

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



**11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA**  
**Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516**  
**Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173**  
**Email: [epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org)**  
**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**

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: ORDINARY TIME A 26 February 2023

*Dear Friends & Parishioners,*

“Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1-11). Today many people doubt or discount the nature and existence of God, but also dismiss the reality of temptation, evil and the devil and sin. Jesus was hungry and weak in his forty days in the wilderness but was also subjected to temptation by the devil. It is said the devil does not bother with those who are not really dedicated to doing good and God’s will, as they will not better the lives of people or change the world very much, nor will they help prepare for the coming of God’s kingdom, as we pray for it to come in the Lord’s Prayer.

Jesus had three temptations presented to him by the devil that went to the heart of his mission and work, for they centred on self. First, to work a miracle for his own benefit as he needed food. Second, a temptation to do something attention seeking but foolish, and expect God to send angels to rescue him. Third a temptation to obtain power and exercise control over peoples and nations by selling his soul. Later in his teachings, Jesus said, “What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul” (Mark 8:36). Jesus, in physical weakness had the spiritual strength, to rebuff the temptations, “the devil left him to return” (Luke 4:13).

Genesis Ch2:7-3:7 tells us temptation exists from the beginning and is centred on self and self-exaltation. Adam and Eve desired to elevate themselves to be like god, by disobeying and ignoring the command of the God who created them. Each of us has our own temptations – some come from the devil, some from our inner self and some from the world. We are more like our first parents than Jesus in dealing with temptations. Jesus told his disciples, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves but be wise as serpents and gentle as doves” (Matt 10:16).

During Lent we are called to journey with Jesus in the wilderness of our life – not alone but with him. He is our source of wisdom, who enables us to see our life as it really is. He is our strength who helps us resist the temptations that come from world, our own nature and the devil. Above all he is the Saviour who has been to the wilderness and redeems us and forgives us, when fall into sin.

*May the Lord bless us with a grace-filled and holy Lent. Fr John*

**The Lent booklets and Lent Planner for use daily by adults and children are in church. Please take and use them during this holy season of Lent so that it will be a time of grace and spiritual growth for us.**

<b>MASSES &amp; SERVICES: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>		
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT A 26 February 2023</b>		
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	The People of our Parish
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Roger Allardyce RIP Anniv. (Allardyce)
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Teresa Fowler RIP (M Palmer) <b>Live Streamed</b>
February 2023	3.00pm	Latin Mass in the Tridentine Rite
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Des Anthoney’s intentions (Joseph)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	May & Don King’s intentions (SB)
Wednesday	<b>St David, Bishop &amp; Patron of Wales</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> March	12 noon	Barter Family intentions (McAdam)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>St Nicholas Owen, Martyr</b>	
	9.15am	Tony Christoffelsz RIP Recently (Sr Susan)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Lent Fast Day for CAFOD - Women’s World Day of Prayer</b>	
	12 noon	Rocque Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
	7.30pm	Stations of Cross followed by Mass for 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Catechists
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Baptism of Baya Helen Brown
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT A 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>		
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Eric Protheroe RIP (Protheroe)
March	11.00am	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Clohessy) <b>Live Streamed</b>
2023	12.30pm	Baptism of Buckley Awnan Deary
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE** on Saturdays from 11.30am to 12 noon 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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT A PARISH MASS BOOK Page 151 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**GENESIS 2:7-3:7** The creation of and sin of disobedience to God by our first parents

**PSALM 50** Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned

**ROMANS 5:12-19** One man brought condemnation - one man brought justification

**MATTHEW 4:1-11** Jesus fasted for forty days and was tempted by the devil

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

On 19 February Offertories were: Envelopes: £95, Loose £293.27, CAFOD £200,

Disaster Appeal for Turkey & Syria in Envelopes £1368 and loose £230.01. 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 we support

at: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping/////////)

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY** will be NEXT Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. CAFOD envelopes will be distributed at all Masses this weekend for collection on 5/6 March or you can use a Special Collection envelope from in your Offertory Envelope box for CAFOD.

