

MASSES & SERVICES FROM: Saturday 29th April to Sunday 7th May 2023		
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A World Day of Prayer for Vocations 30 April 2023		
Saturday 29 th	6.00pm	Daphne McAdam RIP Anniv (McAdam)
Sunday 30 th	9.00am	Mrs Agnes Laffey RIP Recently (Coyne/Hayes)
April 2023	11.00am	The People of our Parish Live Streamed
Monday 1 st May	St Joseph the Worker: Day of Prayer for Human Work	
Bank Holiday	10.00am	Franko Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
Tuesday 2 nd	St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor	
	9.15am	Patsy Fernandes RIP (Murray)
Wednesday 3 rd	Saints Philip & James, Apostles	
	12 noon	Connors Family living & deceased RIP (Connors)
Thursday 4 th	The English Martyrs - National Feast	
	9.15am	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP Recently (Stevenage)
Friday 5 th	12 noon	Grace Kelly's Family's intentions (SB)
May 2023	7.30pm	For King Charles III on the eve of his Coronation
Saturday 6 th	St John Payne, Priest & Martyr – Diocesan Feast	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A 7th May 2023		
Saturday 6 th	6.00pm	Grace Kelly RIP Anniv (Bond)
Sunday 7 th	9.00am	The People of our Parish
May 2023	11.00am	Janet Barrow RIP Live Streamed

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on Saturdays from 11.30am to 12 noon and on request to the Parish Priest at any time. You are always welcome to this Sacrament.

DIocese of Brentwood Website: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net//>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A Mass Book Page 262 30 April 2023

ACTS 2:14-41 "God has made Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ"

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

1Peter 2:20-25 You had gone astray but have come back to the shepherd of our souls

JOHN 10:1-10 Jesus said, "I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe".

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

On 23rd April: Loose Plate £404.27, Envelopes £150.50 & CAFOD £10. Thank you for your generosity and support for our parish and charities. You can give in donations to the Priest's House and also online for our parish or charities we support at: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping//////////

AN EASTER PRAYER

Queen of Heaven, Rejoice, Alleluia. The Son you were worthy to bear, Alleluia.

Has risen as he said, Alleluia. Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world,

through the resurrection of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grant, we pray that through his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary,

We may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

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 EASTER A 30th April 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

Jesus said, "I am the gate of the sheepfold. Anyone who enters through me will be safe" (John 10:1-10). We all want to be in a safe place where we can feel secure, and that is not just about location but also about a state of mind and wellbeing. This Fourth Sunday of Easter is called "Good Shepherd Sunday" as Jesus, the risen Lord and Saviour, speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd who looks after his sheep and lays down his life for them. His laying down of his life out of love for people, and in submission to his Father's will, we celebrate in Holy Week and at Easter we see him glorified for his sacrificing his life by being raised from the dead and sharing his divine life, the new life of grace, with us.

Good Shepherd Sunday is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations, in particular to the priesthood and religious life, so that Jesus' work as shepherd of his people will continue to be carried out in our time. The word vocation means call and we speak of many roles that people have in life and society as a vocation. It is a vocation or call from God to a person to be a husband or wife, father or mother, doctor or nurse, teacher or support worker, carer or carpenter and many other roles, which we often fail to appreciate or may even take for granted. On this Sunday, however, the Church calls us to focus on the vocation of carrying on Christ's work as the Shepherd of God's people and to pray for people to embrace that special vocation.

There are moments for all of us when we can recognise or hear the call or voice of God speaking to us. It can be like "the still small voice of calm" speaking to us in our mind and heart, amidst the turmoil of the world and our own life. It may be an inkling, urge or prompt that may lead me to consider that the Lord is calling me to a particular way of life involving relationships, responsibilities or work and to fulfil my destiny in this world – that particular vocation once I have accepted it and it has been confirmed by the Church is God's call for me in this life and should lead me to my destiny in his kingdom. Please pray for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life so that people may hear and listen to God's call and generously respond to it in the service of his people. It is a privilege to be recognised and called by God to serve him by ministering to his people. Today we pray at Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood and religious life – may it always be a part of our prayers, and especially to pray for vocations in our own family and parish.

