

MASSES & SERVICES from: Sat 21st October - Sun 29th October		
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A - 22nd October 2023		
Saturday 21st	6.00pm	Katherine Kelly RIP Anniv (SB)
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	People of our Parish
October	11.00am	Mary Gallagher RIP (Lavin)
	3.00pm	Traditional Latin Mass
Monday 23rd	9.15am	Intentions of Eileen Jones
Tuesday 24th	9.15am	Lynda Hanley RIP (Lavin)
Wed 25th	12 noon	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Thursday 26th	NO MASS	
Friday 27th	12 noon	Desmond Toohey RIP (Toohey)
Saturday 28th	Saints Simon and Jude	
	9.30am	Intentions of Terry & Theresa Phillips
	10am - 10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during which there will be the opportunity for Confession
THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A – 29th October 2023		
Saturday 29th	6.00pm	Sheila Rusby RIP Recently (SB)
Sunday 30th	9.00am	Intentions of Christopher Jacob (Joseph)
October 2023	11.00am	People of our Parish

HOSPITAL: If you are going into hospital this week for surgery Fr Martin will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick after all weekend Masses.

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 15th October 2023 you gave: Envelopes £130, Loose £315.76, CAFOD Harvest Fast £20. 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.”

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

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-NINTH SUNDAY OF YEAR (A) 22nd October 2023

Today's readings concentrate on God as ruler over all the world. The **First Reading** (Isaiah 45: 1,4–6) teaches us about the relationship between God and Cyrus, one of the most powerful earthly rulers. Even though Cyrus did not know God, God works through him, giving Cyrus all that he needs to help accomplish God's plans.

The **Psalms** (Psalm 96) calls us to speak of the Lord's greatness and glory throughout the world, and to pay him worship and honour.

In the **Second Reading** (1 Thessalonians 1: 1–5), St Paul gives thanks to God and prays for the Christian community in Thessalonica. Chosen and loved by God, the community – aided by the power of the Holy Spirit and strengthened by its faith and hope in God – continues in its work.

The **Gospel** (Matthew 22: 15–21) message is that we belong completely to God and are therefore called to offer God our entire selves. Jesus is aware that the Pharisees and Herodians are trying to trip him up when they ask if Jewish people should pay taxes to the Romans. Although he confirms that this is reasonable, at the same time he also affirms that our first duty is to serve God, and to give God what is due.

This week, maybe we can pray for the rulers and leaders of our world, particularly during these difficult times. We ask that God work through them towards justice and peace. We pray too that the Holy Spirit will guide each of us in how we can serve God best.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024: No class next week due to half-term.

The classes will re-commence Wednesday, **1st November**, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm in our Parish Hall.

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.**

ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT SERVICE: **On Sunday, 19th November at 3pm, our Annual Bereavement Service will be held in our church. Everyone is invited to pray for their beloved dead.** The service will include some hymns, remembrance of the loved ones by name as a candle is lit, a short sermon and prayers for the bereaved. Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall afterwards. **All welcome.**

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.

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.

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

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: Kathleen Asher, Margaret Hanley (21/10), Maria Welch, Canon William O'Neil (22/10), Patricia Worley Gloria Gee, Shirley Staunton, (23/10), James Farrell, Thomas Bowden, Hester Foster, Stanley Cornwell, Rita Gill (24/10), Mary Cooney, Mgr Daniel Shanahan (25/10), Nelle Brett (26/10), John Dubler, Shirley Staunton (27/10), George Rimmer, Fr George, Steadman, Fr Stephen Wyatt, Fr William Loveland

CATHOLIC TEACHING ON MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: Earlier this year the Bishops of England and Wales issued a document on Migrants and Refugees. A talk on this document, *Love the Stranger*, was given by Liam Allmark of the Jesuit Refugee Service on 7th July at Gidea Park parish. Please visit www.whatgoodnews.org to see the edited recording.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE VOLUNTEER TEAM: applications for the Walsingham House at Abbotswick volunteer retreat team are now open. If you are aged between 18-23 and are considering a gap year then please consider the Walsingham House Team. The volunteer team work with around 5000 young people from across the diocese running retreats for Yr5-Yr13 students. For more information please see our website: <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

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!

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.

PARISH DATABASE: 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

**(29/10), Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them.
May they rest in peace.**