

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

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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

MASSES & SERVICES FROM: SATURDAY 12th AUGUST to SUNDAY 20th AUGUST		
<u>NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 13th August 2023</u>		
Saturday 12th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 13th	9.00am	John Cooney RIP Recently (Cooney)
August 2023	11.00pm	Frances Sheehy RIP Anniv (Clohessy)
Monday 14th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 15th	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN	
Holyday of	10.00am	Private Intention
Obligation	7.30pm	The People of our Parish
Wednesday 16th	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 17th	9.15am	Robert Graves RIP (Graves)
Friday 18th	12 noon	Private Intention
<u>TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 20th August 2023</u>		
Saturday 19th	6.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday 20th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
August 2023	11.00am	People of our Parish

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 6th August 2023 you gave: Envelopes £159.50, Loose £227.17. On-line donations for July amounted to £140. 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//////////

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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 next Friday, on 18th August when Fr John returns.

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.

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) 13th August 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

The readings of today are inviting us to move further in our desire for conversion and discover more who God is to us.

Elijah, in the first reading, has just killed the prophets of the false gods, his life is in danger, he has walked for 40 days and 40 nights to get to the mountain of God, Horeb (the Sinai) where he would now realise he was mistaken about God. On the mountain he would now know that God is not some powerful violence but that of love. He discovered him in this "tiny whispering sound". Our Lord Jesus will later reveal to us a God of love and mercy. It is in loving that we know the reality and the truth about God.

Paul too, in the second reading, must have been mistaken about God. He violently persecuted the Christians, thinking that he was defending God's honour until the day he met Christ on the road to Damascus. This encounter with Christ was the turning point in his life; the real conversion. He reminds Christians that the Jews gave us Christ, the Jews are part of God's plan of salvation. He would also express his pain for the lack of faith of the Jews in Jesus Christ, whom we see today walking on the sea.

He had just fed the 5,000 men, not counting women and children; he has sent the disciples away to pray by himself on the mountain and to be with God. He now comes down to walk on the water to meet his disciples battling with the waves. He, Christ, the Lord of all, will calm the sea to save those he has chosen and loved. He comes to us in all our problems and battles in life. When we are in difficulties, he is near to us. He is there even when we ignore him.

*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 are grateful to our Catechists who prepare children for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Our programme for 2023/24 will commence in September. We have a dedicated, small team of Catechists but we desperately need some more parishioners to assist with this important work for a couple of hours a week. You do not have to be a teacher or have special skills. Please contact the Parish Office if you think you can help.

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of Matilda Rose Gysbers who was baptised in our Church on Saturday 29th July. May the Lord bless them & help them to bring up Willow in the knowledge and love of God.*

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: Derek Lucy (12/8), Elizabeth Saich, Herbert Smith, Mabel Whitehouse (13/8), Anthony Commins (16/8), Des Kelly (16/8), Albert Asher, Margaret Green (17/8), Edie Taylor (18/8), Jack Bell (18/8), Colin Tucker (19/8), Eric Hollister (19/8). **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

WE 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.

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.

PARISH JOB VACANCY for a part time Site Manager here at The Catholic Church, Epping. The post will be part-time (3 hours per week – with a flexible working 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)). **Further details from the Parish Office.**

MARCH FOR LIFE – Saturday 2nd September 2023: You can join the ecumenical annual March for Life at the Marsham Street Emmanuel Centre Westminster SW1P 3DW at 1.30 on **Saturday 2nd September**, or on the Piazza in front of Westminster Cathedral from 1p.m. There will be Mass at the cathedral at 10.30 a.m.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children are warning that by the end of this year, based on the actual figures for the first six months, the projected total annual number of unborn babies denied the right to life in England and Wales will exceed a quarter of a million for the first time. The peaceful March itself starts from Marsham Street at 1.30pm but there will be Mass in Westminster Cathedral at 10.30 a.m. and events in The Emmanuel Centre in Marsham Street until 1 p.m. The march will end at about 4.30 p.m. in Parliament Square.

IT IS A WORK OF CHARITY TO DEFEND THE VOICELESS AND DEFENCELESS. See also the poster on the church noticeboard.

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.**

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.

