

MASSSES & SERVICES from: Sat 6th to Sunday 14th January 2024
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (B) 7th January 2024

Saturday 6 th	6.00pm	Robert McNeill RIP (Aitken0)
Sunday 7 th	9.00am	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP (Stevenage)
January	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 8 th	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B)	
	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 9 th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 10 th	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 11 th		NO MASS
Friday 12 th	12 noon	In Thanksgiving to parishioners for their recent Support (Flack)
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 14th January 2024		
Saturday 13 th	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 14 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
January 2024	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 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. Offerings given on 30th/31st December will be published next week. 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//////////

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
 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

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (B) 7th January 2024

We are coming to the end of Christmastide and the feast of the Epiphany not only celebrates the birth of Christ but also deepens our understanding of the purpose of his Incarnation—the 'epiphany' or revelation of God through his Son Jesus. Christ appears as a great light bursting through the darkness. All nations and races come to him and we accept him as our Saviour and King.

Our **1st reading** from Isaiah (Isaiah 60: 1-6) is full of hope—the exiles will return to Jerusalem and God's glory will shine out.

Psalms 71 describes how God will be worshipped by all peoples. He will reign in justice and compassion, with special care for the poor.

St Paul in the **2nd reading** (Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6) reiterates the message that we are all, Jews and non-Jews alike, brothers and sisters in Christ, forming one body in him.

The **Gospel** (Matthew 2: 1-12) tells us the story of how the wise men followed the star and how their journey led them to the infant king.

Perhaps this feast of the Epiphany will allow us to see a star, to journey with the wise men, to discover Christ present in our own lives.

*Happy New Year to you & your family.
 May you shine the light of Christ in the New Year.
 God bless Fr Martin*



A BIG THANK YOU: Fr Martin would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to prepare for Christmas – Church cleaners, altar servers, musicians, flower arrangers, crib builders, readers, ushers etc. It was truly a wonderful Christmas celebration. Also, a big thank you to everyone for their generous Christmas offerings, Christmas cards and gifts. God Bless you!

CRIB OFFERINGS: A reminder that monies donated to the crib offering will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please give generously.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS were delivered to the homes of parishioners in our address system, to give greetings from our Church to people at home and details of our Christmas Masses. If you did not get one, please let us have your up-to-date address.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES: We still have a few unclaimed raffle prizes in the parish office. If you were a winner but have yet to claim your prize then please let our Parish Administrator know. Prizes unclaimed by 31st January will be kept for the next raffle.

FR JOHN TUOHY: We warmly welcome Fr John Tuohy, a retired priest of our diocese, who will be covering from Monday 8th January until 22nd January while Fr Martin is away.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024: The classes will resume Wednesday, 10th January from 5.30pm to 6.30pm in our Parish Hall.

ABC – ABOUT BEING A CATHOLIC: If you are not a Catholic but would like to know more about the Catholic faith then please let Fr Martin know. Depending on the amount of interest, information sessions will start on Monday evenings at 7.30pm from 22nd January, in the priest's house.

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 your servants 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. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

ANNIVERSARIES: Yvonne Stevenage (4/1), Patricia McGrath, Canon John Bloomfield (7/1), John Gallagher, George Hellen, David Asher, Patricia Hair (8/1), Ernesto Bungay (9/1), Anne Condon (10/1), Giuseppe Rizzi, Clifford Boyd, Julie Eke (11/1), Eileen Tyler, Shaun Murdock (12/1), Hilda Priestley, Richard Collar (13/1), Anne Fitzgerald, Stefan Laszczak, Bridget Pettit, Fr John King (14/1) **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: We are seeking a 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.

A FIRE IN MY HEART - A CONVERSATION WITH BIBLICAL FRIENDS:

On **Saturday 3rd February** from 11 am until 2 pm (coffee at 10.30 am), at the church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be in conversation with professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and Carlos Castillo Mattasoglio, archbishop of Lima, Peru. The event coordinator is Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, vice-rector of Allen Hall. The speakers will be present in-person, but this free event is also live-streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org If attending in person please book your place at gideapark@brcdt.org The event is under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain.

STANDING ORDERS: It is becoming increasingly hard to bank cash. If at all possible, please support the work, running and mission of the parish by setting up a standing order via your bank. Please contact our Parish Office for more information and to complete a form.

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 our Parish Office.

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.

FITNESS CLASS: A Retro Aerobics Class will continue to take place in our parish hall on Monday evenings **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

HALL BOOKINGS contact the Parish Office by telephone or e-mail.
Preferential rates for parishioners & charities.

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

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 Cathedral. More information to follow shortly.