

MASSSES & SERVICES from: Sat 20th to Sunday 28th January 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 21st January 2024

Saturday 20 th	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 21 st	9.00am	Andreas Kyrrou & Anthony Kerigan RIP Anniv (Kyrrou)
January	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 22 nd	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 23 rd	9.15am	Patrick Feehily RIP Recently (Darcy)
Wed 24 th		St Francis De Sales
	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 25 th		NO MASS
Friday 26 th		Saints Timothy & Titus
	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) Racial Justice Day
28th January 2024**

Saturday 27 th	6.00pm	Teresa Fowler RIP Anniv (Whitehouse)
Sunday 28 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
January 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
	3.00pm	Traditional LATIN Mass

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. **Last weekend you gave: Envelopes: £140.50; Loose: £396.18, CAFOD £6.00.** 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



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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 21st JANUARY 2024

In the weeks following Christmas, we have been invited to reflect on Jesus's call, beginning with him being drawn out of the waters of baptism and into his missionary life.

This week (in Mark's *Gospel* - Mark 1: 14–20) we see the fishermen – Peter, Andrew, James and John – respond immediately to that same call. They are drawn from the waters by Jesus to become fishers of people.

The *First Reading* (Jonah 3: 1–5. 10) tells of the second call of Jonah, who initially refuses the Lord's request, and tries to run away. Then, in a humorous reversal of fishing logic, Jonah is caught by an obedient fish. The Lord continues to be with him, however, for, at the command of the Lord, Jonah is saved from the water and is empowered to respond to the Word.

In the *Second Reading* (1 Corinthians 7: 29–31), St Paul urges the Church at Corinth that nothing should be allowed to interfere with their obedience to the Word. He says that time is short and that everything, from domestic to international affairs, should be seen from the context of Christ.

There is much calling to which we are invited to respond. As with Jonah and the first disciples, we are called by the same voice, inviting us to take steps on the path toward that which is good and true.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Michael Butler RIP, retired parish priest of Old Harlow, who died on Saturday 6th January. Fr Michael was a dear friend of Fr James and visited us here on many occasions. He will be received into the Church of Our Lady, Mulberry Green, Old Harlow on **Thursday 8th 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 4th January. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated in our church on **Tuesday 30th 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 express our thanks to Fr John Tuohy, a retired priest of our diocese, who has covered for us in Fr Martin's absence. Fr Martin returns on Monday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024: There will be a meeting for parents NEXT Tuesday 23rd January at 7.30pm in our Hall. At least one parent from each family is expected to attend please.

THE OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY is celebrated each year from the 18th to 25th January, the feast of the Conversion of St Paul. It is a key part of being a Catholic that we pray and work for Unity in Christ's Body, the Church, so that our Lord's prayer, "That they may be one" is answered.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Parish Council meeting is NEXT **Thursday 25th 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.

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: Fr John Meehan (20/1), Edward Tredgett, Fr Christopher Quirke, Bishop Bernard Ward (21/1). Bishop Bernard Ward (21/1)), Eileen Tedder, Joyce Hannant (22/1), Sheila O'Connor, John Ryan, Bishop Arthur Doubleday (23/1), Fr John O'Sullivan (24/1), Mary Meagher, Eddie Lawlor, Harry Ginn, Bridget McGrath Fr John Hibbert (25/1), Albert Ryan, Nancy Fatiga, Emeran Reith, Dorothy Brewer, Maria Kupper, Kathleen Williams, Bishop Patrick Casey, Fr Alfred Field (26/1) Francis Daly, George

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: "Society for the Protection of Unborn Children." Many thanks to all the contributors to last week's Appeal. The final total will be published once the promised contributions have been counted after this weekend.

BAKE SALE - SUNDAY, 4th FEBRUARY - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Please come along for some lovely treats before Lent arrives. All items are homemade and if you can make a delicious donation of baked goods contact Adriana on 07828 118 909.

WINE TASTING – SATURDAY 10th 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.

LEPRA: At all Masses here on the weekend of 27th/28th January there will be an Appeal and retiring collection to support the work of LEPRO. Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. For 100 years Leprosy's research has led to new and innovative approaches to healthcare programmes. Leprosy seeks to provide better detection, treatment and support mechanisms, to advocate for those without a voice, to challenge prejudice wherever it exists, to strengthen local health systems and to help provide sustainable healthcare in partnership with local communities for a future free from the terrible impact of the disease. Your generosity to the Appeal will be greatly appreciated.

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.

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

Blake (28/1), Fr John (Jack) Clifford (29/1). **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, & let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace**