

TIMES OF MASSES AND SERVICES THIS WEEK 11 th to 19 th December 2021		
<u>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE or REJOICING SUNDAY 12 December 2021</u>		
Saturday 11 th	6.00pm	Special intention (JM)
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	Peter Jones RIP Recently (Heughan)
December	11.00am	David Jolly RIP Anniv (Jolly) Live streamed
Monday 13 th	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	
	9.15am	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Tuesday 14 th	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	
	9.15am	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Wednesday 15 th	12 noon	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Thursday 16 th	9.15am	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Friday 17 th	12 noon	Anne Fagan RIP Recently (Darcy)
<u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT EXPECTANT MOTHERS' DAY 19 December 2021</u>		
Saturday 18 th	6.00pm	The People of our Parish
Sunday 19 th	9.00am	Giovanni Borelli RIP Anniv (Mansell)
December 2021	11.00am	Madeline Murphy RIP (McDonagh)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Saturdays 11am to 11.30am and at anytime on request

READINGS FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C 12th December 2021

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18 "The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a festival
 ISAIAH 12 Sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the holy one of Israel
 PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7 I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord who is near
 LUKE 3:10-18 The people asked John the Baptist, "What must we do?"

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

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

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings: £800 in standing orders and on 5 December 2021 £172.75 in loose plate, £242.50 in envelopes and £20 for CAFOD. **CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE IS AVAILABLE IN CHURCH.** You can give in Offerings to the Priest's House and for charities our parish supports online at: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////

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

ADVENT calendar & booklets for adults & children available free in church

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT EPPING CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL BE ON:

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: Friday 24th December at:

12 noon, 6.00pm and 8.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: Saturday 25th December at: 9.00am & 11.00am

We need volunteers to help usher at the Christmas Masses. If you can assist please let Margaret know in the Parish Office, Fr John or Deacon Duncan.

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

THIRD – REJOICING SUNDAY IN ADVENT C 12th December 2021

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

“Sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel” we say in our response at Mass on this Rejoicing Sunday (Is.12). There is great joy in the scripture readings this weekend that carry a message of hope not only for people in times past but also for people in our time. We are told that a “sense of expectancy had arisen amongst people” with the preaching and baptising by St John the Baptist. There was the expectancy of a Messiah and that God was going to come amongst his people to save them. To make ready for that Advent or coming of the Lord John called on people, using the words of the prophet Isaiah, “Prepare the Way of the Lord, make his paths straight”.

Various people asked John “What must we do?” His answers tell them that to prepare the way of the Lord, they and we must look to the needs of our neighbour and not just focus on ourselves. We must care for the poor, be just in our dealings with others, not take advantage, exploit or intimidate people and be grateful for what God gives us through others. These principles apply to us as individuals, a community or parish and a nation. St Paul tells us that we should make “hospitality our special care” (Romans 12:13). Paul says, “I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord” (Phil 4). None of us can find happiness or joy by being introverted or focusing on ourselves alone, for happiness is to be found in sharing and offering service to others, and it is in that way that we prepare and way for the Lord and give the glory to God.

Christmas is only two weeks away and we may be thinking of all sorts of preparations. It is important for us to focus on people and their needs at this time. Many people have an ability to hear the unspoken words and the cries of others, to see the unseen needs and to respond with compassion and care for those who may not be calling out for help or attention. During the Covid pandemic, there were many people who reached out to neighbours and others that they had not known or interacted much with previously and asked “What can I do to help?” This was putting Gospel teaching into practice in everyday life and relationships. We might ask ourselves as we prepare the way of the Lord, “What am I doing in the service of others?” or “what more can or should I do in the service of others?” Jesus said, “As long as you did it to one of these little ones, you did it to me”. *May God bless you. Fr John*

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES as there is a limit on the numbers in our church. **Please contact Deacon Duncan on 01992 577173 or at duncanjcjwhitehouse@gmail.com.** It is important that those who attend Mass regularly, and whose names are automatically included on the Steward's normal weekly list, contact Deacon Duncan to book their seat(s) for a Mass at Christmas.

