

## 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

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT A 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

*Dear Friends & Parishioners,*

Jesus said, “Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never get thirsty again, for that water will turn to a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life” (John 4:5-42). Relationships that are often not recognised by others can change us and others too. Jesus in speaking with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well was taking risks in being alone with a woman and in relating with a Samaritan, for the Jews and Samaritans were enemies. He asked her for water but went on to speak not about water from the well which is what she wanted, but about “the water of life” that would satisfy her and our deepest thirst That water would flow from his pierced side as he was dying on the cross, and become the water of life in Baptism, that satisfies the deepest thirst for love in every person, for it gives the new life of grace and a secure loving relationship with God.

This insecure woman had several broken relationships with men and was now living in an improper one. It seems she was keeping apart from the other women or they from her because of her history, since the women would usually meet at the well. She did not want to talk about relationships but about religious worship – a safer and less personal subject. Jesus goes to the heart of her life in seeking love and security. He who is the Truth leads her into the truth about her life. He showed her respect, and while she may have been judged by some as sinful, he does not judge her and she becomes his messenger and brings people to him.

There is much we can reflect on and learn from this Gospel and the interactions and conversation between Jesus and the woman. We all have our own hungers and thirsts that are not just to do with drink and food. We may wish to talk about religious or theoretical things, or other people, to avoid talking about the real me or acknowledging my deepest needs. It is said the most important thing in our relationships is “not to find the right person but to be the right person”, for a friend, family, God and society. When Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” (John 4:16), he shows us the way to live and carries us on that way. He is the truth who sets us free and enables us to recognise the truth about our life and God’s plans for us. He is the life, for he shares the life of God with us and through his resurrection promises us eternal life. Let us learn from him as we live our own life and how to relate well with others, as Jesus did at the well.

*May the Lord bless us with a kindly and compassionate heart. Fr John*

<b>MASSES &amp; SERVICES: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>		
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Baptism of Arthur Kevin Draycott-Guise
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT A</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>12<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b></span>		
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	The People of our Parish
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Teresa Fowler RIP & Family (Kyrou)
March	11.00am	Elizabeth Rodgers RIP Anniv (Digby-Rodgers) <b>Streamed</b>
2023	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Gina Giambrone’s intentions (S Palmer)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Abbott)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Eileen Lennon RIP Anniv (Lechley)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Vera Doherty RIP Anniv (Doherty)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland</b>	
Note time	10.00am	Eabha Quinn & Family
	12 noon	Anna Maria Mikellides RIP Requiem Mass
<b>7.30pm: Stations of Cross followed by Mass for the St Vincent de Paul Society</b>		
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT A LAETARE OR REJOICING SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>		
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP (Stevenage)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
March	11.00am	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Murray) <b>Live Streamed</b>
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/](http://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/)

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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT A PARISH MASS BOOK Page 158** **12<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**EXODUS 17:3-7** The Lord gave them water to drink from the rock

**PSALM 94** O that today you would listen to his voice: ‘Harden not your hearts’.

**ROMANS 5:1-8** The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit

**JOHN 4:5-42** Jesus said, “The water I will give will turn into a spring of eternal life”

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

On 4 March Offertories were: Envelopes: £160.50, Loose £360.43. 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:** Many thanks for your generosity. The amount donated to date is £395 in envelopes and £99.40 loose.

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

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION** continues NEXT **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March** at 5.30pm until 6.45pm, when the children will make their second Reconciliation in the church. Parents are invited to attend.

**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, 17 March at 12 noon - cremation afterwards. **May she rest in peace.**

**MRS CELIA CORNWELL RIP**, our parishioner here in Epping for many years, who died on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Funeral arrangements pending. We offer our sincere sympathy to her daughter, Julia Willis & family who are parishioners and to all of Celia's 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:** Frederick Roberts (11/3), Brian Conlan, Margaret Cannon (12/3), Millicent Wood, David Marlin (12/3), Fr William Luby (13/3), Canon Martin Horkan (15/3), Vera Doherty, Muriel Mulligan, Brenda O'Connor (16/3), Edward Palmer, Hannah Smith (17/3), Elizabeth O'Halloran, Fr Donal Donegan (18/3), June Fitzpatrick (19/3). **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 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

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to the family of **Baya Helen Brown**, baptised in our Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, and the family of **Buckley Awnan Deary** baptised in our Church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. May the Lord bless them and their families and help them bring up their children in the knowledge and love of God.

**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.

**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:

**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 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 18<sup>th</sup> March at St John's Church, St John's Road, Epping.**

**THRESHOLDS OF HOPE LENT LECTURE 2023:** "The pain, passion & privilege of supporting Christians who are suffering persecution" given by the Baroness Caroline Cox at Brentwood is now available to see on the *Thresholds of Hope* YouTube page <https://youtu.be/Ohb5G1aYdtc> Please subscribe.

**PARISH JOB VACANCY:** A vacancy has arisen for a part time Site Manager here at The Immaculate Conception, Epping.

The post will be part-time (6 hours per week – with a flexible working agreement to be agreed). Salary £12 per hour.

Please send your CV and cover letter by email to [admin@eppingparish.plus.com](mailto:admin@eppingparish.plus.com). The full job description is available to see at [Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net)

Closing date for applications: **20 March 2023**

**For further details please contact the Parish Office.**

**REPOSITORY:** We need helpers for the Repository, religious goods & card stall in our church porch. There are cards for every occasion and some lovely religious goods, that are not expensive. We need some more helpers to open it after the weekend Masses in our church. Please contact Fr John or our Parish Office if you can help.

**EPPING FOREST FOODBANK** The Foodbank require the usual items. Thank you 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.

**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://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.**