**DISASTER EMERGENCY APPEAL COLLECTION FOR TURKEY & SYRIA:** You can contribute to the Disaster's Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal, in church at the end of Masses this weekend. Please use a Gift Aid envelope or your special Offertory Envelope, if you are a taxpayer or in our Gift Aid scheme. **Our parish will double what you give in Church, which will be doubled yet again by the government in contributing to the Disaster Appeal.**

**BAKE SALE: SUNDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY:** Our thanks to Adriana and her team for organising last Sunday's Bake Sale. The magnificent sum of **£500** was raised and will be matched by our parish to go to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Appeal for the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey & Syria. Thanks to all who supported by donating homemade cakes, buying cakes, helping on the day or by making a donation.

**THANK YOU:** Deacon Duncan & Dorothy send grateful thanks for all the loving and prayerful support from parishioners during the illness and death of their daughter, Teresa Fowler. They appreciate it and found great consolation in it.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Mrs Anna Maria Mikellides, who died on 21 February 2023. **May she rest in peace.** She will be received into our church for the celebration of Requiem Mass on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Parndon Wood. **May she rest in peace.**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kevin Nugent, Christopher Carroll, Mgr Jules Van Meenen, Fr Clifford Beecroft (26/2), Connie Charlton, Edna Gooding, Fr David Chapman (27/2), Elizabeth Farrell, John Turner, Teresa Negri, Fr John Wall (28/2), Victor Blunt, Genevive Richardson, (1/3), Theresa Walsh, Robert Wood (2/3), Reginal Wright, Sharon Reeves, Mark Dower, Mgr Patrick O'Donnell, Fr Francis Hastings, Fr Brian Galvin (4/3), Lawrence Ryan, Sadie McAniskey, Samuel Palmer, Fr Malachy Kelly (5/3). **May they rest in peace.**

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to 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.*

**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 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. Through Christ, our Saviour. Amen

**EASTER LILIES:** As in previous years, we offer parishioners the opportunity to remember deceased relatives and friends at Easter by displaying lilies in the flower arrangements in church. It is suggested a donation of £3 is made for each lily. Please put your donation into an envelope, clearly marked 'Easter Lily in memory of " name ....."' and either put it in the Offertory collection or through the Presbytery letter box. If you are a taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation by using the red Special Donations envelope in the Church or use one of the special envelopes in your box.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The next children's session will be in our Hall **NEXT Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March** at 5.30pm until 6.45pm

**LENT MASSES:** We will have Stations of the Cross at the beginning of Mass at 7.30pm on the Fridays of Lent and will offer Mass for people in various activities in our parish that God may bless them in their service to and for our community. The dates & intentions are as follows:

**3<sup>rd</sup> March: First Holy Communion Catechists**

**10<sup>th</sup> March: Readers & Ministers of the Eucharist**

**17<sup>th</sup> March: St Vincent De Paul Society**

**24<sup>th</sup> March: Parish Council & Finance Committee**

**31<sup>st</sup> March: Stewards, Ushers, Welcomers & Counters, Flower Arrangers**

**LENT LUNCHES:** A chance to meet friends and support Christian Aid each Saturday in Lent as one of the Churches in Epping offers a light lunch (soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee) **from 12.30pm to 2pm**. A suggested donation is £3 for various charities. Please bring your friends. Everyone welcome! The first lunch will be on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at Restore Epping, The Box, St John's Road.**

**LENT MASS READINGS** with commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy, can be found on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Lent Readings'.

**EPPING FOREST FOODBANK** 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 needs them. Please contact Fr John or our Parish Office.

**GIFT AID:** We are most grateful to you for your generous weekly offerings. However, we would like to encourage parishioners to use Offertory envelopes, and especially for taxpayers to Gift Aid your donations to the church. This increases the value of your offerings to the church by 25% at no cost to yourself.

**EPPING FOREST RECORD FAIR:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 10am-3pm in our hall. Free entry. This event is not affiliated to our parish but may interest parishioners. For information please contact Slab Records on 0208 508 2726 or [www.slabrecords.co.uk](http://www.slabrecords.co.uk).

**JOB VACANCY** at Walsingham House at Abbotswick to appoint a Retreat Manager. Details at ([www.bcys.net/retreat-manager/](http://www.bcys.net/retreat-manager/)) or email Claire Bailey, Director of Youth Ministry ([clairebailey@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:clairebailey@dioceseofbrentwood.org)) Applications by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**WE LIVE STREAM 11am SUNDAY MASS IN OUR CHURCH on youtube:** Our church has a broadband connection again and it is possible to resume livestreaming on [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.

