

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



**11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA**  
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**Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)**  
**Registered Charity Number: 234092**  
**Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

### FIFTH SUNDAY: ORDINARY TIME A Racial Justice Day 5 February 2023

*Dear Friends & Parishioners,*

Jesus said, “Your light must shine in the sight of people, so that seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven” (Matt 5:13-16). Many people will never read the Bible, they may never enter a church or read a book on religion, but they may draw their impressions and conclusions on a faith from what they see or hear reported on the lives, words and actions of religious people. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in the darkness but have the light of life” (John 8:12), but in today’s Gospel he says, “**You** are the light of the world”. Thus he makes each of us responsible for reflecting or shining his light, the light of truth and virtue to people in our time – our lives then will be like a light and book people read to see Christ.

Isaiah (58:7-10) spells out the good works that demonstrate Godly and virtuous values to people down through the ages and in our time. They are caring for the hungry and homeless, clothing the naked, relieving people’s burdens, doing away with violence and wicked words, and helping the oppressed. Initially these thoughts, words and actions may seem attractive, but they challenge personal prejudices, racism, chauvinism or xenophobic dispositions. Jesus said that he and his teaching of Gospel values “will be a sign of contradiction” to worldly ways and thinking. Living an authentic Christian life, according to the Gospel and Church teaching, can leave people feeling uncomfortable – not only those challenged by it, but also the faithful who seek to live it in this age.

On this Sunday we pray for Racial Justice, and on Wednesday we have Day of Prayer for the Victims of Modern Trafficking (Slavery) and those working to combat that evil. There are still too many infected with racial prejudice who practice racial discrimination. They are blind to the fact that each person is made in the image and likeness of God, regardless of race, colour, creed or nationality and see nothing wrong with having a warped mindset. Slavery was made illegal many years ago, yet it is now on the increase, but there are still many good people today as in the past, devoted to eradicating it and defending the dignity and rights of the enslaved. Each of us in our own way needs to be a light bringing the light of Christ into the darkness in people’s lives. We need to be generous, merciful and just, taking pity and being supportive to the poor and those in need (Ps.111).

*May the Lord give us the grace to shine his light in our society. Fr John*

<b>MASSES &amp; SERVICES: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>		
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A RACIAL JUSTICE DAY 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>		
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Christina Rosser RIP Recently (Ball)
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Michael O’Brien RIP Recently (Browne)
January 2023	11.00am	People of our Parish <span style="float: right;"><b>Live Streamed</b></span>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs	
	9.15am	Ruby Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Hugh McAdam RIP Anniv (McAdam)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	St Josephine Bakita, Virgin	
<b>Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking (Slavery) and those who combat it</b>		
	12 noon	Cathal Quinn RIP Recently (Darcy)
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Palmer)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	St Scholastica, Virgin	
	12 Noon	Mrs June Blake RIP <span style="float: right;"><b>Requiem Mass</b></span>
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of Lourdes, Principal Patroness of Diocese of Brentwood	
February 2023	World Day of Prayer for the Sick	
<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>		
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Pierce Evans RIP Anniv
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
February 2023	11.00am	Anthony Ronald Taylor RIP Recently <span style="float: right;"><b>Live Streamed</b></span>

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE** on Saturdays from 11.30am to 12 noon (Not Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>) and on request to the Parish Priest during the week.

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

**CHURCH SERVICES WITH MASSES STREAMED:** [www.churchservices.tv/timetable/](http://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/)

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MASS BOOK Page 133 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**ISAIAH 58:7-10** Share your bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless poor

**PSALM 111** The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright

**1CORINTHIANS 2:1-5** The only knowledge I claimed to have was of Jesus crucified

**MATTHEW 5:13-16** You are the light of the world – let your light shine in good works

**OFFERINGS:** Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 standing orders. On 29<sup>th</sup> January Offertories were: Envelopes £146.50, Loose £367.67, CAFOD £300. Thank you for your generosity and support for our parish and charities. You can give in donations to the Priest’s House and online for our parish or charities our parish supports at: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////)

**NEW PARISHIONER OR ADDRESS CHANGE:** Welcome to our parish if you moved here recently. Please introduce yourself to Fr John or Deacon Duncan. If you have changed address in the parish we may not have your up-to-date details. To update, please email our Parish Office [epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org) with your details or complete a Parish Register Form, which is available in the porch and give it in to the Priest’s House.