COVID REGULATIONS oblige us to wear face coverings, sanitise hands and protect each other in church. **You do not need to book seats to attend weekend Masses.** You are required to give your name and contact details on entering church. **Our church is open daily from 8am to 7pm for people to make visits and pray.**

WE LIVE STREAM SUNDAY MASSES at 11am on youtube: you go to: [youtube.com/channel/UCAbSuwE8X5AOaugAT35hREw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAbSuwE8X5AOaugAT35hREw) or search on google: The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping and visit the channel. **On a mobile phone simply scan the QR code to take you to the channel**

JOURNEY IN FAITH: We invite to talks on the Catholic Faith anyone wishing to understand our faith, or who is not Catholic but comes to Mass, or wants to support the faith of family members, or to become Catholic.. These are for adults wishing to return to the practice of their faith, or who were Baptised Catholic but did not receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation. If you are interested, please contact Fr John and come to the Priest's House **Wednesdays from 8 to 9pm.** We will not be meeting this Wednesday and **the next one will be on 5th January.**

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Power, Beatrice Webber, Julia O'Mahoney, Nancy Thorpe, Sam Butcher, Bill Collier, Jack Goodman (11/12), Fr Geoffrey Pye, Fr Eamonn Magrath (12/12), David Jolly, Alma Longford, Marie Verrall, Elizabeth Evans, Fr William Evers, Fr Francis Kerrigan (13/12), Geprge Meldon, Fr Gerard Kerr (14/12), Mary McEvoy, Anne Melia (15/12), Leonard Taylor, Reginald Ivey, Florence Harrington (16/12), Paulette Jarrold, Irene Bassett Herbert Kellard Julia Farrell (18/12), Giovanni Borelli, Eileen Mc Nerney (19/12), **Eternal rest grant to them Lord, let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace.**

A BIG THANK YOU to Pat Dowling, our parishioner, who had the lining renewed in our church car park last weekend. We are most grateful to Pat for having this done – especially as we were finding it so difficult to find someone to do it.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTION: *What does the Incarnation of Christ mean?* on Zoom **THIS Sunday, 12 December**, 4.00 – 5.00pm. The input and discussion will be led by Fr David Pearce, of our Diocese. To join go to Events at www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: **THIS Sunday, 12th of December** Christmas carols, classic & contemporary, will be performed by talented BCYS musicians, with scripture readings, Christmas poems & stories. Two concerts, at **3pm or 7pm**, with limited capacity & depending on Covid restrictions. Tickets at £10 and proceeds to support Lourdes pilgrimages. Book places at Walsingham House with Joe Beattie on josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 01277 373 959.

CATHOLIC POST – a new Catholic newspaper is available free in the church.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are available for collection and distributing this weekend. They give details of our Christmas Masses and greetings from our Church to people at home. Please take yours and near neighbours to help reduce our postage costs. Our thanks go to Peter and Sarah Day for preparing them.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES:
May the Lord heal them with power of his Holy Spirit.

YOUTH 2000 “Try something NEW this New Year? Join Youth 2000 at Trinity Catholic High School in Woodford Green. NEW will be a weekend filled with fun, friendship, inspiring talks and lots of praise as we welcome in 2022. The retreat will be from **Friday 31 December - Sunday 2 January 2022.** To book your space today: www.youth2000.org/new<<http://www.youth2000.org/new>>

EPPING CHORUS (formerly ECCA) will hold a Christmas concert on **Friday, 17 December at 7.30pm** in St. John's Church, Epping. Simon Winters will conduct 'Carol of Christmas' a short work by John Peterson, with carols for everyone. Admission is free but a retiring collection will taken for Epping Forest ReUSE. Please support this choir, in their first live concert for 2 years.

ADVENT SERVICE VIDEO is on Youtube. “The season of Advent, restores the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope that does not disappoint, for the Lord is never disappoints! He does not disappoint! Let us think and feel this beauty.” **Pope Francis Go to Thresholds of Hope** on Youtube or <https://youtu.be/c2KQhRXzOFU>

FAITH TALK ON THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS: As Christmas draws near we shall read the sections of the gospels known as 'infancy narratives' - stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. The three parts of this talk consider Matthew Ch 1-2, Luke Ch 1-2 & John Ch 1. The videos by Fr Adrian Graffy, Parish Priest of Gidea Park, Scripture scholar and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, are available free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK urgently needs: tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, tinned peas, tinned carrots, tinned instant mash potatoes, long life milk, small jars of coffee, chocolate spread, snack bars, chocolate bars, small/medium bags of rice, savoury crackers, sponge puddings, shampoo, soap, hand sanitiser (70% alcohol) deodorant, reusable face masks, laundry tablets,!

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2022 is on sale in church at £2.80. It gives details of our diocese, parishes, churches and Mass times, prayer groups, schools, hospitals & chaplaincies, religious orders & Liturgical Calendar

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR CHARITY Please save your used postage stamps over the Christmas and place them in the 'Used Postage Stamps' box in the Church Porch. We will give them St Clare Hospice at Hastingwood to be sold in aid of Hospice Funds. Thank you. Queries to Deacon Duncan on 01992 577173.