

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

THIRD (REJOICING) SUNDAY IN ADVENT A 11th December 2022

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

John the Baptist, in prison, sent his disciples to Jesus to ask him, “are you the one who is to come or have we to wait for another?”. Jesus response was that they should tell John “what you hear and see: the blind see again, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor” (Matthew 11:2-11). This Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday for we see Jesus fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament, in his words of preaching and his actions that bring healing. We may think of rejoicing is a celebratory moment, excitement or passing happiness, but the joy that we celebrate on this Sunday is associated with the deepest and most important things in life where we seek hope and healing from Jesus, our Saviour.

Many prayers begin with the petition, “O God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us”. In Advent we look forward to God coming our aid as a Saviour in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus, as the Son of God and Son of Man, in coming into the world two thousand years ago brought joy to people then and to us today, by giving hope and healing, wholeness and new life to mankind. His response to the questions put to him by John’s disciple was to say, look at the evidence before you and tell John what you have witnessed and then he will recognise the Messiah has come.

We all have our ups and downs in life, times of joy and times of testing and sadness. These are expressed in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 that tells us that “in everything there is a season”, yet God is present with and to his people in all those situations and times and especially in the most important and final moments of life. Even when we look at the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary we see that the joy in them is tinged with fear, journeying, labour, painful prophecy and anxiety – yet the providence, hand presence and of God is working in all these situations.

Christmas is especially a time of reaching out and caring. God the Father reaches out and cares for us through Jesus, his Son. We too are called to care by reaching out to others, especially the needy and vulnerable, the refugee and asylum seeker, the outcast and stranger, at this time. Many people have needs we do not recognise, they may not call out for help and outward appearances may suggest the “are fine”. People can have not only material poverty but also an inner poverty where they hunger for love, companionship or forgiveness. The greatest gift we can give to anyone at Christmas is a caring love, for it surpasses the material.

May the Lord bless us with his joy and peace during this Advent. Fr John

<u>TIMES OF MASSES & SERVICES: Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th December 2022</u>		
<u>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT A Gaudete – Rejoicing - Sunday 11th December 2022</u>		
Saturday 10 th	6.00pm	Ann Cunningham RIP (Noble)
Sunday 11 th	9.00am	In Thanksgiving (Steel)
December 2022	11.00am	The People of our Parish Live streamed
Monday 12 th	9.15am	Georgina Fernandes RIP Anniv. (Murray)
Tuesday 13 th	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	
	9.15am	Eabha Quinn & Family
Wednesday 14 th	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	
	12 noon	Special intention (P.G)
Thursday 15 th	9.15am	Special intention (S.P)
Friday 16 th	12 noon	Private intention (J.M)
<u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT A EXPECTANT MOTHERS DAY 18 December 2022</u>		
Saturday 17 th	6.00pm	Laima Micikevicieme RIP Anniv. (Micikevicieme)
Sunday 18 th	9.00am	Special intention (SP)
December 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A Mass Book Page 82 11th December 2022

ISAIAH 35:1-10 Do not be afraid. God is coming to save you.

PSALM 145 The Lord keeps faith forever; is just to the oppressed & feeds the hungry

JAMES 5:7-10 You have to be patient; do not lose heart for the Lord is coming soon

MATTHEW 11:2-11 “Are you the one who is to come or have we to wait for another?”

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES WITH CONFESSIONS IN LOCAL CHURCHES

Waltham Abbey, St Thomas More Church EN9 1SB on Tuesday 13 December at 7pm

Harlow, Our Lady of Fatima CM20 2NS on Sunday 18th December at 5.00pm

Loughton, St Edmunds IG10 1SZ on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm

Epping on Saturdays at 11.30am and after weekdays Masses from 19th December.

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 standing orders.

On 4th December Offertories were: Envelopes £172.25, Loose £264.36, CAFOD £10.

Electronic offerings in November were: Offertory £80 and Shoe Box Appeal £10.

