

TIMES OF MASSES & SERVICES FROM 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2022		
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST - SOLEMNITY</b>	
FRIDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Special Intention (Palmer) <b>Live streamed</b>
DECEMBER 2021	6.00pm	Lennon/Lechley deceased RIP (Lechley) <b>Live streamed</b>
	8.00pm	Private Intention <b>Live streamed</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST - SOLEMNITY</b>	
SATURDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Our sick & infirm Parishioners <b>Live streamed</b>
December 2021	11.00am	The People of our Parish <b>Live streamed</b>
<b><u>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</u> 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>		
SUNDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Neil Teixeira RIP Anniv (Hollinshead)
December 2021	11.00am	Maggie O'Donnell's intentions (O'Donnell) <b>Streamed</b>
	3.00pm	LATIN MASS in Tridentine Rite
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>St John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>	
	10.00am	The People of our Parish
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b>	
	10.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop &amp; Martyr, Patron of English Clergy</b>	
	12 noon	Fr Stewart Foster's intentions
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Special intention (SP)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	12 noon	Private intention (PB)
<b>SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>	
<b>JANUARY 2022</b>	12 noon	Duncan & Dorothy Whitehouse intentions
	6.00pm	Kitty Butler RIP (McLoughney)
<b><u>SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup></u></b>	<b><u>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Year C</u></b>	
<b>JANUARY 2022</b>	9.00am	The People of our Parish
	11.00am	Holy Souls: our deceased relatives & friends - <b>Streamed</b>

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon and on request.**

**READINGS FOR THE NATIVITY OF OF THE LORD YEAR C 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

ISAIAH 9:1-7 For there is a child born for us, a Son given to us

PSALM 95 Today a Saviour has been born for us; He is Christ the Lord

TITUS 2:11-14 In Christ, God's grace has been revealed to the whole human race

LUKE 2:1-14 Today as Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ, the Lord

**DIocese of Brentwood Website: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net//>**

**DAILY SERVICES WITH MASSES STREAMED: [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: Our thanks for your generous weekly Offerings - £800 standing orders, and on 19 December £219.50 in envelopes, £102.20 in loose plate and CAFOD £4. You can give in Offerings to the Priest's House and for charities our parish supports at: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////)**

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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**Registered Charity Number: 234092**  
 Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang  
 Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

### **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST C 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

*Dear Friends and Parishioners,*

"Mary gave birth to a son, here first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn" (Lk.2:1-14). Jesus' birth, which we celebrate at Christmas, is Emmanuel, "God with us". God became man in Jesus to bring God to us, and bring us to God. Mary his mother was the first person to welcome Jesus into the world, in obedience to God's will, as she said, "I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word"(Luke 1:38). Joseph her husband, received the Word of God, and made a decision to obey it in relationship with Mary. The challenge for us, as for Joseph and Mary, is to live our relationships and life according to God's plan and to put his will before our own. When we live according to God's will, great things can be achieved through us, as they were through Mary and Joseph.

Many families in our parish are blessed with children and new life. When we look into the face of the infant, we ought tell ourselves that it is like we are looking into the face of Christ. The new-born child in the manger was like us or any child in every way. The glory of God is made visible to us in the face and life of a child, and our own face,, but it is seen most perfectly in the face of Jesus. He became man like us in all things, except sin, and took our human nature in order to share with us the divine nature of God, and so enable us to be a holy and saved people.

In celebrating the birth of Jesus we hear a message of peace to people of goodwill from God. God places in the human hearts an expectancy and desire for peace and reconciliation at Christmas. In this holy season, he calls for divisions to be healed, and hatreds abandoned and converted into love. Christmas can be difficult for people affected by divisions, rancour or hostilities. At Christmas people have a sense that they are intended, by God, to be united in love and go forward in peace. Whilst the message of peace to people of good will was given at Christmas, over two thousand years ago, it is a message that is addressed anew to everyone today.

God wants us to pray and work for peace and to be peace-makers. Some people falsely think that their conflict, violence or terrorism that cause suffering or death, are all right, but those of others are wrong. At Christmas, Christ the Prince of Peace, offers the gift of peace to men and women of good will, and through him God tells us that he wants peace in every heart and home, every nation and place.

*May Christ, the Prince of Peace bless and protect you this Christmas. Fr John*

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES** as we are limited in numbers in our church. **Please contact Deacon Duncan on 01992 577173 or at [duncanjcjwhitehouse@gmail.com](mailto: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 our 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 MASSES from our church on youtube: you go to:** [youtube.com/channel/UCAbSuwE8X5AOaugAT35hREw](https://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**

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

**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 meet this week. **The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Betty O'Mahoney Anthony Matthews, Michael McCormack, Margaret Munday, Kim Chi (24/12), Joyce DeBoise, John O'Leary, Canon Wilfrid Thompson, Phoebe Tuvey (25/12), John McInerney, Fr Francis Greenan Nancy Fatiga, Gertrude Hurley(26/12), Dorothy Knight, Muriel Matthews, Fr Francis Wilson (27/12), Kathleen Lynch, Ellen O'Loughlin, Sean Hayes, Maria & Otto Ekhorst, Stanley Wilson(28/12), Mary Canny, Patrick Matthews, Edith Maynard, John Delaney (29/12), Viviana duCasse, Michael Long, Canon John Byrne, Daisy Davies (30/12), Fr Brian Reeves (31/12) Martin Melia, Thomas Moohan, Madeline Turner (1/1), Bert Marsh (2/1). **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS** were distributed to all homes in our Parishioners address system. They give greetings from our Church to people at home and details of our Christmas Masses. If you did not receive a card, please let us have your up-to-date address at our Parish Office.

**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.

**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 activities and services for and on behalf of us.

**CHORISTER OPPORTUNITY: 'Be a Cathedral Chorister for a Day'** opportunity for boys aged 7-12 on Saturday **29 January 2022 at Brentwood Cathedral.** The day will begin at 10.30am and end with Choral Vespers at 4 pm, an opportunity for everyone to hear the boys sing. We hope the day will be of interest to all boys who enjoy singing, whatever their prior musical experience. For more details and to register a place, please visit [www.cathedralbrentwood.org](http://www.cathedralbrentwood.org) or telephone 01277 265288.

**GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MASS:**

Professor John Morrill will lead a Study Day on 'The Evolution of the Mass', tracing the development of the Eucharistic Liturgy from the earliest centuries to the present day on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.** He will explore in particular the teachings of Trent & Vatican II and the latest papal instructions on the celebration of Mass. To access this free live stream event, go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The event begins at 11.00 GMT and ends by 13.30. No prior registration is needed.

**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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**EPHING 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,! **If you know of any people or families needing support at this time, please let Fr John know and we will give them vouchers for the Foodbank or other help as appropriate.**

**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

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

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