

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

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C 2 October 2022

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

“Lord, increase our faith” (Luke 17:5-10), the apostles asked Jesus, as they wanted to have a stronger faith and greater trust in God. In the western world, our materialistic lifestyle weakens faith and leads many to question the value of anything that is not tangible or immediately beneficial. God is considered by many who do not have the gift of faith to be of little relevance and in the realm of the unknown. Since they are not able to relate to God with faith or hope, they cannot place their trust in him or turn to him for help or thank him for the gifts they have.

Faith is not only a collection of truths and statements of belief, such as we express in the Creed at Mass and commit to in Baptism promises, it is also a gift or grace God gives us, which enables us to be in a relationship and communion with him. Like all relationships, faith, can give us times of consolation and times of testing or weakness. Saints and people with strong faith can be tested and may wonder if God is there for them, or if they are abandoned and on their own in a solitary kind of way. St John of the Cross, the 16th century Spanish mystic, describes this crisis of faith in a person's spiritual life as “The Dark Night of the Soul”.

Mother Theresa’s writings suggest that for almost forty years she went through this spiritual desert, where one feels little consolation or comfort from faith in God. Yet, whilst one goes through this with feelings of loneliness or desolation, it can be a key part of spiritual growth. In that state, even though we may not feel God’s presence, he always loves us and is still faithful to us. The “Footprints” meditation helps many people understand God’s relationship with us and ours with him. It reflects the difficult and testing times in our life’s journey, and the fact that God is with us, even though we may not feel or recognise his presence.

People of faith live in right relationship with God, but the souls of those who do not flag and weaken (Habakkuk.1). Each of us needs to be in a good relationship with God, through our private prayer and community worship in the Mass. Many people who were once committed to Jesus, move into just a nodding acquaintance with him. Just as we need to be committed and work at our human relationships, so we also need to be committed to God and work at our relationship with him. In these testing times when the world around us weakens our faith, we too need to ask our Lord as the apostles did, “Lord, strengthen our faith”.

May the Lord help us grow strong in faith, hope and love. Fr John

<u>TIMES OF MASSES & SERVICES: Saturday 1st October to Sunday 9th October 2022</u>		
<u>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C 2nd October 2022</u>		
Saturday 1 st	6.00pm	The People of our Parish
Sunday 2 nd	9.00am	Special intention (SP)
October	11.00am	Teresa Fowler’s intentions (Whitehouse) STREAMED
	9.15am	Special intention (MM)
Tuesday 4 th	St Francis of Assisi, Religious – Patron Saint of the Environment	
	9.15am	Private intention (ML)
Wednesday 5 th	Sr Faustina Kowalska, Religious	
	12 noon	Memorial Mass for John Amoo-Bediako RIP (Recently)
Thursday 6 th	St Bruno, Priest	
	9.15am	Special intention (SP)
Friday 7 th	Our Lady of the Rosary	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
Saturday 8 th	St Osyth, Religious	
	11.00am	Baptism of Jonah Joseph Gallagher
<u>TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C 9th October 2022</u>		
Saturday 8 th	6.00pm	Canon Patrick Sammon RIP Recently (Scannell)
Sunday 9 th	9.00am	Danny Remedios RIP Recently (S Palmer)
October 2022	11.00am	The People of our Parish LIVE STREAMED

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES WITH MASSES STREAMED: www.churchservices.tv/timetable/

Sunday Mass at 11am is streamed live from our church on YouTube – details inside

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C Mass Book Page 146 2 October

HABAKKUK 1:2-3 & 2:2-4 The upright man will live by his faithfulness

PSALM 94 O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

2 TIMOTHY 1:6-14 Never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord Jesus Christ

LUKE 17:5-10 If only your faith were the size of a mustard seed

OFFERINGS: Our thanks for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 standing orders. Offertories on 25th September were Envelopes £149.50 & Loose £252.39, CAFOD £47.83. Thank you so much for your generosity and support for our parish and charities. You can give in donations to the Priest’s House and for charities our parish supports at: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////

FACEBOOK GROUP: James Ryan manages and monitors our parish Facebook Group, posts daily updates and links to parishes & activities in our Diocese. To join go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/26415423943/?ref=share/>

BAPTISM CERTIFICATES for children recently baptised recently in our parish are ready for the parents to collect in the church sacristy, after Mass from Fr John.

