (Scannell)

Wednesday 5th 12 noon Matt Conrad's intentions (Palmer)

Thursday 6th **St John Payne, Priest & Martyr of Essex**

9.15am Holy Souls RIP

Friday 7th 12 noon Pat Rimmer RIP Recently (Christie)

Saturday 8 May 12 noon Baptism: Niamh Mary Etherington

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B **2nd May 2021**

Saturday 8 May 6.00pm Matthias McGrath RIP

Sunday 9th May 9.00am Mary Collier

Live streamed 11.00am The People of our Parish

5.00pm Private intention

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: on request to the Parish Priest

MASS READINGS FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER **2nd May 2021**

ACTS 9:26-31 Barnabas explained how the Lord appeared to Saul (Paul)

PSALM 21 You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

1JOHN 3:18-24 His commands are that we believe in his Son & love one another

JOHN 15:1-8 Jesus said: "I am the vine. You are the branches".

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

DAILY SERVICES WITH MASS: www.churchservices.tv/timetable/

Daily Mass at Westminster Cathedral: www.churchservices.tv/westminster/

Daily Mass at Leigh-on-Sea: Our Lady of Lourdes Church at <https://lourdesleigh.org/>

St. Joseph English Martyrs Bishops Stortford www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford/

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 in standing orders and last weekend £334.57 (£168 in envelopes and £166.57 loose) and £10 CAFOD. You can hand in Offerings to the Priest's House or make your donations online to our Parish at: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=epping///

FROM THIS SUNDAY 2nd May, we will have Mass at 5pm on Sundays as well as the 9am & 11am Masses. This may help relieve the pressure for places at Sunday morning Masses - its continuation will depend on the attendance. This gives an additional choice for people to attend Mass. **We also urgently need people to help as stewards/ushers at this & other Masses. Please contact Fr John if you can help.**

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

2nd May 2021

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; but cut off from me you can do nothing" (John 15:1-8). With the coming of spring, new life is blooming all around us in nature. Beautiful flowers, the blossoms and green on the trees, show God's creativeness and loveliness. Jesus uses the image of the Vine, that gives life to its branches to show that he gives life to each person who is a member of his body, the Church. Last Sunday Jesus gave us the image of himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) who looks after his flock and lays down his life for them. Today we have Jesus as the vine, who gives new life and joy to people. Just as we have the new life in spring following death in nature in winter; so too we have the new life of grace at Easter through Christ's resurrection, following his death on Good Friday.

If we are to share in the new life of grace we must live according to God's law, for Christ tells us, "Anyone loves me, will keep my commandments". Some claim to be Christian, but advocate beliefs and live in ways that are opposed to Christ and his law. As we recognise God's call to be holy, we struggle with our human weakness and our conscience tells us that we fail. In these situations we confess our sins, and seek Christ's forgiveness so as to be reconciled to God and one another. It is illogical to say that one is a committed Christian (meaning: in a communion of mind and heart with Christ), but oppose by word or way of life his teachings. We live in God and he lives in us by keeping his commandments that (1Jn.3:24).

By our Baptism we are joined to Christ, the true vine and in receiving him in Holy Communion we enter into an intimacy and communion with him, that surpasses the intimacy between husband and wife in marriage. We need, therefore, to receive Christ with a view to living in a relationship of love with him, continuously. In Holy Communion, he comes into our life with love, and makes his home in us. To complete the circle of love in our relationship with Christ and others, we must make our spiritual home and way of life in him.

May Christ, the true Vine, bless you with his life-giving love. Fr John

HELP AS A STEWARD/USHER IN OUR CHURCH: We are most grateful to our Stewards & Ushers in church who help us keep safe and by complying with the Covid regulations. We need more helpers for this important role to keep people safe and especially for the extra Mass on Sundays at 5pm. **If you can help, please contact our Parish Office: email 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 would like to join the group, please click on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/26415423943/?ref=share/>

HELP FOR SHOPPING etc. Parishioners and local people who need prescriptions collected, something from the shops, letters posted or someone to chat to on the phone, please call the Priest's House on **01992 572516** and Fr John will put you in touch with a willing helper who will assist you.

TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION Please lower your mask as you near the altar. When Holy Communion is placed in your hand, immediately put it into your mouth with the other hand, to avoid the danger of losing a particle.

CHILDRENS LITURGY: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

MY DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS for Infant & Junior children in church porch

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY has charity places for the **Virtual London Marathon** taking place over 24 hours on **3rd October 2021**. This can be run anywhere. On completion, runners will receive the official London Marathon Finisher's medal and New Balance T shirt. If you would like one of our places and can raise a fundraising total of £300, please email Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk for details.

THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: Pope Francis has declared a year of St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, from the 8 December 2020, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, to same Feast this year. This **Saturday 1st May**, is the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, He was a father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work. A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family, "St Joseph teaches us "the value, the dignity and joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour." This aspect of Joseph's character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become a "burning social issue" even in countries with a certain level of well-being. "There is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron," the Pope writes. Work, he says, "is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion." Those who work, he explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Pope Francis encourages everyone "to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new "normal" from which no one is excluded. "Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "review our priorities" and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!"

