

MASSES & SERVICES from: Sat 23rd December to Sunday 7th January

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

EXPECTANT MOTHERS' SUNDAY

24th December 2023

Saturday 23 rd	6.00pm	Intentions of Graham Childs (Vallance)
Sunday 24 th	9.00am	NO MASS
December	11.00am	People of our Parish
		CHRISTMAS MASSES
CHRISTMAS	5.30pm	Carol Service followed by Mass
EVE	6.00pm	Dec'd Members of Lennon & Lechley Families
24 th December	7.30pm	Carol Service followed by Mass
	8.00pm	All Holy Souls & Unborn Children
CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00am	Dec'd Members of Fletcher & McLindon Families
25 th December	11.00am	People of our Parish
Tuesday 26 th	ST STEPHEN'S DAY	
December	10.00am	Catherine Anne Gribben RIP (FM)
Wednesday 27 th	12 noon	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Thursday 28 th	9.15am	NO SERVICE
Friday 29 th	12 noon	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 31st January 2023		
Saturday 30 th	6.00pm	Robert Turner RIP Anniv (FM)
Sunday 31 st	9.00am	Private Intention (J M)
December 2023	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 1 st January 2024	MARY MOTHER OF GOD	
	10.00am	People of our Parish
Tuesday 2 nd	Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	
	9.15am	Private Intention (JM)
Wednesday 3 rd	12 noon	Private Intention (JM)
Thursday 4 th		NO MASS
Friday 5 th	12 noon	Frances Power RIP Recently (Flack)
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (B) 7th January 2024		
Saturday 6 th	6.00pm	Robert McNeill RIP (Aitken)
Sunday 7 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
January 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish



The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa



December 2023

CHRISTMAS DAY

Heavenly king, yet born of Mary;

Jesus Son of God, we praise and adore you.

Eternal Word, yet child without speech;

Jesus, Son of God, we praise and adore you.

Robed in glory, yet wrapped in infant clothes;

Jesus, Son of God, we praise and adore you.

Lord of Heaven and earth, yet laid in a manger;

Jesus, Son of God, we praise and adore you.

To you, O Jesus, strong in our weakness,

glorious in your humility,

mighty to save, be all praise and glory,

with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Fr Martin wishes you and your families

a Happy Christmas and a Holy New Year



CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Christmas Masses is your personal gift to your Priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Easter this provides a major part of their income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

CRIB OFFERINGS: Once again this Christmas, we will be raising money for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please do give what you can.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING:

May there be harmony in all your relationships. May sharp words, envious thoughts, and hostile feelings be dissolved.

May you give and receive love generously. May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ. May the honour given the Babe in Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

May the hope of this sacred, season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you. May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.

May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide you and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world.

Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp

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

Please inform us if there is someone seriously ill and let us know if anyone on the list is no longer ill so we can remove their name from our list.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,

and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.



O Come Let Us Adore Him