

MASSES & SERVICES from: Sat 4th November to Sunday 12th November		
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A - 5th November 2023		
Saturday 4th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 5th	9.00am	Jordan Chapman RIP (Blount)
November	11.00am	Louise Jones RIP (Quinn)
	3.00pm	Blessing of Graves at Epping Cemetery
Monday 6th	9.15am	Intentions of Christopher Jacob (Joseph)
Tuesday 7th	9.15am	Intentions of Alex Akin (Joseph)
Wed 8th	12 noon	Intentions of Alex Akin (Joseph)
Thursday 9th	NO MASS	
Friday 10th	St Leo the Great	
	12 noon	Derek Flack RIP Recently (Sr Susan)
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 12th November 2023		
Saturday 11th	6.00pm	Intentions of Alex Akin (Joseph)
Sunday 12th	9.00am	People of our Parish
November 2023	11.00am	Dead of the Two Great Wars & other Conflicts

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 5pm-5.45pm. 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 29th October 2023 you gave: Envelopes £100.60, Loose £364.35. -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

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

Parish Administrator: Mrs Margaret Lechley

Email: epping@brcdt.org

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

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF YEAR (A)

5th November 2023

In our readings today, we hear how easy it is for human pride and laxity to diminish or even falsify God's message. Instead, let us follow the invitation to honour God in humility, sincerity and truth.

In the **First Reading**, the prophet Malachi (Malachi 1: 14-2:2.8-10) does not mince his words. His message is hard-hitting: the priests are reproached for their spiritual negligence and failure to instruct the people properly, as well as for their half-hearted service of God.

Religious leaders are also criticised in the **Gospel** (Matthew 23: 1-12). Jesus castigates their hypocrisy: they are more concerned with drawing attention to themselves and exploiting their social position, rather than committing themselves to the message they preach. This type of self aggrandisement and pride is the exact opposite of what the followers of Jesus should aspire to. Jesus himself is our role model: he teaches us that the route to leadership is through service of God in all things.

In contrast, the **Second Reading** (Thess. 2: 2-9. 13) presents Paul as a truly devoted pastor: enthusiastic, hard-working, full of love for his people; endlessly sharing the living word of God with this community.

Let us pray this week: Lord God, you are both Father and Mother to us. We beg you: help us to be sincere and joyful in our practice of faith and prayer; to serve you in our daily lives; and to be even more alert and awake to your presence in nature all around us. We also pray with all our hearts for that peace which this world cannot give.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

DEREK FLACK, RIP, a long-standing parishioner here in Epping, who died on Saturday 21st October. His Funeral Service was celebrated here on **Tuesday 31st October**. We offer Margo, his wife, and all his family our heartfelt sympathy. **May he rest in peace.**

LORRAINE TUTT, RIP, who died on 12th October. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated at Green Acres Woodland Burial Park on **Tuesday 7th November** at 1pm. **May she rest in peace.**

MICHAEL WEAVER, RIP, who died on 18th October. His Funeral Service will be celebrated at Bentley Crematorium on Friday **17th November** at 2.30pm.

May she rest in peace.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024: The classes will continue on Wednesday, **8th 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 THIS 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.**

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: ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Darwin (5/11), Veronica Munday, Winifred Evans (6/11), Veronica Faulds, (6/11), Cardinal John Carmel Heenan (7/11), Deacon Norman Wiseman, Gladys Saunders, Fr William Philpot (8/11), Eunice Scanlon, James O'Reilly (10/11), Canon Denis Petry, Eugene O'Loughlin (11/11), Frances Richards (12/11) **rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace.**

PARISH DONATIONS: We have recently given, from parish funds, donations to both the SVP, Epping and Norway House in North Weald. We thank them for all they are doing to help families at this difficult time.

MEMORIAL MASS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK:

The Friends of Abbotswick Memorial Mass for loved ones, remembered within the grounds at Abbotswick, will be held at 3pm on **Sunday 12th November**. Please email Claire at clairebailey@brcdt.org or phone 01277 373959.

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.

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.**

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS – as in previous years we have lots of lovely prizes from our local businesses and parishioners.

To purchase your tickets electronically, please contact Adriana on 07828 118 909 stating your name, phone number and number of tickets you require, you will then receive a link to pay for your tickets.

Tickets will be £1 per strip of 5.

If you prefer to buy tickets in person, they can be purchased after all masses the weekends of **11th/12th November and 18th/19th November.**

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.

FITNESS CLASS: A Retro Aerobics Class will be starting in our parish hall on Monday, **6th November from 7pm-8pm**. This is not affiliated with our parish but may be of interest to some of our parishioners. Please see poster in church porch.

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