

<b>TIMES OF MASSES &amp; SERVICES from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022</b>		
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022</b>	<b>SATURDAY OF FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER</b>	
11.00am	First Holy Communion Mass	
<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER C Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022</b>		
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	6.00pm	Grace Kelly RIP Recently (Murray)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
May 2022	11.00am	Mark & Maggie Keane's ints. (Clohessy) <b>Streamed</b>
	3.00pm	<b>LATIN MASS in Tridentine Rite</b>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Private Intention
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Ascension of the Lord into Heaven – Holyday</b>	
Ascension Day	10.00am	The people of our Parish
	8.00pm	Private intention
<b>Novena -Nine days of Prayer - for the coming of the Holy Spirit begins today</b>		
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	12 noon	Palmer & Conrad Family intentions
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER C WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b>		
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Special intention (PMG)
	6.00pm	Matthias McGrath RIP (Anniv.)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Special intention (AM) <b>Live streamed</b>
May 2022	6.00pm	The People of our Parish
<b>No Mass at 11am this Sunday due to Ride London Cycle event and road closures</b>		

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

**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/)

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER C READINGS Mass Book Page 274 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

**ACTS 15:1-29** It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you

**PSALM 66** Let the peoples praise you, O God; Let all the peoples praise you.

**APOCALYPSE 21:10-23** He showed me the Holy City coming down out of heaven

**JOHN 14: 23-29** The Holy Spirit will teach you and remind you of that all I have said

**OFFERINGS:** Our thanks for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 standing orders, and in envelopes on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May, £146.50, loose £255.11, for CAFOD £30 and at first Holy Communion Mass on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May £139.61. You can give in donations 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/////////)

**RIDE LONDON CYCLE EVENT:** As the Ride London Cycle Event will go through Epping on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May, there will be road closures in the area. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> we will have Mass at 10am & 6pm. On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> our Masses will be at 9am & at 6pm – there will be no 11am on that Sunday.

## 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

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER C**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The theme of Love occurs throughout the Easter Mass readings and we are reminded today that God will love us providing we show our love for Jesus.

Without doubt, the single most important thing we have to do to please God is to recognise the real importance of Love in our life. **God loves us unconditionally.** There is nothing we can do which will stop him loving us. Apart from loving God, himself, we shall please him most by truly loving our neighbour, which is the second important part of our **Love contract with God.**

Unfortunately, our Love of God is always imperfect, due to our human nature, so we always have a likelihood of displeasing God, or to 'sin', but to quote the well-known maxim, 'God hates the sin, but always loves the sinner'. We all experience some degree of failing to make our love for God a first priority in life. For example, we might get distracted by searching for success in our occupation or career; searching for the accumulation of wealth; searching to improve our standard of living or searching for more leisure, for example. God may not like our priorities which take us away from loving him, but **God's continued love of each of us always remains unconditional.**

If we are able to focus on loving God, we shall be well on the way towards also loving our neighbour. Jesus did not draw up for us an elaborate code of practice in the context of loving one's neighbour. He simply said 'love one another'. But as we really try to obey this commandment, we realise that it's often 'a big ask'. Jesus commanded just one thing, **'love one another'** – no 'ifs or buts'!

So, our Life's Challenge is twofold: **to love God wholeheartedly as a first priority in life and, secondly, to love our neighbour with tolerance and understanding, coupled with generous forgiveness.** These are our major faith challenges throughout life.

God bless,

*Deacon Duncan*

### **WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:**

**MICHAEL (Tommy) HOLMES RIP** who died on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Tommy will be received into our church for the celebration of Requiem Mass **Tuesday, 7 June** at 11am, followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May he rest in peace.**

**GRACE KELLY RIP** who died on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Grace will be received into our church on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, at 4.30pm. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** at 12noon, to be followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May she rest in peace.**

**ELIZABETH O'CONNOR RIP** who died on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May. We offer our sympathy to her daughter Sheila Earl, a parishioner in our parish and her family. Funeral arrangements pending. **May she rest in peace.**

*We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to all their families and to all who mourn at this time. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and fill them with the hope and joy of new life through his resurrection.*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our First Holy Communion children and their families on receiving Holy Communion at this time. Their Presentation Mass and presentation of their First Holy Communion Certificates will be on Sunday **12<sup>th</sup> June at 12.30pm.**

**JOURNEY IN FAITH:** We have two more meetings for people who have been making their journey of faith into the Church and the Sacraments over the past year. They will cover the Sacraments of Marriage, Holy Orders & Catholic Devotions. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 9pm in the Priest's House.