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:

JOHN AMOO-BEDIAKO RIP who died on 13th June 2022. A Memorial Service will be celebrated here for him on **Wednesday 5th June 2022. May he rest in peace.**

TERENCE CLARK RIP who died on Thursday 1st September. His Funeral Service will be celebrated on **Friday 7th October** at Epping Forest Burial Park. **May he rest in peace.**

MARGARET RYAN RIP who died on 26th September 2022. Her Funeral Service will take place on **Thursday 13th October at 1pm. May she rest in peace.**

We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to 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 hope and the joy of eternal life through his resurrection.

HARVEST FAST DAY FOR CAFOD next Friday calls us to identify with and aid people in developing nations. Next weekend at all Masses, our retiring collection at all Masses will be to support CAFOD in this life-giving work. Please use your Special collection envelope or the CAFOD envelopes which are being given out in church today, for your donations next weekend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS: The children will be presented with their books at Masses **THIS** weekend of 1st & 2nd October. The sessions for the children will begin on **Wednesday, NEXT, 5th October** 5.30pm to 7pm in our Hall.

TALKS ON OUR CATHOLIC FAITH: From September to Easter we will have a series of talks on the Catholic faith, in the Priest's House on **Tuesdays from 8pm to 9.15pm** for adults interested in finding out about our faith, becoming Catholic or wishing to understand our faith or support family members in their faith. These would suit Catholics who have not received Holy Communion or Confirmation or not been practising and wish to renew their faith. We will welcome Catholic parishioners who may wish to be involved. **If you are interested, please contact Fr John.**

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES:

Lord Jesus Christ, our Most Holy Redeemer, by the grace of your Holy Spirit, grant comfort and healing to your servants who suffer in mind, body or spirit. When they are afraid give them courage, when they are afflicted give them patience, when dejected lift them up with new hope, when alone, assure them of the prayerful support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

ANNIVERSARIES:

John O'Day (1/10), Frank Swan, Margaret Eadon (2/10), Reginald Ivey, Fr Michael Hopkins (3/10), John Hurley(4/10), Fr Henry Healy, Fr David Logue (5/10), Judith Hudson, Bridget Browne, Canon Edward Heery (6/10), Fr Harold Cahill (7/10), Fr Alfred Clements (8/10), Pope Pius XII, Madeleine Hegarty, Richard Peck (9/10). **Eternal rest grant to them, Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

NEED OF URGENT HELP: If you or someone you know needs help urgently, please contact the Priest's House and we will do what we can to assist you.

HALL HIRE: Our Parish Hall is available for bookings. Special rates apply for charities and parishioners. Please contact our Parish Administrator to book the Hall.

ENQUIRERS' EVENING: The next "Enquirers' Evening", for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood, is at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton **NEXT Tuesday 4th October**. The speaker will be Mgr Gordon Read. For information please contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

STUDY DAY – ST CHARLES DE FOUCAULD: Charles de Foucauld was one of ten new saints canonized by Pope Francis in May 2022. His journey in faith, preaching the Gospel to all with his life, ended with his death in his hermitage in the Sahara in 1916. Little Sister, Kathleen McKee will lead a study day on 'St Charles de Foucauld – universal brother' **NEXT Saturday 8th October from 11am-1pm**. You may attend this free event in person at Gidea Park Catholic Church – RM2 6DH – from 11 am (Coffee available at 10.30). Please book your place by email to gideapark@dioceseofbrentwood.org The event is also live-streamed. Go to www.whatgoodnews.org on the day. No booking necessary. A recording will be made available after the event on www.whatgoodnews.org

BCYS YOUTH MASS: **Thursday 6th October**, Brentwood Cathedral. "Starting from 6pm for pizza, we are delighted to be joined by Fr Paschal Uche and others to share their vocations stories and answering your questions, before we begin Youth Mass at 7:30pm when Fr Paschal will also be preaching. Open to all in school years 9 and above, no booking necessary." Just turn up – you will be most welcome.

BCYS YOUTH GATHER: **22nd - 23rd October** at Mersea Island. Guest speakers Barry & Margaret Mizen will share the incredible story of how they chose to forgive the man who killed their son, Jimmy, the day after his 16th Birthday. The SVP will also lead a workshop, and there will be the chance to try a brilliant range of activities from climbing, high ropes, archery and so much more! The cost is just £55 for the weekend, with coach travel and all meals included. Our Parish will pay for some of our young people to go and participate in this weekend. The event is for anyone in school years 9-13, and you can book NOW at www.bcys.net/events

WE LIVE STREAM 11am SUNDAY MASS IN OUR CHURCH on youtube:

[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

