

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
Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 234092
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT A 5th March 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

“In their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as light” (Matt. 17:1-9). When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the Spirit came down on him like a dove, and a voice came from heaven saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Luke 3:21-22). This grace and affirmation of his Father’s love was given to Jesus at the beginning of his public life, to strengthen him for his time in the desert, where he would be tempted and tested, and in preparation for his mission and ministry. Now, nearing the end of public ministry, he goes up the mountain to pray as he prepares for his passion and crucifixion, that would lead to suffering and death, to save people from sin. The Father in heaven again affirms his beloved Son with love, and strengthens him for his agony, scourging and crucifixion.

The completion of God’s plan for mankind, revealed in the Old Testament, is to fulfilled in the person of Jesus. Moses the Lawgiver, with whom God established a Covenant with his people, witnesses the Anointing of Jesus as the “beloved Son of God, who would fulfil God’s plan for people. Elijah the Prophet in the Old Testament, who was to return at the coming of the Messiah, was there to show that God was fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament, through Jesus. Jesus took with him, up the mountain, his three special disciples, Peter, James and John, who would be with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he prayed in agony before his passion and death. Though the disciples shared in that wonderful experience of the Lord’s transfiguration, they could not accept his imminent suffering and death on the Cross, and so Peter becomes a source of weakness and temptation to the Lord, as they come down the mountain.

Sometimes it is said that people have a mountain to climb. Jesus climbed the mountain, Horeb, where he was transfigured, and as he came down from that mountain he prepared his disciples for the other mountain that he would climb, Calvary, where his life would be sacrifice and he would be glorified on the cross. As we make our journey through life and in Lent, let us remember the words of our Lord, “If anyone is to come after me, let him take up his cross daily and follow me”. May we follow him in Lent so as to share his glory at Easter.

May God bless and protect you and your families. Fr John

MASSES & SERVICES: Saturday 5th March to Sunday 12th March 2023		
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT A 5th March 2023		
Saturday 4 th	12.30pm	Baptism of Baya Helen Brown
Saturday 4 th	6.00pm	The People of our Parish
Sunday 5 th	9 .00am	Eric Protheroe RIP (Protheroe)
Sunday 5 th	11.00am	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Clohessy) Live Stream
March	12.30pm	Baptism of Buckley Awnan Deary
2023	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 6 th	9.15am	John Joe McNiffe RIP Recently (Darcy)
Tuesday 7 th	9.15am	Des Anthoney’s intentions (Joseph)
Wednesday 8 th	12 noon	Teresa Fowler RIP (Cullen)
Thursday 9 th	9.15am	Des Anthony’s intentions (Joseph)
Friday 10 th	12 noon	Kit Tyler’s intentions (S Palmer)
7.30pm: Stations of Cross followed by Mass for Readers & Eucharistic Ministers		
Saturday 11 th	Baptism of Arthur Kevin Draycott-Guise	
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT A 12th March 2023		
Saturday 11 th	6.00pm	Elizabeth Rodgers RIP Anniv. (Digby-Rodgers)
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	Teresa Fowler RIP and Family intentions
March	11.00am	The People of our Parish Live Stream
2023	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/

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT A PARISH MASS BOOK Page 155 **5th March 2023**

GENESIS 12:1-4 The call of Abraham, father of faith and the people of God

PSALM 32 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-10 God has saved us and called us to be holy

MATTHEW 17:1-9 He was transfigured and his face shone like the sun

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 standing orders. On 26 February Offertories were: Envelopes: £163.50, Loose £408.85, CAFOD £10, Disaster Appeal for Turkey & Syria in Envelopes £660 and loose £55. 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/////////

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY CAFOD envelopes will be collected at all Masses this weekend.

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.

DISASTER EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR TURKEY & SYRIA: You can still contribute to the Disaster's Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal in church by using an envelope and marking it for Turkey/Syria Disaster Appeal. **Our parish will double what you give in Church, and that will be doubled yet again by the government in contributing to this Disaster Appeal.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The next children's session will be in our Hall **NEXT Wednesday, 5th March** at 5.30pm until 6.45pm

RECENTLY DECEASED: **MRS ANNA MARIA MIKELLIDES**, who died on 21 February 2023. She will be received into our church for the celebration of Requiem Mass on Friday, 17th March at 12 noon – cremation to follow. **May she rest in peace.**

ALAN CODLING RIP, brother of Mrs Janet Abbott, who lived in Clacton-on-Sea, died on Saturday, 25th February, following a long illness. **May he rest in peace.**

ANNIVERSARIES: Mgr Patrick O'Donnell, Fr Francis Hastings, Fr Brian Galvin Sharon Reeves, Mark Dower, Reginal Wright, (4/3), Samuel Palmer, Lawrence Ryan, Sadie McAniskey, Fr Malachy Kelly (5/3) Ian Cook, Nancy, Maddin (6/3), Rosalie Shannon, Rosamund Flower, Charles Derenge (7/3), Canon Joseph Whitfield (8/3), Frances Arrow, Fr Thomas Lawton, Fr John Gordon (9/3), Timothy White, William Simmons, Maria Watson, Peter Ryan, Maura Butler, Fr Edmund Meyer, Fr Maurice Roche, Dianne Harrington, Mgr Michael Corley (10/3), Frederick Roberts (11/3), Brian Conlan, Margaret Cannon (12/3), Millicent Wood, David Marlin (12/3). *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 your servants who suffer in mind, body or spirit. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: Masses can be booked through our parish office. If you require a weekend Mass or a specific date, please give as much notice as possible.

OUR PARISH HALL is available to hire at very competitive rates and with a discount for parishioners. The hall is also free on a regular basis on certain weekday evenings for anyone wishing to hire either for a parish group or a commercial booking. Please consider using our hall for your celebratory events and mention to your friends too. Please contact the parish office for more details.

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:

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

LENT LUNCHES: A chance to meet friends and support Christian Aid on Saturdays of 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 next lunch will be on **Saturday 11th March at Epping Green Chapel, Epping Green.**

EPHING 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.

GIDEA PARK TALK ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST: Fr Adrian Graffy, Parish Priest & Member of the Pope's Biblical Commission, will speak on the Eucharist at Christ the Eternal High Priest church hall, Gidea Park RM2 6DH on **Wednesday, 22 March at 7pm**. "*Do this in memory of me*" in the New Testament and understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including Pope Francis' teachings, This in person talk can also be followed on live stream by going to www.whatgoodnews.org

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: **Saturday 27th May 2023.** Join Bishop Alan and parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. Please contact our parish office for further information.

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.

