

<b>MASSES &amp; SERVICES from: Sat 14th October - Sun 22nd October</b>		
<b>TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A – 15th October</b>		
Saturday 14th	6.00pm	Sir Evelyn Russell RIP Anniv (Hoare)
Sunday 15th	9.00am	People of our Parish
October	11.00am	Patricia Scannell RIP Recently (Scannell)
Monday 16th	NO MASS	
Tuesday 17th	<b>St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop</b>	
	9.15am	Patrick Jolly RIP 1st Anniv (Jolly)
Wed 18th	<b>St Luke, Evangelist</b>	
	12 noon	Cynthia Brett's Intentions (Brett)
Thursday 19th	NO MASS	
Friday 20th	12 noon	Kieran Jolly RIP Anniv (Jolly)
Saturday 21st	9.30am	Tony Minnion RIP
	10am - 10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during which there will be the opportunity for Confession
<b>TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A – 22nd October</b>		
Saturday 21st	6.00pm	Katherine Kelly RIP Anniv (SB)
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	People of our Parish
October 2023	11.00am	Mary Gallagher RIP (Lavin)
	3.00pm	Traditional Latin Mass

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE** on Saturdays after 9.30am Mass.  
You are always welcome to this Sacrament.

**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.

**DIocese of Brentwood Website:** <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net//>

**OFFERINGS:** Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 Standing Orders. On 8th October 2023 you gave: Envelopes £132.20, Loose £354.97, CAFOD Harvest Fast £274.95. 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//////////](http://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.”

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

Parish Administrator: Mrs Margaret Lechley

Email: [epping@brcdt.org](mailto:epping@brcdt.org)

Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)

Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

### TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF YEAR (A) 15th October 2023

As the end of the liturgical year gradually approaches, the readings begin to focus on the kingdom of heaven and the era beyond the end of time. This week, both the First Reading and the Gospel invite us to think of sharing in the great feast that God prepares for us.

Isaiah explains how the Lord is preparing a banquet to which everyone will be welcome. There will be no more suffering or death. (**First Reading** Isaiah 25: 6–10).

In contrast, the **Gospel** (Matt. 22: 1–14) parable speaks of guests who are invited by the king to a great wedding feast, but fail to attend. As a result, the king gets his servants to ask everyone they can find, good and bad alike, to replace those who have made excuses.

The **Psalm** 23 reminds us that the Lord will see to all our needs so that we shall not want.

In the **Second Reading** (Philippians 4: 12–14, 19–20), Paul writes to the Christian community in Philippi. Despite imprisonment and a probable death sentence, Paul has achieved a calm and accepting attitude to life through total trust and faith in the Lord.

This week, we might want to reflect on the way we respond when the Lord invites us to join him, and how we treat his messengers. In turn, perhaps we might feel called to invite those who seem to have been left by the wayside ... good or bad.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024:** At this weekend's Masses the children will be presented with their "I Belong". The classes will commence next Wednesday, **18th October**, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm in our parish hall.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sheila Rusby, who passed away earlier this week. We offer our sympathy to her sister, Moira Vallance, a longstanding parishioner here in Epping and to her family. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to families and all who mourn. May the Lord send his Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and give them with the hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection.*

**PRAYERS FOR OUR DEAD IN NOVEMBER:** There are sheets and envelopes in church for the names of deceased parishioners, relatives and friends. The names are placed at the altar with our Death Register and remembered and prayed for at all Masses during the month of November, and Masses offered for their Holy Souls.

**NOVEMBER SERVICES FOR OUR DEAD:** We will have a **Cemetery Service & Blessing of Graves at Epping Cemetery on Sunday 5th November, at 3pm. On Sunday, 19th November at 3pm, our Annual Bereavement Service will be held in our church.**

**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.

We are also in need of a parishioner to manage the reading rota as Margaret Steggle, who has managed this so efficiently for a number of years, would now like to step down from this role.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** As numbers attending Mass are starting to increase 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.

**Thanks to those who have volunteered for the above roles. An email will be sent out to you shortly.**

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:** 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.

**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:** Mgr Michael McKenna (14/10), Geoffrey Thompstone, Canon Roderick Grant (15/10), Catherine O'Reilly, Bernadette Jeffries (16/10), Hester Foster, Jovita Darbyshire, Charles Harrington (17/10), Ted Flanagan, Eve Codling (18/10), Annette Goodchild, Richard Byrne (19/10), Fr Bernard Clay (20/10), Kathleen Asher, Margaret Hanley (21/10), Maria Welch, Canon William O'Neil (22/10). **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace.**

**BAPTISMS:** Certificates are now ready for collection, from the sacristy, for the parents of those children recently baptised in our parish.

**HELP NEEDED:** A family in Harlow need a single bed and mattress. Please contact Natalie Goldsworthy on telephone number 07870355708.

**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. **All Donations for the Christmas Market Gift Stall Need to Be Donated by Sunday, 19 November.**

**ANNUAL SHOEBOX APPEAL:** Every year, shoeboxes filled with small items are sent to children who would not otherwise have a gift. Donations of small toys, books, pencils, hair ribbons, clips etc will be very much appreciated (nearly new items are welcomed, too), but no war toys, or anything requiring batteries. Empty shoeboxes are also much needed. If you can help, please leave items, clearly marked 'Shoebox Appeal', in the Sacristy porch. Any monetary donations, however small, to help with the ever-increasing cost of postage should be left at the Priest's House. Thank you very much!

**EPHING 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.

**HALL HIRE:** Our Parish Hall is available for bookings. Special rates apply for charities and parishioners. Please contact our Parish Administrator for further information and to book.

**PARISH DATABASE:** We are currently updating the parish database in readiness for the distribution of Christmas cards. Please let our parish office know if you have moved address or if you are not registered on our database.

**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