

**WELCOME TO CHURCH.** To attend weekend Mass in our Church it is advisable to book a seat (s). Please change or cancel your booking(s) if you will not be attending a Mass you have booked, so that places are freed up for others.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> St Cuthbert, Bishop**

**September 21** 12 noon Baptism of Marco Eduino Gio Concardo

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY: ORDINARY TIME B 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Private Intention**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Holy Souls**

**Sept 2021 11.00am The People of our Parish Live streamed**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Private Intention**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Veronica Beard RIP Anniv (FM)**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

12 noon Private Intention (B.C.)

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> St Peter Claver, Priest**

9.15am Private Intention

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Private Intention**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Baptism of Theodore Francis Lord**

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY: ORDINARY TIME B Education Day 12 Sept. 21**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Private Intention**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Santos Ruvalcaba RIP Anniv (Ruvalcaba & Vianna)**

**Sept 2021 11.00am The People of our Parish Live streamed**

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE Saturdays 11am to 11.30am and anytime by request.**

**READINGS FOR TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY Ordinary Time B 5 September 2021**

**ISAIAH 35:4-4** The ears of the deaf shall be unsealed and tongues of the dumb loosened

**PSALM 145** My soul give praise to the Lord, who keeps faith forever

**JAMES 2:1-5** God chose the poor to be heirs to the kingdom, which he promises.

**MARK 7:31-37** Jesus heals the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak

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

**DAILY SERVICES WITH MASS:** [www.churchservices.tv/timetable/](http://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/)

**Daily Mass at Westminster Cathedral:** [www.churchservices.tv/westminster/](http://www.churchservices.tv/westminster/)

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

**St. Joseph English Martyrs Bishops Stortford** [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford/](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford/)

**OFFERINGS:** Thank you for your generous offerings of £800 weekly average in standing orders, and on 29<sup>th</sup> August, £286.25 and for Cafod £10. You can give in Offerings to the Priest's House and make them online for our parish and charities our parish supports by going to:

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////>

**THE JOURNEY HOME RESOURCES:** The second of "Journey Home" in Church leaflets is for interested groups or individuals. It can be downloaded in the resources section of [www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk](http://www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk) and you can go direct to the website. The leaflets aim to be an encouragement to people to deepen their participation in the Mass and the Holy Eucharist, "which is the source and summit of Christian life".

## **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**

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B 5 September 2021**

*Dear Friends & Parishioners,*

They said of Jesus, "He has done all things well, he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak" (Mark 7:31-37). In Jesus' time, and even today, people who had disabilities of one kind or another were subject to discrimination and judgement by others who did not treat them honourably as equal in nature and dignity. Jesus, the saints and good people who followed his example, honour the dignity of people who may have some disability or a noticeable condition. They do not make hostile judgements or treat others as abnormal, especially those afflicted by some terrible infirmity or condition.

In the Scripture readings God promises to be healing to his people in Isaiah Ch 35 and we see him fulfil his promise in the person of Jesus who gave hearing to the deaf and speech to the dumb. Jesus in carrying out that miracle of healing "looked up to heaven" and so showed that healing comes from God, as does the gift of life itself. He touched the people to be healed and opened their ears and mouths to new possibilities of sharing with others. For me, a significant aspect of Baptism is after the person has been Baptised, a prayer of blessing is offered over their ears and mouth, "so that they may be open to hear the Word of God and to offer prayer and praise to him".

In September each year as schools reopen and the academic year begins again, we also have a fresh start in the parishes with preparation courses for people wishing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Confirmation or to be Baptised and become Catholic and enter into fully communion with the Catholic Church. We will announce the details of these in the coming weeks and invite people who are interested to contact us. Details of the arrangements and the applications for next year's first Reconciliation and Holy Communions have already been made.

I hope everyone had a good and safe holiday after a difficult eighteen months. I am most grateful to Canon Brian O'Shea, Fr Gerald Gostling and Fr Bijaya Chandra Nayak for celebrating the weekend Masses here, and Deacon Duncan for the weekday Services, while I was away with my family in August. Whilst it is good to be here – it is also good to be away with one's family!

*May God bless and protect us all in the coming months. Fr John*

**THE LIFTING OF COVID RESTRICTIONS:** Whilst this is a welcome change, the Government and its advisers advise us to be cautious, especially in enclosed spaces. In our church, there are still restrictions, including wearing facemasks and sanitising hands, until we have had time to reflect on the guidance from the Bishops' Conference and the Diocese on how best to introduce changes. Our first concern is for the health and wellbeing of all members of our parish family and to protect people from danger.