**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/>

**ALTAR SERVERS:** We invite adults, young people or children to serve Mass. We ask children who received first Holy Communion in recent times to consider serving the Lord at Mass. Please contact Fr John or Deacon Duncan if you would like to serve

**WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES:**  
**May Lord send his Holy Spirit to heal & comfort all who are ill.**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** John de Vos, Patricia O'Grady, Mgr William O'Grady (21/5), Kieran McClean, Fr Henry Peace, Beatrice Cox (23/5), Fr Charles Carless, Fr Austin Thorburn (24/5), Rosemary Batten, Joyce Ryan, Daniel Willmore (25/5), Sally Ward, Laurie Diffeley, Richard Fayolle (27/5), Lawrence Ford, Agnes Blunt (28/5), Alice McGarry (29/5). **Eternal rest grant to them, Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

**EASTER DUTIES:** In Catholic tradition we have an obligation to receive Holy Communion, and if necessary, prepare for Holy Communion by having our sins forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance, between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

**SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION RESTORED:** The Bishops of England & Wales invite Catholics to return to Sunday Mass from Pentecost Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June. Many have already done so and we miss some who were active in our community and invite them to return. Our Bishops' invitation is attached to this newsletter

**BAPTISMS:** *Congratulations to the family of Ray Michael Wrsama and the family of Nellie Catherine Millward who were both baptised in our Church on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May. May the Lord bless them and their families and help them bring up their children in the knowledge and love of God.*

**FLOWER ARRANGING:** We are most grateful to our flower arrangers for their imagination and dedication in making our church look so beautiful each week with the floral displays. We now need more helpers with this important role. It is our aim to establish a rota. You do not need floristry experience as training will be given. If you think you can help please speak to Fr John or contact our Parish Office.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & ADORATION:** We had Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoration in Church after morning Masses on weekdays, before the lockdowns. If parishioners wish to resume this devotion, the Blessed Sacrament can be placed on the Altar at the end of morning Masses.

**REPOSITORY – RELIGIOUS GOODS** stall in our church porch is open after the Masses and has suitable gifts for first Holy Communion children, like rosaries, icons, cards and mementos. Goods can also be obtained on request at other times.

**GIFT AID:** Please let Michele Murphy know (via the Parish Office) if you would like a letter for the Inland Revenue detailing your gift aided total for the tax year 2021/22. Please also let her know if you no longer pay income tax.

**CHURCH ORGAN REPAIRS:** Our church organ is in need of repair and will be out of action for about ten days. The wind chests need recovering with leather and the pedals and pipes need attention. The overall costs will be around £2,000.

**YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN – A STUDY DAY FROM GIDEA PARK:**  
On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June** from 11 am Fr Gerard Bradley will lead a study day entitled '*Your sins are forgiven: exploring the sacrament of pardon and peace*'. To follow this free live streamed event please go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The speaker, Fr Gerard Bradley, is a parish priest in the archdiocese of Southwark and taught Liturgy and Spirituality at St John's Seminary, Womersley. Recording of the study day will be made available subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**EPPING FOREST FOODBANK** 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, savory crackers, sponge puddings, shampoo, soap, hand sanitiser (70% alcohol), deodorant, reusable face masks and laundry tablets.

**COVID REGULATIONS:** Please sanitise your hands as you enter & leave church. Wearing a face covering in church helps prevent the spread of Covid and keep safe.

## **The Bishops of England & Wales invite a return to Sunday Mass**

### **This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)**

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil our Sunday Obligation. It may be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.