

MASSES & SERVICES FROM: Saturday 13th May to Sunday 21st May 2023		
Saturday 13th	St Erconwald, Bishop & Secondary Co-Patron of our Diocese	
	11.00am	First Holy Communion Mass
	12.30pm	Baptism of Charlotte Kilden
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A 14th May 2023		
Saturday 13th	6.00pm	Tess Doherty's intentions (S Palmer)
Sunday 14th	9.00am	Special intention (S Palmer)
May 2023	11.00am	People of our Parish Live Streamed
Monday 15th	9.15am	Tess Doherty's intentions (S Palmer)
Tuesday 16th	9.15am	Margaret Goode's intentions (Durkan)
Wednesday 17th	11.00am	Esther Mary Daly RIP REQUIEM MASS
Thursday 18th	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (A) HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION	
Note Times	10.00am	Special intention (S Palmer)
	7.30pm	People of our Parish
Friday 19th	12 noon	Marie Crehan RIP REQUIEM MASS
Saturday 20th	St Bernadine of Siena	
	11.00am	First Holy Communion Mass
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 21 May 2023		
Saturday 21st	6.00pm	Fr John's intentions (S Palmer)
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	Darren's intentions (SB)
May 2023	11.00am	People of our Parish 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/>

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A Mass Book Page 268 14 May 2023

ACTS 8:5-17 The apostles laid hands on people who then received the Holy Spirit.

PSALM 65 Cry out with joy to God all the earth, sing to the glory of his name.

1Peter 3:15-18 Reverence the Lord Jesus Christ in yours hearts, he was raised to life.

JOHN 14:15-21 I shall ask the Father, he will give you an Advocate, the Spirit of Truth

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

On 7th May 2023: Loose Plate £312.03, Envelopes £173.50 & 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//////////

PRAYER FOR THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful

And enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, Did instruct the hearts of the faithful,

Grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice

in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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@brcdt.org (This our new email address)

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

14th May 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

Jesus said, "In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live, and you will live" (John 14:15-21). Jesus prepared his disciples for his leaving them at his death and his Ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven. Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus into heaven which we celebrate on Thursday, are two great Christian feasts that give us hope of life after death and the assurance that our Lord has not abandoned us but is with us always. Forty days after his resurrection Jesus met with his disciples and in their sight was taken up into glory, there to intercede for us at the right hand of his Father.

He promised his disciples and us a that he would send "The Advocate, who will be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth", who will lead us into all Truth – the Truth that will set us free and enable us to live in right relationship with God and with his people. The reality of that truth is presented to us by our Lord in the blessings or Beatitudes (Matt Ch.5) he confers on people when they or we go through all sorts of challenging, difficult or sad circumstances in life.

At the Last Supper Jesus gave his disciples a New Commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you". Before his Ascension he says to them, "Anyone who receives my Commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me, and anyone who loves me will be loved by my Father". Relationships are central to our life not only with people but also with God, and living in right relationship with God and people are key to fulfilling our destiny in life and in the world.

Acts Ch.8 shows us what happened when the Spirit, Jesus sent from the Father at Pentecost, came down on the Samaritans when they were prayed over and the apostles laid hands on them. Confirmation is an essential for all of us Christians, for through that Sacrament we receive the Spirit in a special way and with the laying on of hands and anointing with Holy Chrism we are strengthened in relationship with God and for our mission in life and the world. The Holy Spirit who is with us always offers us the gifts and graces of: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, holiness and reverence, and we only need to call on him to make use of His gifts in our various circumstances. From Ascension Thursday to Pentecost Sunday, we have nine days (a novena) to pray for the coming and a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. *May we be open to receive the Holy Spirit and respond to his promptings. Fr John*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: On **Wednesday 17th May** at 7pm a rehearsal for children and the parents of those making their first Holy Communion at 11am on **Saturday 20th May**. **No class on Wednesday evening next week.**

CONGRATULATIONS to our First Holy Communion children and their families on receiving their Holy Communion at this time. Their Presentation Mass and presentation of their First Holy Communion Certificates will be on Sunday **11th June**.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

MRS MARIE CREHAN, a long-time parishioner here, who died on Thursday 20th April 2023. She will be received into our church on **Thursday 18th May** at 4.30pm. Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on **Friday 19th May** at 12 noon. We offer our sympathy to her daughter, Louise Whitbread and to all her family at this time. **May she rest in peace.**

MRS ESTHER DALY who died on Sunday 30th April. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated in our church on **Wednesday 17th May** at **11.00am** followed by a private cremation. **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.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN RESEARCH ON BEHALF OF BISHOP ALAN:

Do you know someone who no longer comes to Mass? Maybe it's a friend or family, neighbour or colleague, or maybe it's you?+ Bishop Alan would love to hear from you + https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_gNo8WXvvKfwJts For further information please pick up a short survey invitation available in church.

ANNIVERSARIES: Doug Bere, Percy Flower, Kathleen King (13/5), Stephen Thornhill (14/5), Bernadine Potrykus, John Hassey (15/5), Fr James (Jim) McCormack, Ronnie Barrett (16/5), Angela Riccoboni, Fr John William Hayes, Fr Paul Dynan (17/5), Bridie O'Loughlin, Leslie Wilson, Ann Allshire, Margaret White (18/5), Canon Thomas Clark, Elva Robinson, Elizabeth O'Connor (19/5), Canon Michael Fitzpatrick, Fr Brendan Shepherd (20/5), John de Vos, Patricia O'Grady, Mgr William O'Grady (21/5).. **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 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.

ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD: Day at the National Gallery, London, free guided tour of the St Francis of Assisi Exhibition. **Dates: Saturdays May 27, June 3, 24, July 1, 8, 29 at 11am.** Please see poster in church porch for further information.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE EASTER TALKS explore what it means to be in an intimate friendship with Christ. They will take place on **Wednesdays 17th and 24th May** at St Francis of Assisi Church, 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.

MAY - THE MONTH OF OUR LADY: We honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Queen of Saints, who has maternal care for her children on earth and prays for us in heaven. Pope Francis said: "Our Lady, as soon as she heard she was to be the mother of Jesus and that her cousin, Elizabeth was expecting a child, 'went to her with haste' and did not wait or say, 'Now I am with child, I must take care of my health – my cousin has friends to care for her'. Our Lady is always like this - our Mother, who always hurries to us whenever we are in need". We are encouraged to pray asking her intercession in the Rosary during this month, and especially in the Joyful and Glorious mysteries.

GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY ON POPE BENEDICT AND THE LITURGY

Next 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.

AFFORDABLE COUNSELLING EPPING FOREST: **Thursday 18th May 2023**
Celebration Evening & Talk 7:30pm-9:30pm. Venue: The Box, St John's Rd, Epping
RSVP: Jane Walters 07803 939023 (janewalters2003@hotmail.com)

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.

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.