**WE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:**

**MARY COLLIER RIP**, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Funeral arrangements pending. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

**MARGARET & PETER GREEN RIP**, who died recently. Funeral arrangements pending. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

*We offer our sympathy to and prayers for their families and for the repose of their souls. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and all who mourn for their loved ones at this time.*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS:** Applications are now closed for this year's First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Group. There will be a meeting for the parents in **September** in our Church Hall. However, our arrangements for the children and parents are conditioned by the COVID regulations on the use of our Hall.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bridget Day, Fr Patrick Cavanagh (4<sup>th</sup>), Veronica Beard (7<sup>th</sup>), Mgr Michael Wilson (8<sup>th</sup>) Alan Neal (9<sup>th</sup>), Elsie Hayes, Fr Charles Johnson, Fr Conrad Smith (11<sup>th</sup>). **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME AND IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES:**

Fr Stewart Foster, Sergio Maraldo, Toohey Family, Paula Hall, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Peggy Flanagan, Albert Fuller, John Millward, Ann Dowd, James Bullen, Fr Liam Hayes, Fr Jean-Laurent Marie, Fr John Taylor and Fr Michael Butler. **May the Lord send down and touch them with the healing power of his Holy Spirit.**

**REFERENCES FOR SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022:** Parents and carers who require a Priest's reference to support an application for a school place for their child in **September 2022** must have been consistently attending Sunday Mass over the years – excepting the pandemic restrictions period! If parents go to Mass in another parish - that is the place to see the priest. This attendance record for families is obviously will not be affected by the difficulties, which have prevented people going to church or Mass during the pandemic. However, the attendance has to be consistent over the years and not seasonal coming up to the time when a reference is required. Please contact Fr John if you have been attending Mass consistently in our parish and you require a reference for your child's school for next year.

**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/>

**EPPING FOREST FOODBANK** We thank generous parishioners who give food and goods for Epping Forest Food Bank, in the basket in our church porch by Priest's House & Sacristy. The Foodbank urgently needs: long life milk, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, tinned peas, tinned carrots, tinned tomatoes, tinned instant mash potatoes, small jars of coffee, chocolate spread, chocolate bars, snack bars, small/medium bags of rice, sponge puddings, savoury crackers, reusable face masks, hand sanitiser (70% alcohol), laundry tablets, shampoo, deodorant, soap! Epping Forest Food Bank will open in the Epping Forest Council Offices in Epping next week, for giving and receiving.

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

**PRAYER FOR ALL AFFLICTED IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC**

We pray for all suffering from the pandemic. May God the Father grant health to the sick, strength to all who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to the dead. "Almighty and ever living God, support in 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.

**SEASON OF CREATION STUDY DAYS:** During the 2021 Season of Creation, from 1st September to the feast of St Francis on 4th October, thousands of Christians on six continents will unite to pray and take action in defence of our common home [www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org) From the parish of Gidea Park we have organised two study days – on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September** and **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** from 11.00 to 12.30 BST – to explore the teaching of Pope Francis on 'care for our common home' (*Laudato si'*), and promotion of global solidarity (*Fratelli Tutti*). These study days, 'The Cry of Creation' and 'The Cry of the Poor' will be given by Fr Ashley Beck, associate professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham. To access these free live stream events go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) No registration needed and talks will be available subsequently on that website. Please spread the word on social media.

**CYCLING FOR CHARITY ("Pedalling through the Pandemic"):** Fr Dominic Howarth, a priest of the Diocese, has been cycling for many months, heading towards 5,000km – and **this weekend** he will be pedalling the last few kilometres, to complete the distance! He is raising money for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, Walsingham House, HCPT Easter Lourdes Group 709, and Help Refugees. Find out more and sponsor him online via <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frdominic5000at50> or call 01708740308 or email [frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org) if you want to donate via cheque or cash. **Thank you** for any support you can give.

**YOU STILL NEED TO BOOK TO ATTEND WEEKEND MASS IN OUR CHURCH:** If you have booked a place at Mass and you then cannot attend please notify us. For the coming week only please book your place via the Parish Office as Deacon Duncan will be away.

**HOW TO STREAM MASS TO YOUR HOME** We live stream Sunday Masses at 11am from Epping Catholic Church on You Tube.

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 have 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](https://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.**

### **OUR PARISH RESPONSE TO THE HAITI DISASTER**

What devastation! Those poor, destitute families! To date, there have been 2,100 deaths, 100,000 injured and 115,000 homes destroyed. There is an urgent need for help in Haiti and we can surely make a contribution in this crisis.

Fr John has agreed that we should have a retiring collection after weekend Masses to fund a Shelter Box (or two?). Each 'Box' comprises a 15-person tent, with sleeping bags, hygiene kit, bowls, towels, waterproofs, a stove, cutlery, various linens and toiletries etc. and each 'Box' converts into a bath. In fact, all basic kit for those who have lost everything in the disaster. Each 'Shelter Box costs about £750, so our initial target donation will fund one Box.....but could we do more? Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by the destitute families. The '**HAITI DISASTER**' Collection Basket will be placed by the exit from church this weekend for any further donations you may wish to make.

You can donate by

- Cheque 'Epping Catholic Church' & on reverse 'Haiti Gift'
- Cash placed in the Collection Basket or put through the Presbytery door.
- Bank Transfer to 'Catholic Church Epping - The Immaculate Conception', Account 81019821 – Sort Code 40 13 22...note 'Haiti Gift'.
- Please specify 'Gift Aid' benefit where appropriate.

Any queries to Deacon Duncan. Thanks for your help to this very deserving cause.