

MASSES & SERVICES FROM: SATURDAY 5th AUGUST to SUNDAY 13th AUGUST		
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD A 6 August 2023		
Saturday 5th	6.00pm	Doherty Family (Doherty)
Sunday 6th	9.00am	Mrs Scannell's Intentions
August 2023	11.00pm	People of our Parish
Monday 7th	9.15am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 8th	9.15am	Special Intention
Wednesday 9th	12 noon	Holy Souls
Thursday 10th	9.15am	Tullia Borelli RIP (Mansell)
Friday 11th	12 noon	Special Intention
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 13th August 2023		
Saturday 12th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 13th	9.00am	John Cooney RIP Recently (Cooney)
August 2023	11.00am	Frances Sheehy RIP Anniv (Clohessy)

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//>

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 standing orders. On 23rd July 2023 you gave: Envelopes £105, Loose £302.12. Thank you for your generosity and support for our parish. You can give donations to the Priest's House and online for our parish or charities our parish supports at:

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C MASS BOOK PAGE 173

WELCOME FR CLEMENT OLUMIDE: We welcome and are most grateful to Fr Clement from Abidjan in Ivory Coast, who is here with us for the holidays. Over the years he has supplied for holidays in local parishes and is with us while Fr John is away on holiday. Fr Clement will be leaving us on 18th August when Fr John returns.

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

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (A) 6th August 2023

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

On this Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, the readings speak to us of the Glory of God.

The first reading from the Book of Daniel gives us good news; the judgement of world powers, the deliverance of the people of God and the coming of the Kingdom.

In the second reading, we have the testimony of the Apostle of Peter. He made it clear that his messages are not out of some wishful or imaginary thinking. He powerfully stressed the authenticity of his testimony: "We have been eye-witnesses of his majesty". Peter says and again "we ourselves heard his voice". We Christians of today believe in Jesus transfigured and resurrected because we have confidence in the testimony of those who saw his glory.

With the Gospel we can go into the event of the Transfiguration. Our Lord took with him Peter, James and John to a high mountain. In the Bible the mountain is the privileged place of meeting the Lord God closely. There, the Apostles will discover the Lord transfigured into light, his face shining like the sun. Peter was dazzled, he was much captivated, he wanted to stay there forever, contemplating this extraordinary vision.

Then the voice of the father would come in; "This is my beloved son in who I am well pleased; listen to him."

We, the disciples of Christ, we are called to be the people that listen to his voice and take his word to heart. To listen to Jesus, we have to be close to him, to follow him, accept his teaching, which is in the Gospels and we are sent to be witnesses and messengers of the hope that gives us life.

*God Bless you all,
Fr Clement*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024 Application Forms for parents to prepare their child for First Reconciliation this year and First Holy Communion in 2024 are available in church. Children should be in **School Year 3** or older in this school year. Completed forms should be returned to the Priest's House by the 8 September 23.

COMMUNION CATECHISTS: We need more to helpers prepare children for First Reconciliation & Holy Communion starting in September. You do not need to be a teacher or a musician. Please contact our Parish Office who will be delighted to hear from you.

PARISH COUNCIL: We express our gratitude to **Emma Armstrong**, Chairman of our Parish Council, who will step down in September. Emma has conscientiously carried out this responsibility and leadership in our parish for six years and we are extremely grateful to her for giving so generously of her time and talents to our parish.

MARY'S MEALS: Many thanks for your generosity in supporting this foreign currency initiative. Thank you too to the parishioner who very kindly hand-delivered the money to the office of Mary's Meals in Slough.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) RAFFLE: The SVP will be selling raffle tickets at Masses on the weekend of August 12th and 13th so please bring your wallets and purses so that you don't miss the opportunity to win £5000, top prize, £1000, second prize or £100, third prize (third prize has 15 winners). SVP seeks to alleviate the effects of loneliness and poverty so buying raffle tickets will help locally as well nationally.

ANNIVERSARIES: Vera Nolan, Mary Doherty, Carmela Chaffer, Deacon Frederick Wall (6/8), Barbara Wilson, Thomas Staunton (8/8), Mary Boland, Marie Longton, John Welch (9/8), Derek Lucy (12/8), Elizabeth Saich, Herbert Smith, Mabel Whitehouse (13/8). **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.

HELP TO SELL, PLEASE! We have many things in the Priest's House, 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 sell some of these items online. Fr John.

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

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.

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.

THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA NATIONAL RELIC TOUR 2023
"We are delighted to announce that the Diocese of Brentwood will be graced with the presence of esteemed relics during the Knights of Saint Columba National Relic Tour 2023. From July 30th to August 12th, we welcome you to witness and venerate the sacred relics of St. Columba of Iona, St. Andrew the Apostle, and St. Margaret of Scotland.

These relics, rich in spiritual significance, offer a unique opportunity for personal reflection and communion with these revered saints. Join us in this profound spiritual journey as we celebrate their enduring legacies. Stay tuned for more details and event schedules. Let us come together in faith and embrace the blessings of this extraordinary experience"

Please contact our parish office for the timetable of dates, times and places the Relics can be viewed throughout the Diocese

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

FOLK & BESPOKE ARTISAN MARKETS will be held in our Parish Hall on Saturdays: 16 September, 18 November and 16 December from 10am-3pm. Free entry. Refreshments available. If you're an artist, maker or indie business owner in/around Epping, and would like to apply for these events please [email katy@folkandbespoke.com](mailto:katy@folkandbespoke.com) to register your interest, or drop her a message with any questions. **This is not a parish event but may interest our parishioners.**

STALLHOLDERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR:
The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society are seeking stallholders for their Christmas Craft and Gift Fair being held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on **Sunday 5th November 10.30-4pm**. Pitches are **£30** and all profits made on the day are the stallholders' own. For further information please contact Damian: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000

OUR PARISH HALL is available to hire at competitive rates and to parishioners at a discount. It is free on a regular basis on certain weekday evenings for anyone wishing to hire for a parish group or a commercial booking. Please consider using our hall for your celebratory events and mention to your friends. Please contact the Parish Office for details and to make bookings.