

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT A 19th March 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

Jesus said to the blind man, “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam, a name that means sent” (John 9:1-18). There were stages of healing for the man who was born blind that might have challenged his faith and that of people around him. Jesus sees the blind man, recognises his need for healing, spat on the ground and makes a paste with his spittle and then tells the man to go and wash. He then gets the gift sight, having acted with faith and obedience to Jesus command.

Blindness is not just a physical condition affecting our body, for we can also have a mental or spiritual blindness. Blindness of the mind afflicts those unable to understand or empathise with others and can only see things from their own viewpoint. It is a real gift and grace to be able to see understand and see where others are coming from and sympathise with them and meet them halfway.

Spiritual blindness afflicts people like the Pharisees who did not have faith in Jesus as Saviour. They limit God with a restricted or narrow mind-set and do not have faith to see God work out his purpose and mission to save us through Jesus Christ. It is the man who was physically blind who has eyes of faith to see and profess his belief in Jesus. There are many who do not have faith in God or in Jesus his Son as the Saviour of the world. Faith is a grace from God enabling us to see his presence in the world, in people and in our own life. Only with faith can we say truly that Jesus is Lord, Son of God and Saviour of the world.

We may say “I can’t see where he or she is coming from” and so be blind and incapable of seeing another’s position. Faith is a gift from God that we dare not take for granted, since people can and do lose faith. Faith enables us to relate to God in prayer and to see his presence in times of need or tragedy, as well as in the normal or beautiful. We grow in faith by reading or listening to God’s Word in the Bible, by communing with him in private prayer and public worship. We ask Jesus to strengthen our faith, so that with eyes of faith we may see his presence in our life, in others, in the church and the world

We pray for, honour thank and God our mothers, on this Mothering Sunday. We ask God to bless them as we give thanks for the gift of motherhood – a gift and calling which they share with Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church.
May the Lord bless us with the vision of his presence in our world. Fr John

MASSES & SERVICES: Saturday 18th March to Sunday 26th March 2023		
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT A LAETARE OR REJOICING SUNDAY 19th March 2023		
Saturday 18 th	6.00pm	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP (Stevenage)
Sunday 19 th	9.00am	People of our Parish MOTHERING SUNDAY
March 2023	11.00am	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Murray) Live streamed
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 20 th	St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	11.00am	Mrs Celia Cornwell RIP Requiem Mass
Tuesday 21 st	9.15am	Cecila Fernades RIP (Murray)
Wednesday 22 nd	12 noon	Martin McDonagh RIP Recently (Lechley)
Thursday 23 rd	9.15am	The Palmer Family’s intentions of (Hersom)
Friday 24 th	12 noon	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP Recently (Stevenage)
7.30pm: Stations of Cross followed by Mass Parish Council & Finance Committee		
Saturday 25 th	Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord	
Feast Day Mass	10.00am	Private intention
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT A 26th March 2023		
Saturday 25 th	6.00pm	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Christie)
Sunday 26 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
March 2023	11.00am	Roger Gramfin RIP Anniv (Gramfin) Live streamed
	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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT A PARISH MASS BOOK Page 164 19th March 2023

1SAMUEL 16:1-13

PSALM 22 The Lord is my shepherd; There is nothing I shall want.

EPHESIANS 5:8-14 Wake from sleep, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you

JOHN 9:1-41 The blind man washed himself and came away with his sight restored

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/////////

BAPTISM: Congratulations to the family of **Arthur Kevin Draycott-Guise** baptised in our Church on Saturday 11th March. May the Lord bless them and help them bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: We wish all mothers a blessed and happy Mothering Sunday. May they find great joy in the love, growth and holiness of their children. All mothers in our parish will be presented with flowers after Mass this weekend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION continues on **Wednesday, NEXT, 22nd 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 CELIA CORNWELL RIP**, our parishioner here in Epping for many years, who died on Sunday 5th March. She will be received into our church on Sunday 19th at 6.45pm. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11am on Monday 20th followed by a private burial at Parndon Wood Cemetery. 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.**

WALTER JOHN OWEN RIP, who died on 3rd March. His Funeral Service will take place at Forest Park Crematorium on 3rd April 2023.

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

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:

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 25th March at Life Church, The Box, St John's Road, Epping.**

PARISH JOB VACANCY for a part time Site Manager here at The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 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. Job description is available at [Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese (dioceseofbrentwood.net)). Closing date for applications: **20 March 2023 For details please contact the Parish Office.**

THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP TBNG, A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land will visit us on the weekend **1st - 2nd April** to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families, any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated" (when you help the poor you help our Lord").

GIFT AID: The Gift Aid envelopes for the new financial year beginning 6th April 2023 are now ready for collection in the church porch. Would parishioners who currently do not have envelopes and who wish to have them, please contact the Parish Office. We ask parishioners who have envelopes to please contact us if your details or circumstances have changed. We 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.

EPHING 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/UCAbSuuE8X5AOaugAT35hREw 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.**

