

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: ORDINARY TIME A 12 February 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

Jesus said, “Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them” (Matthew 5:17-37). All the teachings of the law and the prophets in the Old Testament were to prepare the Jewish people for the coming of Jesus. Yet when he came Jesus did not see the Law as something that bound or limited people, but as a way that set people free and helped them and us to recognise and do God’s will. Jesus tells us that the one who keeps the law and teaches others to do the same will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven, but the one who disrespects the law and teaches others to do the same will be considered least in the kingdom of heaven.

Some people are called “Honourable” by virtue of their position or responsibility and that suggests that they are expected to act in an honourable way. Yet there are many with that title who do not speak or act in honourable ways. To respect the law part of being honourable – God’s law first and then good law made by humans, in so far as it is compatible with God’s laws. There are many in society who have little or no respect for God’s law and dismiss it as irrelevant – yet all will have to stand before the judgement seat of God and be accountable to him” (2 Cor.5:10) for what we have done or failed to do. God’s law gives direction on what God wants us to do and not to do. Jesus takes that to a higher level in this Gospel in speaking of the dangers of being self-righteous, judgemental, unforgiving, untruthful or dishonourable. Some of those things in today’s Gospel are to be found in each one of us and do we need to be purified of them.

Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, is the beginning of Lent, and in that holy season God calls us to examine our life and see the ways in which we need to change, and be purified. Then we can live life in good and Godly ways by using our talents and gifts in ways that give glory to God and offer loving service to others. It is important for all of us during Lent to recognise the gifts God has given us and our responsibility to give thanks to him by using them wisely and well in ways that serve others and so give glory to our Creator, Sanctifier and Saviour.

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

MASSES & SERVICES: Saturday 11th February to Sunday 19th February 2023		
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 12th February 2023		
Saturday 11 th	6.00pm	Pierce Evans RIP Anniv
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
February 2023	11.00am	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Sr Susan) Live Streamed
Monday 13 th	9.15am	Bridie Halligan RIP Recently (Darcy)
	2.30pm	Margaret Keegan RIP Requiem Mass
Tuesday 14 th	St Cyril, Monk, & St Methodius, Bishop	
	9.15am	Intentions of Dorothy & Duncan Whitehouse (S.P)
Wed 15 th	12 noon	John Brosnan RIP (Dear)
Thursday 16 th	10.30am	Teresa Fowler RIP Requiem Mass
Friday 17 th	The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order	
	12 noon	Memorial Mass for Paul James RIP
SEVENTH SUNDAY - ORDINARY TIME A Day for the Unemployed 19 February 2023		
Saturday 18 th	6.00pm	Intentions of John Casey (Murray)
Sunday 19 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
February 2023	11.00am	Peter O’Brien RIP Recently (Vine-Morris)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on Saturdays from 11.30am to 12 noon (Not Saturday 11th) 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/

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MASS BOOK Page 133 **12th February 2023**

ECCLESIASTICUS 15:15-20 God has given no one permission to sin

PSALM 118 They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God’s law.

1CORINTHIANS 2:6-10 The hidden wisdom of God is predestined to be for our glory

MATTHEW 5:13-16 Jesus said, “I have come not to abolish the law and the prophets”

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

On 6th February Offertories were: Envelopes £160.50, Loose £276.49 CAFOD £13.

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/////////

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 with your details or complete a Parish Register Form, which is available in the porch and give it in to the Priest’s House.

DISASTER EMERGENCY APPEAL COLLECTION FOR TURKEY & SYRIA: Following the terrible disasters and earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in the past week you can contribute to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal, in church at the end of Mass this weekend and over the next few weeks. Please use a Gift Aid envelope or your special Offertory Envelope, if you are a taxpayer in our Gift Aid scheme. **Our parish will double what is given in Church, which will in turn be doubled again by the government as contributing to the relief effort.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The children's sessions will continue in our Hall on **Wednesday, 1st March** at 5.30pm until 6.45pm. **No sessions on the 15th or 22nd February.**

WE PRAY FOR FOR THE SOULS OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

MARGARET KEEGAN RIP, who died on Saturday, 28th January, was our Epping parishioner and a teacher at Trinity Catholic High School, Woodford Green. She will be received into our church on **Monday 13th February at 2.30pm** for the celebration of Requiem Mass, and then be taken to Cork for burial. **May she rest in peace.**

MRS TERESA FOWLER RIP, who died on Friday 27th January, will be received into our church for the celebration of Requiem Mass on **Thursday 16th February at 10.30am**. We offer our deepest sympathy to her parents, Deacon Duncan & Dorothy Whitehouse, her husband and family. **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: Teresa Negri, Pierce Evans, Nora Clark, Fr Donald Mills (11/2), William Deary, Mary Cannon, George Hackett, Mary Fenton, Johnny Darcy, Fr John Garrett, Dezilwa Sperry (12/2), Hilda Darlington, Mary McCarron, Melville Gaughan, Edith Teesdale, Fr Charles Snell (13/2), Agnes Butcher (14/2), Margaret Rawbottom, Daisy Goulder, Kathleen Pomeroy (15/2), Kathleen Stanford, Anastasia Holtham, Clare Lafford (16/2), Dennis Verrall, Caroline Kirwan, Douglas Barker, Fr John Joyce, Alison Hoyes (17/2), Bridget Rose, Gerard Pines, Andy Codling, Bridget Rose (18/2), Fr Archibald O'brien, Fr Thomas O'Connor, Reg Clements, John Bloomfield (19/2). **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.

BAKE SALE – SUNDAY, 19th 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday 22nd February. We will have Masses here at 12 noon and 7.30pm.

LENT MASSES: On the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm we will offer Mass for people in various groups and activities in our parish that God will bless them in their good work in and for our community.

The dates & intentions are as follows:

24th February: Musicians & Singers

3rd March: First Holy, Communion Catechists

10th March: Readers & Ministers of the Eucharist

17th March: St Vincent De Paul Society

24th March: Parish Council & Finance Committee

31st March: Stewards, Ushers, Welcomers & Counters, Flower Arrangers

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY will be on **Friday 3rd March**. We will distribute the CAFOD envelopes at all Masses the previous weekend for collection on **11th/12th**.

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

HENNIGAN IRISH DANCE - New Classes for children age 5+ at Theydon Garnon Scout Hut, Flux Lane, Epping. Every Thursday starting in March. For more details contact Mandyhol@hotmail.co.uk 07713974077

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 require the usual items. 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.

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.

