

MASSSES & SERVICES from: Sat 9th December to Sunday 17th December
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 10th December 2023

Saturday 9 th	6.00pm	Jim & Pearl Cole RIP (Murray)
Sunday 10 th	9.00am	Michael Gifford RIP Recently (Ching)
December	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 11 th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 12 th	9.15am	Georgina Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
Wed 13 th	12 noon	Sidney Miller RIP (Murray)
	7.30pm	Reconciliation Service at Loughton Parish
Thursday 14 th	10.30am	Nancy Hellen RIP REQUIEM MASS
Friday 15 th	12 noon	Jack O'Neill RIP Recently (Lechley)
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 17th December 2023		
Saturday 16 th	6.00pm	Angela Timms RIP (Murray)
Sunday 17 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
December 2023	11.00am	Roger Crampin RIP Anniv (Crampin)

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 3rd December 2023 you gave: Envelopes £172.50 and loose £460.89. 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//////////

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: NEXT Wednesday, 13th December there will be a Reconciliation Service at St Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton at 7.30pm.

IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: Father Martin will usually have his day off on Thursdays. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either St Edmund's, Loughton – Tel: 0208 5089438, Holy Cross, Harlow – Tel 01279 425776 or The Assumption, Harlow – Tel 01279 429388. This would also apply if Fr Martin is on holiday.

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

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B 10th DECEMBER 2023

Prepare a Way for the Lord

Advent is a sacred time of longing and preparation for the Lord; a time for waking up to listen to the Spirit calling deep within us. The words of Isaiah (**First Reading** Isaiah 40: 1–5. 9–11) bring to this Sunday's liturgy a cry of consolation for a people desperate for peace. As we make a straight path to welcome the Lord into our lives, he gathers us up into his arms like a shepherd tenderly holding his lambs. Our world is thirsting for this peace now, the deep peace that only Christ can bring.

Peter's letter (**Second Reading** 2 Peter 3: 8–14) to the early Christian community teaches that the Lord wants no one to be lost: he desires for all to be gathered unto himself. Since we do not know the time of the Lord's return, our prayerful preparations will draw us nearer to the peace that he promises.

The **Gospel** of Mark (Mark 1: 1–8) that we follow throughout this coming year begins the revelation of the Good News with that same call of the prophet Isaiah that began our readings: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. John the Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness, calls us to repentance and renewal. He baptises with water, but tells of the time when we will be made new by the Holy Spirit.

Let us continue our Advent journey together, praying for this same spirit of renewal and preparation. Let us pray too for peace in our hearts, in our communities and especially in the Holy Land.



THE CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Christmas Masses is our personal gift to the priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Easter this provides a major part of his income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

Please take and use the following during Advent:

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR for children with a thought for each day

MY DAY BY DAY FOR INFANTS: preparing for Christ's birth at Christmas

MY DAY BY DAY FOR JUNIORS: preparing for Christ's birth at Christmas

WALK WITH ME FOR ADULTS - A journey of prayer for Advent

All of these are being given out free by our parish though you can make donations to cover their costs in the book slot of the box at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES IN OUR PARISH:

Saturday 23rd December – Mass at 6pm

Sunday 24th December – NO 9AM MASS.

Mass at 11am only for SUNDAY OBLIGATION

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve Masses for CHRISTMAS at 6.00pm, preceded by Carols at 5.30pm and 8.00pm preceded by Carols at 7.30pm

Christmas Day Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am

St Stephen's Day Mass 10.00am

USHERS: We have a small dedicated team of ushers at our weekend Masses but desperately need more to help at the Christmas Masses only. Please speak to Fr Martin if you can help with this one off commitment.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

NANCY HELLEN RIP, aged 25 years, who died on 27th November. Her Funeral Mass will take place in our church on **Thursday 14th December** at 10.30am. We offer our sympathy to her parents and family. **May she rest in peace.**

ANNE PRETTY RIP, a long-time resident of Frank Foster House, who died on 2nd December. We offer our sympathy to her family. **May she rest in peace.**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayers for all who mourn.

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 they are alone, assure them of the prayerful support of your holy people. Through Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES: Colin Saunders, Beverly Ziade, Jack Lafford, Fr John Lane, Canon Anthony McKenty (9/12), Anthony Turner, Gladys Long (10/12), Margaret Power, Beatrice Webber, Julia O'Mahoney, Nancy Thorpe, Sam Butcher, Jack Goodman (11/12), Fr Geoffrey Pye, Fr Eamonn Magrath (12/12), David Jolly, Alma Longford, Marie Verrall, Elizabeth Evans, Fr William Evers, Fr Francis Kerrigan (13/12), Geprge Meldon, Fr Gerard Kerr (14/12), Mary McEvoy, Anne Melia (15/12), Leonard Taylor, Reginald Ivey, Florence Harrington (16/12) **Eternal rest grant to them Lord, let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace. Lord, may they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are available for collection and distributing this weekend. They give details of our Christmas Masses and greetings from our Church to people at home. Please take yours and near neighbours to help reduce our postage costs. Our thanks go to Peter and Sarah Day for preparing them.

EPPING CHORUS will hold a Christmas concert on **Friday, 15th December at 7.30pm** at St. John's Church, Epping. Simon Winters will conduct "*Christmas Reflections*", a popular programme of seasonal music. Admission is free but a retiring collection will be taken for Choir Funds.

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.

EVENINGS FOR VOCATIONS ENQUIRERS: We are planning to continue the Evenings for Vocations enquirers in the new year. Canon John Harvey has kindly agreed to host the evenings at the Cathedra. More information to follow shortly.

HIGHAMS SCHOOL OF DANCING: Dance classes starting in our Hall on **Thursday 11th January 2024**, These are not affiliated to our parish but may be of interest to parishioners. Please see poster in church porch for further details.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN presented by Epping Rotary Club on **Christmas Eve at 3pm**. All welcome to attend this community Christmas event.

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