

MASSES & SERVICES FROM: Saturday 1st to Sunday 9th July 2023		
Saturday 1 July	St Oliver Plunkett, Bishop & Martyr	
Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Alan Williams in 2014		
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 2nd JULY 2023		
1st July	6.00pm	Percy, Margaret & David Keevil RIP
2nd July	9.00am	The People of our Parish
2023	11.00pm	Joseph Guglielmi RIP Anniv (Sheldrake)
Monday 3rd	St Thomas, Apostle	
	9.15am	Jeremiah Kingston RIP (FM)
Tuesday 4th	St Elizabeth of Portugal	
	9.15am	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP (Stevenage)
Wednesday 5th	St Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest	
	11.00am	Marcheta Swift-Daley RIP REQUIEM MASS
Thursday 6th	St Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr	
	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Friday 7th	Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	
	12 noon	Sally Smith RIP Recently (Sr Susan)
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A Sea Sunday 9th July 2023		
Saturday 8th	6.00pm	Eabha Quinn & Family
Sunday 9th	9.00am	The People of our Parish
July	11.00am	Peter Protheroe RIP Anniv (Protheroe)
2023	12.30pm	Baptism of Oscar Michael Arthur Pearson

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//>

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME A Parish Book Page 96 2 July 2023

2Kings 8:4-16 This is a holy man of God; Let him rest here

PSALM 88 I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

ROMANS 6:3-11 In Baptism we went into the tomb with Christ, to rise to new life

MATTHEW 10:37-42 Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me is not...

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

On 25th June 2023 you gave: Envelopes £141.60, Loose £240.50. In last week's retiring collection for the Sick & Retired Clergy Fund in the Diocese you gave £330.46. Thank you for your generosity and support. You can give in donations to the Priest's House and online for our parish or charities our parish supports at:

www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping//////////

SECOND COLLECTIONS: The Diocese has instructed we take up mandatory second collections rather than make donations to them from our parish funds, as we have done in the past. Thank you for your generosity and support to our parish and charities. On the weekend of **8/9 July, Sea Sunday**, we will have a retiring collection for **Seafarers**, many of whom depend on charities like Stella Maris, the Apostleship of the Sea at Tilbury.

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 is 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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A 2nd July 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

Jesus said, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me" (Matt.10:37-42). The peoples of the Holy Land & Middle East, traditionally warmly welcome strangers and offer the best in hospitality. St Paul instructs us "welcome one another and show honour to visitors" and "make hospitality your special care" (Rom. 12:13). In the reading from 2 Kings 4, we see how the noble woman and her aged husband recognised the holiness of the prophet Elisha and offered him hospitality in their home. God blessed them with his creative love so that they had a much longed-for son, and when he died restored him to life through the prayer, intercession and action of Elisha, the holy man of God.

In Hebrews Ch.13, we are told, "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for some have entertained angels without knowing it". That is shown by Abraham and Sarah, his aged wife, giving hospitality to the three men who visited them, whom they did not recognise as angels. They brought a message from God to Abraham and his wife that they would have a child within a year, and that God's promise would be fulfilled with the birth of their child Isaac. This scene is so movingly depicted in Rublev's beautiful icon of the Holy Trinity.

In the Gospels, Jesus tells us to see God in himself as he says "To have seen me is to have seen the Father (John 14:9). We recognise Christ present "where two or three are gathered together in his name". When the Sacred Scriptures are proclaimed in public, the Lord is present and speaks to his people. He is really present in the Holy Eucharist under the forms of Bread and Wine and gives himself to people in a Holy Communion of love and unity. Nor should we overlook the fact that he is present in other people and in each one of us. That can be hard to believe at the times when we or others may be somewhat obnoxious, hostile or lacking in hospitality.

Refugees and asylum seekers especially need hospitality. They are often suffering and in most vulnerable situations and having no roots in a community or country in which they are strangers can feel left outside. This may lead to the formation of ghetto like communities as people live in parallel societies or worlds, with no integration, communication or engagement in that society. We Christians have a specific responsibility to take to heart and express in our relationships the words of our Lord, "He or she who welcomes you welcomes me, and the one who sent me".

May the Lord enable us to make hospitality our special care. Fr John

RECENTLY DECEASED: **MRS MARCHETA SWIFT-DALEY RIP**, long-time parishioner, who died on Monday, 12th June. She will be received into our church for the celebration of Requiem Mass on **Wednesday, 5th July at 11 am**, followed by cremation at Parndon Wood. We would welcome friends & parishioners to the Mass.

MRS ELIZABETH DOHERTY RIP, who died on, 22nd June. Her funeral will be in Northern Ireland. We offer our sympathy to her family. **May she rest in peace.**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayers for all who mourn.