RECENTLY DECEASED: **JOHN FRANCIS HASSEY RIP**, who died on **Tuesday 15th April**. **May he rest in peace and rise in glory**. His Funeral will on celebrated on **Friday 7th May** at Greenacres Woodland Burial Park. **We offer our sympathy to and prayers for his family and for the repose of his soul. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console and strengthen them.**

ANNIVERSARIES: Pamela Anderson (1/5), John Curran, Fr John Kennedy, Mary Carter (2/5), Duncan Wilkie, Margaret Smith-Galer (3/5), Cleonagh Jolly, Patrick Butler, Canon Thomas Norris, Fr Feargus Saurin, Fr Andrew Dorricott (4/5), Fr John O'Callaghan, Canon Patrick Palmer, Canon Basil Booker, Josefine Reith (5/5), Anthony Gee, Catherine Johnson (6/5), Canon Brian Grady, Canon John Duckett (9/5). **Let perpetual light shine upon them, Lord, may they rest in peace.**

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME AND IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES: **May the Lord's healing power come to them.**

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL **Send Messages to your Loved Ones in hospital.** Family members, relatives and friends of inpatients can send or collate personal messages to paht.messagestoalovedone@nhs.net A special phone number, **01279 868128**, is available **from 10am to 12noon on weekdays**. You can make Video calls to patients on John Snow & Locke Wards, Kingsmoor & Harold, Lister Wards, **from 2 to 4pm every day**. Details from paht.virtualvisiting@nhs.net

POPE FRANCIS AND THE CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER: On **Saturday 15th May** from 11 am until 12.30 pm Dr Austen Ivereigh, biographer of Pope Francis, will lead a Gidea Park live stream study on the theme 'The Culture of Encounter: Can Pope Francis' vision of fraternity counter the politicization of faith?' He will explore the importance of the Abu Dhabi declaration, the Amazon Synod, the recent encyclical on fraternity *Fratelli Tutti*, and the March 2021 visit of Pope Francis to Iraq. For this free live stream go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow directions.

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK: **Our thanks to the very generous parishioner, who have donated a lot of food for the Epping Forest Food Bank, in the basket in our church porch by the Priest's House & Sacristy.** It urgently needs: UHT Milk, Instant Mash, Small Couscous Packs, Tinned Spaghetti, Microwaveable Rice Pouches, Vegetable Noodle Packs, Sponge Puddings, Hot Chocolate, Small Jars Of Peanut Butter, Small Jars of Coffee, Chocolate Bars, Snack Bars/ Snacks, Halal Corned Beef, Reusable Face Masks, Hand Sanitiser(70% Alcohol), Female & Male Deodorant, Toothbrushes & Toothpaste, Hair Shampoo and Conditioner, Laundry Tablets, etc..**Your donations in the basket in the porch are greatly appreciated.**

VOLUNTARY ACTION EPPING FOREST, based in Thornwood, gives relief boxes to households & individuals struggling money-wise partly due to Covid 19. Contact Nick on **07967726851** or the befriending service on **07708171116** or go to the website at: <https://vaef.org.uk/covidresponse@vaef.org.uk>

CATHOLIC PARISH OF EPPING The Immaculate Conception

HOW TO STREAM MASS FROM EPPING at HOME

We live stream Sunday Masses at 9am and 11am from Epping Catholic Church on You Tube every Sunday.

You do not need a Youtube account to watch. Using a laptop, computer or mobile phone, you need speakers or headphones if your device does not built in speakers. If you have a smart TV, you can pair a device (such as mobile phone or iPad or tablet) to watch it 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

On a mobile phone simply scan the QR code to take you to the channel



Please let us know if you have a problem and we will try our best to help.

PRAYER FOR ALL AFFLICTED IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC

Let us pray for all who suffer from the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to all who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

“Almighty and ever living God, support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of the pandemic; relieve the pain of the sick, give strength to all who care for them, welcome into your peace all who have died, console all who mourn, and grant that we may all find comfort and consolation in your merciful love. We make this prayer, with faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who intercedes for us at your right hand and lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU BOOK TO ATTEND WEEKEND MASSES IN EPPING CATHOLIC CHURCH

Most people will know of the intervention by police, at a Catholic Church in London, that brought the Good Friday afternoon service to an abrupt end and people were ordered to leave the church and go home. This leads us to look at our procedures and the necessity of booking places in our church for weekend and Feast day Masses to ensure we comply with Covid regulations.

Churches were permitted to reopen for people at services last July on completing a risk assessment and compliance with Covid19 regulations. **In our church we are allowed only 23 single individuals, or 55 people** of family groups from the same bubble or house. The gallery in our church is not available for general use due to the lack of screens, social distancing problems and the danger of spreading the virus over the balcony by aerosols.

- **You need to book a place in church for a particular weekend Mass.** In the plan of our church, seats will be filled as bookings are made to Deacon Duncan by email at: duncanjcwhitehouse@gmail.com or phone on 01992 577173 by 5pm on Friday evenings. Bookings sent to our Parish Office are forwarded to Deacon Duncan for completing.
- If you book places at a weekend Mass, have to change time or cannot attend, please notify Deacon Duncan as soon as possible so that places can then be allocated to other parishioners.
- If people have not booked in good time for a particular weekend Mass, it may not be possible for them to enter the church, if places are already taken or it is full. Those who book will be allowed to take their places first.
- You must not come to church if you are vulnerable or have Covid symptoms.

These procedures may cause problems for all of us and we regret having to go down this route for safety. However, we must not take the risk of spreading the virus by breaking regulations, having our services halted, people being sent home or our church being closed as has happened in other places. Fr John

STAY SAFE IN CHURCH: We must all wear masks or face coverings in church, except when reading. We must sanitise our hands as we enter and leave church and keep a social distance of 2 meters (6 feet), not interact with people inside or outside church who are not in our group and scan the QR code or register on attending church for track & trace as we enter or leave. If you show Covid symptoms, been tested positive for Covid19, or told to stay at home/quarantine, you must follow NHS directions and not come to church.