

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

MASSES & SERVICES FROM: SATURDAY 19th to SUNDAY 27th AUGUST 2023		
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 20th August 2023		
Saturday 19th	6.00pm	Canon Vincent & Fr Andrew Hurley RIP Anniv
Sunday 20th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
August 2023	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 21st	St Pius X, Pope	
	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 22nd	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 23rd	St Rose of Lima, Virgin	
	12 noon	Geoffrey Potter RIP Anniv (Murray)
Thursday 24th	St Bartholomew, Apostle	
	7.30pm	Holy Souls RIP
Friday 25th	St Louis, King of France	
	12 noon	Rose Potter RIP (Murray)
Saturday 26th	12.30pm	Baptism of Aaron Andrew Evora
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 27th August 2023		
Saturday 26th	6.00pm	Special intention
Sunday 27th	9.00am	Robert Browne RIP Anniv (Browne)
August	11.00am	People of our Parish
2023	3.00pm	Traditional Latin Mass

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 13th August 2023 you gave: Envelopes £154.48, Loose £196.71. 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//////////

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C MASS BOOK PAGE 117

ISAIAH 56:1-7 The Lord says; "My house will be your house of prayer for all the peoples"

PSALM 108 Let the peoples praise you, O God; Let all the peoples praise you.

ROMANS 11:13-32 With Israel, God never takes back his gift or revokes his choice.

MATTHEW 15:21-28 Jesus, "Woman you have great faith, let your wish be granted."

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) 20th August 2023

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

"My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples" (Isaiah 56:1-7). Often people who belong to a religion even a particular church within Christianity, consider themselves exclusive and the only ones with a good relationship with God. In Isaiah's the prophecy the Lord tells of his love for all especially the "foreigners who attach themselves to him, to serve him and to love his name and be his servants". He speaks of leading people on a pilgrimage to his holy place and making them joyful in his house of prayer, "for my house will be a house of prayer for all the peoples".

It is sad nowadays that many churches are locked outside of times of worship, due to thieving, vandalism or lack of respect for the sacred. Some years ago here in Essex, a retired teacher who had not been Baptised or Christened had an extra-ordinary feeling one morning that she must go into a church and pray. She drove about fifteen miles passing many churches and having tried the doors found each one locked. She then came to a Catholic church that was open and after spending some time there, the priest happened to come into the church, and she told him of her (faith) journey that morning and desire to pray in a church. That led to her conversion and Baptism and becoming a very committed member of the church. It is a blessing for people and localities when churches are open for people to come to the Lord in his holy place, for he is always there for those who desire to come to him, and a blessing for people in this area and our community that our church is open every day from early to late.

In the Gospel (Matthew 15:21-28) we hear of the non-Jewish woman who comes to Jesus with great faith. Jesus' first response to her is typical of what his own people might have thought or said at time, for they would have seen her as an outsider who did not belong to "The Chosen People". Jesus recognises the depth of her faith and grants her the deliverance from evil and healing she seeks for her tormented daughter.

We express our gratitude to Fr Clement who has supplied here and in other local parishes during the holidays. It has ensured that the Masses have been celebrated here on the weekdays as well as weekends. We are most grateful to him for his generous help and he will celebrate Mass here next Saturday evening (26th). He left us on Friday for Harlow, where he has been helping out in the parishes for some years.

I hope everyone has had a safe and happy holiday and I enjoyed my time with my family. **May the Lord draw us himself in his Holy House, the Church. Fr John**

CHURCH REPAIRS: The scaffolding has now been erected to enable long-awaited repairs to be carried out to the roof of the church and deal with ingress of water. The work should start on site this Monday, and there may be some parking inconvenience.

FR MARTIN FLETCHER, who is presently Parish Priest at St Mary's, Hornchurch, will take up his appointment as Parish Priest here at the Immaculate Conception, Epping, on Saturday, 9th September. Fr John will retire as Parish Priest and move to Westcliff-on-Sea, on Thursday, 7th September, to be Chaplain to the Sisters at the Little Company of Mary Convent, in Grosvenor Road, Westcliff.

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.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) RAFFLE: Many thanks for your generosity in supporting the Raffle. £320 was raised for the SVP to help with their work internationally and locally. The results will be published in due course.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES: Colin Tucker, Eric Hollister, Canon Vincent Hurley, Fr Andrew Hurley (19/8), Rodney Wyness, Norah Watson (20/8), Liam Downey, Benito Pascale, Josephine McGlynn, Fr George Gresley, Fr Sean Sheils (22/8), Joyce Peck, Richard Giddens, Mike Collett, Canon Vincent Cameron (23/8), Thomas Tormey, Joseph Hayes, John Gee (24/8), Mary Collier, Angela Moore (25/8), Winifred Jones (26/8). **Eternal rest grant to them, Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

THANK YOU: Our thanks to Vincent Fox who has created a very fine and prominent place for the statue of our Lady at the back of the church. It will also facilitate flower arrangements in that area and provides a dignified location for the Bible in the church.

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.

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.

PARISH JOB VACANCY for a part time Site Manager here at The Epping Catholic Church. The post will be part-time (3 hours per week – with 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 our Parish Office.**

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.

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.

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