CONGRATULATIONS to Julia King & Michael Leonard, who married in in our church on Friday 30th June. We wish them a blessed, long and very happy marriage.

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret O'Regan, Noel Hunter, Fr James Littleton (2/7), Therese Robinson, Peter Prothero Gordon Easton, Patricia Kirrane, Charles Carter, Charles Kienzle (3/7), Fr Patrick Curran (4/7), Oscar Micallef, Fr Patrick Carthy, (5/7), Michel De Claiterosse, Canon Thomas Barrett (6/7), John Crawley (7/7), Fr Peter Brady, Veronica Boynton (8/7), Tony Flower, John Welch, Canon Francis Gilbert, (9/10), Samuel Whitehouse, Fr Walter Walsh (10/7). **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 afraid give them courage, when 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.

YEAR 13 RETREAT AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE: Made for a purpose:

Will you be in Yr.13 in September 2023? Are you currently making decisions about your next steps? Would you like some time to step back, reflect, pray and think about the different pathways ahead of you? Then if so, the Yr13 retreat at Walsingham House is just the opportunity to do that. There will be two retreats on offer, either **13th-15th Sept or 22nd-24th Sept**. The cost is £35 and there is more information on the website www.bcys.net/events/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

TALK ON THE "OUR FATHER" On **Wednesday 12th July** at 7 pm in the parish hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy will give a short talk entitled 'The Prayer of Prayers: An exploration of the Our Father'. The talk is free of charge, and tea and coffee will be available from 6.30 pm. Ample free parking, and easy access on the Elizabeth Line. The talk is available also by live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org No booking necessary.

HELP TO SELL, PLEASE! We have many things in the Presbytery, some were Fr James' and some mine, that we need to sell. The proceeds will go to charities. I would be grateful to anyone who can do online selling of some of these items. Fr John

PRAYER PETITION BOOK: Our thanks to Brenda Sebire who for many years, has kept our Parish Prayer Petition Book at our Lady's shrine up to date. Brenda has decided to now step down and we are most grateful to her for her time and dedication.

APPOINTMENTS OF PRIESTS IN THE DIOCESE FROM SEPTEMBER:

PARISH PRIESTS: Fr John Harvey from Loughton to Brentwood Cathedral; Fr Martin Boland from Cathedral to Wanstead; Fr Adrian Lowe from Wanstead to Loughton; Fr Mark Reilly from Wickford to St Mary's Hornchurch; Fr Martin Fletcher from St Mary's Hornchurch, to Epping; Fr Britto Belevendran from English Martyrs, Hornchurch, to Wickford; Fr Linu Thankachan from St John the Baptist Ilford, to English Martyrs, Hornchurch, Fr Clement Orango from Diocese of Nottingham to be Priest-in-Charge at Stansted; Fr Henry Mobela Zambian Chaplaincy in London to be Priest-in-Charge at Chadwell Heath; Fr Tarciziu Erdeş to be Parish Priest of The Assumption, Hainault.

ASSISTANT PRIESTS Fr Paschal Uche from Colchester to Chelmsford, Fr Jerold Terrence from Kerala to Manor Park; Fr Philip Okoli resident with Community of St John, Forest Gate to St James the Less & St Helen, Colchester.

RETIREMENT: Fr John McGrath at Epping to Westcliff-on-Sea.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you wish to have Mass offered for anyone living or dead, please contact Fr John at The Priest's House, by phone, letter or e-mail and state the intention. Mass we will offer the Mass in our church as soon as possible. Mass cards are available at the Priest's House. If you require a specific date or a weekend please book early, as weekends are booked up many weeks in advance.

GREAT HISTORY MYSTERY LECTURE at Trinity Catholic High School, Woodford Green, on **Thursday 6th July at 7.30pm**. Dr Doherty will talk about the hideous and mysterious murder of the disappearance of King Edward II from Berkeley Castle in 1327. Refreshments will be served and Dr Doherty will raffle copies of his novels. Admission fee £2.00. All proceeds to the School Fund.

NEED OF URGENT HELP: If you or someone you know urgently needs help, please contact the Priest's House. We will endeavour to assist through parishioners who have volunteered to help, the Church, Foodbank or local agencies. Simple things like a phone call or e-mail can be a real comfort to many.

REFERENCES FOR SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024: Parents and carers who want a Priest's reference to support an application for a school place for their child in September 2024 must have been attending Sunday Mass consistently over the years. If parents attend Mass in another parish - that is the place to see the priest. There is an article from The Times newspaper in Church on the way parents manipulate clergy for this purpose.

EPPING FOREST 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 ARE NO LONGER LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY MASS at 11am from our church, as very few people now join the live stream. We will live stream particular occasions as requested and necessary. Our thanks to the team who have done the streaming so well and diligently over the years, to the benefit of many, and have offered to stream again when needed. We are most grateful to them.

