

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A 4th December 2022

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Jesus said, “The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matt.24:37-44). The word Advent means coming and in this short season the Church calls us to prepare to celebrate the first coming of Jesus into the world at his birth and prepare for his second coming, which will be at the end of time. For his first coming the Gospel tells us “that a sense of expectancy had arisen amongst the people” but for his second coming at the Parousia, Jesus tells us the time and date is known only to his Father in heaven, and not revealed to anyone on earth.

Advent is a season when the Church calls us to purify our mind and heart, so that we will welcome Christ as his holy people or person. We do this by recognising our failings and sins, confessing them to the Lord. Then we seek forgiveness and reconciliation with him and others, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which seals God’s forgiveness for us. During the past week children preparing for First Holy Communion in our parish celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It has been a joyful celebration for the children and their families, as they received God’s love forgiveness in this Sacrament of healing and reconciling.

Jesus tells to “Stay awake” with a sense of vigilance to prepare for his coming for his coming, which could happen at any moment, when he will come in glory on the clouds of heaven. In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray daily in the words of Jesus, “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. The time of the Lord’s coming on the clouds of heaven will show us that God’s Kingdom has come and that the world as we know will pass away and that there will be a new creation - and there will be a new heaven and earth, when all things will be made new.

His coming will be preceded by fears, wars and conflicts and disturbances in nature and creation. But Jesus will come as Saviour at the end of time to free people from fear and offer them liberation and salvation. St Paul urges us: “Make more and more progress in the kind of life you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you have learnt it”. He asks us to increase in love, be confirmed in holiness and be blameless in the sight of God (1Thess.3). During Advent, to prepare for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour with reverence, let us listen to the Word of the Lord and the call of St John the Baptist made to people all those years ago and which we need to heed today: “Prepare ye the Way of the Lord”.

May the Lord bless us during Advent and help us prepare his Way. Fr John

<u>TIMES OF MASSES & SERVICES: Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th December 2022</u>		
<u>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A</u> 4 th December 2022		
Saturday 3 rd	6.00pm	Bridget McGrath RIP
Sunday 4 th	9.00am	The People of our Parish
December 2022	11.00am	Kitty Reade’s intentions (Protheroe) Live streamed
Monday 5 th	9.15am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 6 th	9.15am	Mrs Scannell’s intentions
Wednesday 7 th	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor	
November	12 noon	Private Intention (PG)
Thursday 8 th	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Feast of the Dedication of our Church of the Immaculate Conception, Epping		
Parish Feastday	10.00am	The People of our Parish
Note times	7.30pm	Deceased Priests of Epping Parish (McAdam)
Friday 9 th	12 noon	Private intention
Saturday 10 th	ST FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST - MIGRANTS’ DAY	
<u>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT A Gaudete – Rejoicing - Sunday 11th December 2022</u>		
Saturday 11 th	6.00pm	Ann Cunningham RIP (Noble)
Sunday 4 th	9.00am	In Thanksgiving (Steel)
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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A Mass Book Page 82 4th December 2022

ISAIAH 11:1-10 He judges the wretched with integrity and gives a verdict for the poor.

PSALM 71 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

ROMANS 15:4-9 It is to God’s glory that you to treat each other as Christ treated you.

MATTHEW 3:1-12 John the Baptist called out: ‘Repent for the Kingdom of God is near’

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

On 20th November Offertories were: Envelopes £130, Loose £243.02 & CAFOD £20.

Thank you so much for your great 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 to be found 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.

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

ADVENT BEGINS TODAY: Please take and use the following 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 these 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Congratulations to the children who celebrated their First Reconciliation recently. 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 all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. When they are afraid give them courage, when afflicted give them patience, when dejected give them hope, when alone, assure them of the prayerful support of your holy people. **Amen**

ANNIVERSARIES: Philip Darcy (4/12), Dougil Qvani, John Goodman (5/12), Fr Brian Drea, Hans Bengesser, Michael Mulligan (6/12), Fr Michael Healy, Mary Ivey (7/12), Alfred Gill, Michael O'Mahoney, Ron Gaylor, Fr Bernard Pownall (8/12), Colin Saunders, Beverly Ziade, Jack Lafford, Fr John Lane, Canon Anthony McKenty (9/12), Anthony Turner, Gladys Long (10/12), Margaret Power, Beatrice Webber, Nancy Thorpe, Sam Butcher, Julia O'Mahoney, Bill Collier (11/12)
Eternal rest grant to them Lord, let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace. Lord, may they rest in peace and rise in glory. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER: Our thanks to Adriana, Emma and the wonderful team of dedicated volunteers for organising the very successful Christmas Market & Raffle, last Sunday. The magnificent sum of **£1751.43** was raised for our parish. **We thank all parishioners** who supported this event and the **businesses in the town** who donated prizes. In return for their generosity we ask our parishioners to support their businesses. The donors are listed in the flyer with the newsletter this week.

RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS: The lucky raffle prize winners were:
Wendy Darke, Margaret Steggle, Paul Ives, Arnold Verrall, Steve Hennigan, Mary Vine, Margaret Lechley, Cathy Burdett, Charlotte Crook, Dorothy Whitehouse, Julie Petruccio, Malcom Heughan, Anna Knight, Zoe Hersom, Aine Wood, Noel Holland, Janet Abbott, Brian McMahon, Stuart McHardy, Richard Steggle, Vincent Fox, Isobel Donn, Jackie, Lucy Marsh, Fernando Castro-Bass, Josephine Kilkenny, Jackie Ellice, Riaan Daly-Evans. **Thank you for your very generous support.**

FR BILL NIX change of address: In the past week Fr Bill moved from Harwich to St Michael's Care Home at 93 Marine Parade, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 6AG.

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 (active in Epping Forest).

FREE JESSE TREE BOOKLET FOR FAMILIES: The Jesse Tree is a wonderful resource for families to prepare for Christmas during Advent, telling the story of God's unfolding plan of salvation through the ancestors of Jesus Christ. 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 Meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, 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. If you or anyone you know needs vouchers, 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.

WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE Give Christmas gifts for people in poor countries who are in real need, in honour of a family member or friend, who might not need a gift but offer a certificate in their honour. The catalogues are in church to take away.

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

