

MASSES & SERVICES from: Sat 30th September - Sun 8th October		
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 1st October 2023		
Saturday 30th	6.00pm	Intentions of Graham Childs (Vallance)
Sunday 1st	9.00am	In Thanksgiving (Hollinshead)
September	11.00am	The People of our Parish
Monday 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	
	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 3rd	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 4th	St Francis of Assisi	
	12 noon	Teresa Hicks' Intentions (Whitehouse)
Thursday 5th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Friday 6th	HARVEST FAST DAY	
	12 noon	Ania Wigley RIP Anniv (Wigley)
Saturday 7th	Our Lady of the Rosary	
	9.30am	Holy Souls RIP
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 8th October 2023		
8th October 2023 Week of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents		
Saturday 7th	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 8th	9.00am	Bridget Browne RIP Anniv (Browne)
October 2023	11.00am	People of our Parish

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE on Saturdays after 9.30am Mass.

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 24th September 2023 you gave: Envelopes £127.50 and Loose £315.49. 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//////////

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:

“St Michael the Archangel, defend us in this day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.”

NOVEMBER SERVICES FOR THE DEAD: We will have a Cemetery Service & Blessing of Graves at Epping Cemetery on Sunday 5th November, at 3pm. On Sunday, 19th November at 3.00pm, our Annual Bereavement Service will be held in our church. Details to follow nearer the time.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: This year we will hold our parish Christmas Fair Fundraiser on Sunday 26th November 10am-2pm. As in previous years, we will be holding a Christmas Raffle. If you can help or donate new or unused items to our gift stall or raffle, please contact Adriana on 07828 118 909. More details to follow soon.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF YEAR (A) 1st October 2023

This week's readings call us to turn to the Lord, modelling our actions and words on Christ Jesus.

The **First Reading**, from the prophet Ezekiel (18: 25–28), gives hope. Those who think better of their situation and renounce it are given life.

The apostle Paul shows what it is to give up sin and take on the mind of Christ (**Second Reading** Philippians 2: 1–11). The Church at Philippi was on the whole a source of joy for Paul, but here he appeals for greater unity. This is reached only by imitating the humility of Christ, who became obedient even unto death. Out of love for us, Christ even gives up his divinity, freely and without reservation.

Amidst growing tension following the overturning of the money changers' tables in the Temple, the religious leaders confront Jesus, demanding to know the source of his authority. Jesus tells the parable of the two sons, and poses a question, causing the chief priests to reflect on the difference between putting self or others first. By answering correctly, thereby aligning themselves to the boy who said he would do his Father's will but then doesn't, they convict themselves (**Gospel** Matthew 21: 28–32).

This week, let us keep close to Christ, who obeyed the Father perfectly in word and deed. And let us remember that it is never too late for us to turn to God and follow God's will.

MEET & GREET SUNDAY: **THIS Sunday, 1st October**, after the 11am Mass, we invite parishioners to join Fr Martin in our Hall. This will be an opportunity to welcome him to the parish and meet with our parishioners. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served. All parishioners very welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024: There will be a meeting for parents on **Tuesday 10th October at 7.30pm in our Hall. It is imperative that all parents attend this meeting.** The children will be presented with their "I Belong" books at Masses on the weekend of **14th/15th October**. An email listing the programme dates will be sent to all parents.

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES: Starting from next **Thursday, 5th October**, there will not be a Mass celebrated in this Parish on a Thursday as this will be Fr Martin's day off each week.

Starting from Saturday, **7th October** there will be Mass at 9.30am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.30am. During this time Fr Martin will be available to hear confessions.

ROSARY: Each weekday we will recite the Rosary as follows:
Monday, Tuesday, Friday after Mass and Wednesday at 11.40am before the start of mid-day Mass.

COULD YOU READ AT MASS? ARE YOU ALREADY A READER?
We urgently need some more parishioners to join the rota of reading at the weekend Masses. Training will be given. Please let Fr Martin know if you would like to join in this important ministry.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: We express our gratitude to Melissa Murphy who is stepping down as our parish Safeguarding Officer. Melissa has conscientiously carried out this voluntary position for a number of years. We are now seeking a new parishioner to take on this very important parish role. Please speak to Fr Martin if you are interested. Training and a handover will be given.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: As numbers attending Mass are starting to rise we are in need of more Eucharistic Ministers to join the team on a rota basis. Please speak to Fr Martin if you would like to help.

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: Fr Bernard Wakeling, Doris Scott (30/9), John O'Day (1/10), Frank Swan, Margaret Eadon (2/10), Reginald Ivey, Fr Michael Hopkins (3/10), John Hurley(4/10), Fr Henry Healy, Fr David Logue (5/10), Judith Hudson, Bridget Browne, Canon Edward Heery (6/10), Fr Harold Cahill (7/10), Fr Alfred Clements (8/10). **Eternal rest grant to them, Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

HARVEST FAST DAY FOR CAFOD on Friday **6th October** calls us to identify with and aid people in developing nations. Envelopes will be given out at all Masses the **THIS** weekend.

CONGRATULATIONS: A massive congratulations to our parishioner Joanne Ryan. Earlier this week Joanne won a gold medal at the European Masters Championships in Pescara, Italy. She was part of the Women's 35 4x100 metre relay team who won Gold for Team GB.

PARISH COUNCIL: We had a wonderful Parish Council meeting last Thursday evening. We express our thanks to Emma Armstrong, who has stepped down as Chair, for her dedication over the last seven years. We welcome Brian Sainsbury as our new Chair and thank him for agreeing to take on this important role for which we will give him our full support.

LOVE THE STRANGER – THE CATHOLIC POSITION ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS: On **Saturday 7th October** at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal Priest there will be a study day in the hall beginning at 11 am, with coffee available from 10.30. Liam Allmark, the Head of Communications, Fundraising and Advocacy at the Jesuit Refugee Service, will present the document 'Love the Stranger: a Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees', which was produced by the Bishops of England and Wales earlier this year. This will be an opportunity to explore our Catholic response to the crisis which is being played out across the world at this time, and to understand the statements of Pope Francis about the Christian call of love for all our brothers and sisters. This study day is also available online by going to www.whatgoodnews.org.

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK needs the usual food and household items. Thank you to our generous parishioners for giving for people in need through the **FOODBANK! WE CAN REFER PEOPLE WHO MAY BE IN NEED OF HELP TO THE FOODBANK.** Please contact Fr Martin or our Parish Office.

CARETAKER, EPPING: A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Caretaker at our parish here in Epping. The post will be part-time (three hours per week - with a flexible working agreement to be agreed) Closing date is noon on **10th October 2023**. Please send your CV by email to admin@eppingparish.plus.com ID014_08 – Caretaker Cleaner – Epping Official V.2 (002)

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE:
God of peace,
Whose son Jesus Christ taught us
To love our neighbour as ourselves
Give your strength to the people of Ukraine.
Give your wisdom to the leaders of the world.
Give your love to all of us who pray for peace –
Peace that will transform,
Peace that will heal,
Peace that will last.
For the sake of the same Jesus Christ.
The Prince of Peace, Amen