**CHURCH CAR PARK:** Unfortunately, there has been some falling masonry from the church roof resulting in part of the carpark and children's play area being cordoned off. Please adhere to the precautions and measures that have been put in place in the interests of health and safety.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The children's sessions will continue in our Hall on **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February** at 5.30pm until 6.45pm

**WE PRAY FOR FOR THE SOULS OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**MRS JUNE BLAKE RIP**, formerly an Epping parishioner, who died on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> December at Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here in Epping on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon followed by burial in Epping Cemetery. **May she rest in peace.**

**MRS TERESA FOWLER RIP**, who died on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am. We offer our deepest sympathy to her parents, Duncan & Dorothy Whitehouse, and her husband, and family. **May she rest in peace.**

**MARGARET KEEGAN RIP**, an Epping parishioner, who died on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm. **May she rest in peace.**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, & let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to their families and all who mourn. May the Lord send his Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and give them with the hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection.*

**ANNIVERSARIES:** William Deary, Mary Cannon, George Hackett, Mary Fenton, Johnny Sullivan (5/2), Margaret George, Margaret Beales, Fr Francis Richardson, (6/2), Salvina Micaleff (7/2), Edward Nichols, Kathleen Schofield, Augustine Broks, Patricia Holman, Fr Alan Wilcox (8/2), Mina Higham, Douglas Naylor, Arthur Waller, Canon Bernard Manning (9/2), Matthew Clarke, Oswald Pelossi, Edna Gooding (10/2), Teresa Negri, Pierce Evans, Nora Clark, Fr Donald Mills (11/2), Mary McCarron, Johnny Darcy, Fr John Garrett (12/2) **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

**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.

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** The grand total of the collection came to £440.26. Warm thanks for all the generous contributions.

**CHAPLAINCY:** It is hoped to have more chaplaincy volunteers at Essex hospitals, including St Margaret's in Epping, in 2023. Could chaplaincy be for you? Most of the training course is online as well as at Epping and there may be opportunities for chaplaincy at NHS hospitals in Essex. Please see poster in church porch for details.

**BAKE SALE – SUNDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY:** Have a treat before Lent begins this week. All funds will go towards the repair of the church roof. Please support us by buying some lovely cakes and donating some homemade cakes, helping on the day or just making a donation. Contact Adriana on 07828 118 909 if you would like to help.

**CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD** invites people from **9pm** on the night of **31<sup>st</sup> March to 8:30am** on the morning of **1<sup>st</sup> April**, to join this year's Sponsored Sleepout in one of four locations; Colchester, Forest Gate, Romford & Southend. The sleepout will help to raise awareness and money to help local homeless charities and Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Details at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/sleepout](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/sleepout) and to register please email [sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**EPHING FOREST FOODBANK DONATIONS** Thanks to parishioners who continue to give generously for the Foodbank. They are most grateful for parishioners' generosity, but donations are desperately needed as more and more people in our community find it hard to make ends meet. The Foodbank asks for: pasta sauce, snack /breakfast bars, jam, rice pudding, tinned fruit, chocolate bars, shower gel, deodorant & toilet rolls. URGENTLY NEEDED: Small jars of coffee, washing up liquid, sponge pudding desserts and instant mash. Thank you again for your generous giving for those in need!

**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 what we can to assist people in financial difficulties. Please contact us and we will respond.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND, 5 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2023** with All Saints Travel Ltd & Fr John Moloney. The beautiful 8-day itinerary promises to bring pilgrims an unforgettable and life-changing experience. It includes a non-stop return flight from the UK to Tel Aviv with EL AL (in-flight meals included), all meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner every day), an executive touring coach, a professional local Christian guide, all entrance fees, tips & gratuities (paid directly to the guide, driver & hotel staff), as well as luxurious 5\* en-suite accommodation at a 5-star hotel in Jerusalem for 4 nights and a 5-star hotel on the Sea of Galilee with stunning views and private beach access for 3 nights. Full details are online <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/HL0756/>.

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