May we listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd and respond to his call. Fr John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: Wednesday 10th May at 7pm a rehearsal for children and their parents of those making their first Holy Communion at 11am on Saturday 13th May. **No class next week.**

RECENTLY DECEASED:

We offer our sympathy to our parishioners Sarah Day and her family on the recent death of her father. **May he rest in peace.**

MRS PATRICIA GRAVES who died on Monday 10th April. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated in our church on **Tuesday 9th May at 11.30am** followed by burial at Epping Cemetery. **May she rest in peace.**

MRS ANNE DOWD, who died on Tuesday, 11th April 2023. **May she rest in peace.**

MRS MARIE CREHAN, a long-time parishioner here, who died on Thursday 20th April 2023. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated in our church on **Friday 19 May** at 12 noon. We offer our sympathy to her daughter, Louise and all her 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 the resurrection of Christ.

ANNIVERSARIES: Daphne McAdam, Fr Brian O'Higgins, Jeannie Enright, Jim Sullivan, Maria Pascale (29/4), Fr John Kennedy James O'Sullivan (30/4), Pamela Anderson, Cleonagh Jolly (1/5), John Curran, (2/5), Margaret Smith-Galer, Tom Clark, Duncan Wilkie, Morgan Gardiner (3/5), Patrick Butler, Fr Andrew Dorricott, Fr Feargus Saurin, Canon Thomas Norris, (4/5), Canon Patrick Palmer, Canon Basil Booker, Thomas Clark, Albert Bazzoni, Fr John O'Callaghan, Tommy Holmes, Grace Kelly (5/5), Kathleen Johnson (6/5), Mary Geoghegan, Diane Tucker (7/5). **Eternal rest grant to them, Lord, 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 your servants 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. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

MASS FOR THE KING: A special Mass will be offered in our Church on **Friday, 5th May**, at 7.30pm, to pray for King Charles III on the eve of his coronation, that God may bless, guide and inspire him in his sacred office, for the leadership of the nations. Prayer cards for the King will be distributed as people leave Mass this weekend.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: Mass for Migrants **Monday, 1st May 2023**, at 12pm. Banner bearers please gather at St Bonaventure's Secondary School at 11:15am for refreshments and to prepare the procession of banners at 12noon. The Mass at St Antony of Padua Church, Forest Gate E7 9QB will be hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood with Bishop Alan Williams SM as celebrant and Fr Dominic Howarth preaching. "

RED MISSION BOXES: Many parishioners used the Red Missio Boxes to support the work of the Missions in poorer countries in the past year. We have placed the emptied boxes at the back of the church and would ask people to take and use them again.

EPPING CHORUS will hold a quiz night in our church hall on **Friday, 12th May** - 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £10 per person from Maggie Knope on 01992 573101. Please see poster on notice board in the porch for more details. NB a Friday quiz.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE EASTER TALKS will explore what it means to have an intimate friendship with Christ. They will take place on **Wednesdays 10th, 17th and 24th May** at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1NS from 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. The first talk, "**Calling on the name of Jesus,**" will be given by Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral. All very welcome.

GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY ON POPE BENEDICT AND THE LITURGY

On Saturday **20th May**, from 11.00 to 13.00 BST, Fr Vincent Twomey SVD, student and friend of Pope Benedict XVI, will speak on 'The Liturgical Vision of Pope Benedict'. This event will be live streamed from Ireland on www.whatgoodnews.org. Fr Twomey recently produced 'The Dynamics of Liturgy: Joseph Ratzinger's Theology of Liturgy', published by Ignatius Press. Details are on www.whatgoodnews.org A recording of the study day will be made available subsequently on the website.

HOSPITALITY MANAGER AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK:

Walsingham House at Navestock, Brentwood, seeks to appoint a friendly, reliable and trustworthy Hospitality Manager, who will be responsible for welcoming groups wishing to use the retreat centre and be a point of contact to manage practicalities. For information please see www.bcys.net or email Claire Bailey (clairebailey@brcdt.org) The closing date for applications is midday on Friday **12th May 2023**.

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK The Foodbank needs the usual items. Thank you for your generous giving to those in need! **WE HAVE FOOD BANK VOUCHERS** for anyone who may need them. Please contact Fr John or our Parish Office.

CHANGE TO PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS: On Tuesday **2nd May** our parish email address will change to epping@brcdt.org. In the short-term emails sent to the old address will be redirected but this will eventually cease so from next Tuesday onwards please use the new email address to contact the 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 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.**

