

FIFTH SUNDY OF LENT A		26th March 2023
Saturday 25 th	6.00pm	Teresa Fowler RIP Recently (Christie)
Sunday 26 th	9.00am	The People of our Parish
March	11.00am	Roger Gramfin RIP Anniv (Gramfin) Live streamed
2023	3.00pm	LATIN MASS in Tridentine Rite
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 27 th	9.15am	James Walls RIP Recently (Walls)
Tuesday 28 th	9.15am	Laerte Furlaneto RIP Recently (Castro-Bass)
Wednesday 29 th	9.15am	James Walls RIP Recently (Walls) Note time
Thursday 30 th	9.15am	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP Recently (Stevenage)
Friday 31 st	12 noon	Lisa Boyle & Family's intentions (Boyle)
PALM SUNDAY OF PASSION OF THE LORD (A)		2nd April 2023
Saturday 1 st April	6.00pm	Daniel Keating RIP (Graves)
Sunday 2 nd	9.00am	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP Recently (Stevenage)
March	11.00am	The People of our Parish Live streamed
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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT A PARISH MASS BOOK Page 170 26th March 2023

Ezekiel 37:12-14 "I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live" says the Lord

PSALM 129 With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

ROMANS 8:8-11 The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you

JOHN 11:1-45 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 standing orders. On 19 March Offertories were: Envelopes: £189.50, Loose £366.44 Appeal £120 & CAFOD £20. 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/////////

PARISH EASTER CARDS are available for collection and distributing this weekend. They give details of our Easter Masses and greetings from our Church to people at home. Please take yours and near neighbours to help reduce our postage costs. Our thanks go to the parishioners who have helped prepare them.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN OUR CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY, 6th April: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER at 7.30pm, followed by PRAYER AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE, after Mass until 10pm.

GOOD FRIDAY, 7th: STATIONS OF THE CROSS for children & adults 10am, Walk of Witness 11am, Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3pm.

HOLY SATURDAY, 8th: EASTER VIGIL & MASS OF EASTER 7.30pm.

EASTER SUNDAY, 9th April: MASSES at 9am and 11am

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT A

26th March 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (Jn.11:1-45). Jesus teaching on the resurrection of the dead and eternal life is for all who believe in him. He mourned the death of Lazarus and came to Martha and Mary to share the compassion of God with them in their grief. At the tomb of Lazarus, his friend, St John tells us in the shortest sentence in the Bible, "Jesus wept", and the people commented, "See how much he loved him".

Jesus came as a comforter and to mourn with the sisters of Lazarus and the widow at Nain, whose only son had died (Luke 7:11-17). Of Lazarus he said, "This illness will not end in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified". When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead God's glory was seen at work in and through him. This miracle would lead to his sufferings and death on the cross, through which he would give glory to God.

Here is the mystery of suffering and our difficulty in understanding God's will and his presence and action, or seeming absence or inaction in sad situations. We may ask, but not find answers as to why God allows some things to happen, like the pandemic, earthquakes, famines or wars. Why did Jesus allow Lazarus, to die when he had healed others? Why did he allow Martha and Mary whom he loved, to go through grief at the death of their brother? Why was he so distressed and wept at the tomb, when he knew that he would raise Lazarus from the dead? Yet, we can only go forward as people of faith by placing our hope in Christ!

In Jesus, we see the compassion of God reach out to people in the present and the past. In the Stations of the Cross, Jesus walks with people in suffering and grief. In him, we have the hope and promise of eternal life with God, for he is the Saviour of the world, especially to those who believe in him. Ultimately, Christ our Saviour transforms sufferings and death into new and eternal life with God.

In these difficult times that we are living through, with insecurity and uncertainty, and the greatest of these can be facing death or coping with the death of a loved one. And so we turn to the Lord who mourned with his friends all those years ago and pray that he visit, comfort and console those in their distress, and grant them his grace and protection. *May God bless and protect you and yours. Fr John*

DISASTER EMERGENCY APPEAL COLLECTION FOR TURKEY & SYRIA: Many thanks to parishioners for your generosity. The Parish Appeal raised **£3662.01** (including the Bake Sale and gift aid). **This amount was doubled by the parish making £7981.02 and will be doubled yet again by the government in contributing to the Disaster Appeal. We have sent off the cheque to CAFOD.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION continues on **Wednesday, NEXT, 29th 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: **WALTER JOHN OWEN RIP**, who died on 3rd March. His Funeral Service will be celebrated 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: Hannah Ibson, Fr John Sherlock (25/3), Kay McDonald, Michael Peachey, Mgr Alfred Gilbey, Fr Denis Hall (26/3). **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. Our final Mass on Friday 31st March will be for our Stewards, Ushers, Welcomers, Counters and Flower Arrangers.

LENT LUNCHESES: 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 1st April at the United Reform Church, Lindsey Street, Epping.**

WALK OF WITNESS: The pilgrims, on the Good Friday Walk of Witness through the town, are given refreshments in our Parish Hall. We need 6 or so volunteers to prepare tea, coffee and hot cross buns from approx. 11am. Please approach Dorothy Whitehouse at Mass or phone 01992 577173 to offer your help. Many thanks.

EPHING CHORUS will perform "*Stainer's Crucifixion*" at St John's Church, Epping, on Good Friday, 7th April, at 7.30pm. Entrance is free but a retiring collection will be held towards Choir Funds. See posters for details.

BLESSING OF POLISH FOOD: "To begin the Divine Mercy Octave we shall have the Blessing of Polish Food (in Polish) on Holy Saturday (8 April) at 12 noon, at Our Lady of Grace & St Teresa of Avila, Kings Road, Chingford E4 7HP."

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: **27 March 2023 For details please contact the Parish Office.**

THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP TBNG, A missionary from Bethlehem in 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/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.**