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/////////

CAFOD RESOURCES FOR ADVENT For all the family and people of every age are at

cafod.org.uk/advent Online daily reflection calendars for all ages, children’s liturgy resources, carol sheets for services or community carol singing, Advent reflections for parish groups for four weeks, and a children’s nativity play.

WE PRAY FOR FOR THE SOULS OF:

PAUL CONATZER RIP, who died on Thursday 24th November. We offer our sympathy to his brother, James, a parishioner here and to his family. **May he rest in peace.**

MOYRA WHELAN RIP, who died tragically, following a road traffic accident on Friday 2nd December. We offer our sympathy to her sister, Carron Manning, a parishioner here and to her family. **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.

THANK YOU: Message from Pat Jolly - *"I should like to thank all those who supported me in the loss of my son, Patrick Jolly. A Mass will be offered for your intentions."*

ADVENT: Please take and use these booklets during Advent:

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR for children with a thought for each day

MY DAY BY DAY FOR INFANTS: preparing for Christ's birth at Christmas

MY DAY BY DAY FOR JUNIORS: preparing for Christ's birth at Christmas

WALK WITH ME FOR ADULTS - A journey of prayer for Advent

All of them are being given out free by our parish though you can make donations to cover their costs in the book slot of the box at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN EPPING

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, 24th December: 6.00pm and 8.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, 25th December: 9.00am and 11.00am

St STEPHEN (BOXING) DAY, MONDAY, 26th December at 10.00am

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The programme will resume with a parents' meeting on **Wednesday 4th January** at 8pm in our Hall and children's sessions will restart on **Wednesday 11th January at 5.30pm.**

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: Anthony Turner, Gladys Long (10/12), Margaret Power, Beatrice Webber, Julia O'Mahoney, Nancy Thorpe, Sam Butcher, Jack Goodman (11/12), Fr Geoffrey Pye, Fr Eamonn Magrath (12/12), David Jolly, Alma Longford, Marie Verrrall, 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). **Eternal rest grant to them Lord, let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace.**

EPPING CHORUS will hold a Christmas concert on **Friday, 16 December at 7.30pm** at St John's Church, Epping. Simon Winters will conduct 'Fantasia on Christmas Carols' with carols for everyone. Admission is free but a retiring collection will be taken for CHES Homeless charity that is active in Epping Forest.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD?

At present we only have five seminarians training for the Priesthood in the Diocese of Brentwood. The period of formation for each is several years. Please contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, IRELAND 29th May 2023,

led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person, sharing; single supplement £150.00. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Contact Patricia on 01268 762278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

FREE JESSE TREE BOOKLET FOR FAMILIES:

The Jesse Tree is a wonderful resource for families to prepare for Christmas during Advent. A free, printable Jesse Tree booklet contains daily short scripture passages, reflections and prayers, as well as tree ornaments for all families in the Diocese of Brentwood at this link: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/marriage-family-life/family-life/

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2023

gives details of parishes and churches, The Liturgical Calendar and Mass times in parishes our diocese, Prayer Groups, schools & contacts. It's on sale in church at £2.95. Please put money in box.

EPPING FOREST FOOD BANK APPEALS FOR:

Instant Mash, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Pasta sauce, Jars of Coffee, Jam, Soup, Chocolate, Biscuits, Snack Bars & Breakfast Bars, Custard, Rice Pudding, Rice, Sponge Puddings, Packet Noodles, Tinned Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Crackers, UHT Milk, Long-life Juice, Chocolate Spread, Laundry Tablets, Washing Up Liquid and toiletries. **Goods can be left in our porch by the side of the church.**

WE HAVE FOOD BANK VOUCHERS

for anyone who may need them. Please contact Fr John or our Parish Office. In these tough times our parish will do all we can to assist people in financial difficulties.

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

youtube.com/channel/UCAbSuwE8X5AOaugAT35hREW or search on google: **The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping and visit the channel.**

On mobile phones scan the QR code to take you to the channel

