

**MASSSES & SERVICES from: Sat 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) (Peace Day)**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	John Gavin RIP Recently (SB)
January	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Myrtle Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	NO MASS
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Teresa Ryan RIP (FM)
THE OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> January		
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Intentions of the Gavin Family (SB)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	
<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023=4</b>		
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am	Andreas Kyrou & Anthony Kerigan RIP Anniv (Kyrou)
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. **On 31<sup>st</sup> December you gave: Envelopes: £101; Loose: £451.17.**  
**Last weekend you gave: Envelopes: £88.50; Loose: £478.73.**  
**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//////////](http://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](mailto:epping@brcdt.org)**

**Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)**

**Registered Charity Number: 234092**

**Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

**14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

Christ calls us to follow him. The readings for this Sunday invite us to listen for Christ calling us.

Samuel, in the **First Reading** (1 Sam. 3: 3–10, 19), responds willingly to the call of God, at first thinking it is his master Eli. Eli leads him to the truth, and teaches him to listen with an open heart. Samuel grows strong in the love of God and his holy word.

St Paul, writing to the Corinthians (**Second Reading** - 1 Cor. 6: 13–15, 17–20), reminds us that we are one in mind, body, and spirit with Christ. The Holy Spirit dwells within the heart of the believer. This knowledge will guide our actions and prompt us to desire only that which will deepen our love of God.

In the **Gospel** (John 1: 35–42), John the Baptist recognises who Jesus truly is. John's witness to his disciples leads them to follow Jesus. Jesus asks them what they desire. Their answer may seem unusual to us, but Jesus invites them to 'come and see', and experience for themselves his love in action. These first followers cannot keep the Good News to themselves, but invite others to come and see, and to listen.

Let us ask for the grace to hear God calling us, and to be ready to respond to that call with an open and willing heart. Whom can we invite to come and see?



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fr Michael Butler RIP, retired parish priest of Old Harlow, who died on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Fr Michael was a dear friend of Fr James and visited us here on my occasions. He will be received into the Church of Our Lady, Mulberry Green, Old Harlow on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm**. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alan the **following day at 11.30am** at the Holy Cross Church, Harlow.

**May he rest in peace.**

Mrs Celia Asensio RIP, who died on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated in our church on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon** followed by a burial at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield. We offer our sympathy to her family. **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.*

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

**MASS TIMES: For next week only there will be no Mass on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January but there will be Mass at 9.15am on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 31<sup>st</sup> January will be kept for the next raffle.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024:** The classes will continue next Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January from 5.30pm to 6.30pm in our Parish Hall. There will be a meeting for parents on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7.30pm in our Hall. At least one parent from each family is expected to attend please.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> January, in the priest's house.

**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.

**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 afflicted give them patience, when dejected give them hope, when alone, assure them of the prayerful support of your holy people. **Amen**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Hilda Priestley, Richard Collar (13/1), Anne Fitzgerald, Stefan Laszczak, Bridget Pettit, Fr John King (14<sup>th</sup>) Kenneth Scott (15<sup>th</sup>), Lois Gosnell, Fr Neville Banks, Fr Gilbert Pearson (16<sup>th</sup>), Fr Kenneth Green (17<sup>th</sup>), Les Black, Canon Charles Kuypers (18<sup>th</sup>), Carole Ring, Mgr David Donnelly, Les Banting (19<sup>th</sup>), Fr John Meehan (20<sup>th</sup>), Edward Tredgett, Fr Christopher Quirke, Bishop Bernard Ward (21<sup>st</sup>). Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. **May they rest in peace.**

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** "Society for the Protection of Unborn Children." There will be an Appeal after all Masses **THIS** weekend, 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> January to raise funds for this important charity. Please give generously as always.

**WINE TASTING – SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - 7pm:** After the success of the last wine tasting and many requests to hold another one, we invite you to take part in this church fundraiser Hosted by Junior Vianna, it is a great opportunity to try some lovely wines and gain some knowledge along the way. Contact Adriana Ruvalcaba on 07828 118 909 for tickets - £30 per person. Last time we had a waiting list, so don't delay in booking your space - limited seating.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Our next Parish Council meeting is on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm** in the Priest's House. We invite all parishioners who wish to attend. If you have any items for discussion please contact the Parish Office or speak to a Parish Council member.

**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.

**CAROLS ON THE GREEN:** "On behalf of the two Rotary Clubs of Epping & Epping Forest may we extend a very warm thanks for your support of the event this Xmas Eve. We estimate the crowds exceeded 2,500 and it was clear that with your help, we were able to bring much cheer to them with the presentation. It was especially great to see the children enjoying singing with so much abandon. Best wishes for 2024. Peter Byatt, Organising Chair."

**LOST ITEM:** During the Christmas services here a cuddly toy was found in the Hall toilets. We would like to reunite it with its owner so please contact the Parish Office if it belongs to your child.

**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.

**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