

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 5th February 2024		
Saturday 3 rd	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 4 th	9.00am	Frances Harman RIP Recently
February 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 5 th	9.15am	Intentions of Fr Paul Madden
Tuesday 6 th	9.15am	Ruby Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)
	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 7 th	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 8 th		NO MASS
Friday 9 th		
NOTE TIME	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 12th February 2024 World Day for the Sick & Day of Prayer for the Unemployed		
Saturday 10 th	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 11 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
February 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. **Last weekend you gave: Envelopes: £213.00; Loose: £465.80.** 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.

LEPRA APPEAL The sum of £275.21 was raised. Many thanks for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS: Masses can be booked through our parish office.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

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Tel: 01992 577173

Parish Administrator: Mrs Margaret Lechley

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

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



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

4th February 2024

This Sunday, the readings invite us to look more deeply into the experience of human suffering. It is only through Christ that our pain and despair can and will be transformed. Just like the suffering people in today's Gospel, we all long for Christ. It is through prayer that our yearning will be fulfilled.

Job (**First Reading** Job 7: 1–4.6–7) expresses total despair at the great losses that he has experienced; he seems overwhelmed by the frailty of life. The suffering in our world today perhaps makes it easy to relate to his sentiments. The Psalm (147), however, is like an antidote to the howls of loss that Job exclaims. It speaks of healing for broken hearts and minds; of wounds being bound and tended by our loving God, whose wisdom extends across a universe that he knows and loves intimately.

In the **Second Reading** (1 Cor. 9: 16–19.22–23), Paul writes of how his own experience of Christ and the Gospel impels him to share the Good News with others. He feels that he is like a slave to the Gospel and is happy to accept this role.

Today's **Gospel** (Mark 1: 29–39) portrays the early days of Jesus's healing ministry in Galilee. After praying with the community in the synagogue, Jesus responds with compassion to all the sick and suffering people who are brought to him. He begins his days in prayerful solitude and is drawn by a desire to bring his Good News to as many people as possible. Let us pray for the grace to respond with wisdom and compassion to the suffering and needs of our time.

May we centre our lives in prayer and by the grace of God be determined like St Paul to bring the Good News to our broken and hurting world.

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, Friday 9th February, at 11.30am** at the Holy Cross Church, Harlow. **May he rest in peace.**

MICHAEL KELLY RIP, who died on Tuesday 23rd January. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated here on **Tuesday 13th February at 1.15pm** followed by a cremation at Parndon Wood Crematorium. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family. **May he rest in peace.**

MARY MORGAN RIP, who died on Wednesday 31st January. Funeral arrangements pending. Mary and her husband, Michael, have been longstanding parishioners here in Epping and have contributed a great amount to our parish over many years. We offer Michael and their family our deepest sympathy.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024: Classes will continue next Wednesday evening, **7th February 2024**, at the usual time of 5.30pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY: **Wednesday 14th February**. We will have Masses here, with the distribution of Ashes, at **12 noon and 7.30pm**. **There will NOT be a first Holy Communion class this evening.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held here during Lent on **Friday evenings at 7.30pm and on Sunday evenings at 5pm**.

EASTER LILIES: As in previous years, we offer parishioners the opportunity to remember deceased relatives and friends at Easter by displaying lilies in the flower arrangements in church. It is suggested a donation of £3 is made for each lily. Please put your donation into an envelope, clearly marked 'Easter Lily in memory of "name"' and either put it in the Offertory collection or through the Presbytery letter box. If you are a taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation by using the red Special Donations envelope in the Church or use one of the special envelopes in your box.

LENT BOOKLETS: The Lent booklets and Lent Planner for use daily by adults and children are in church. Please take and use them during this holy season of Lent so that it will be a time of grace and spiritual growth for us in preparation for Easter.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY will be on **23rd February**. CAFOD envelopes will be distributed at all Masses on **17th/18th February**

ABC – ABOUT BEING A CATHOLIC: If you are not a Catholic but would like to know more about the faith then please come along to the session at 7.30pm on **5th February** in the priest's house.

BAKE SALE - THIS, 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 Hosted by Junior Vianna, it is a great opportunity to try some lovely wines and gain some knowledge too.

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. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

ANNIVERSARIES: Francis Daly, George Blake, Margaret Vaughan (4/2), Mary Fenton, William Deary, Mary Cannon, George Hackett, Alan Davu, Johnny Sullivan (5/2), Margaret George, Margaret Beales, Fr Francis Richardson, Carmen Henr, (6/2), Salvina Micalcuff (7/2), Edward Nichols, Kathleen Schofield, Augustine Broks, Patricia Holman, Fr Alan Wilcox (8/2), Mina Higham, Douglas Naylor, Arthur Waller, Canon Bernard Manning (9/2), Matthew Clarke, Oswald Pelossi, Edna Gooding (10/2), Teresa Negri, Pierce Evans, Nora Clark, Fr Donald Mills (11/2), **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

SYNOD CHURCH: There will be a series of four talks, by renowned Catholic speakers, on the recent Synod. These will take place at Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm on the following **Wednesdays: 21st, 28th February, 6th and 13th March**. These are open to all in the Diocese.

LENT LUNCHES: A chance to meet friends and support Christian Aid on Saturdays of Lent as one of the Churches in Epping offers a light lunch (soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee) **from 12.30pm to 2pm**. Our parish has not hosted since pre-Covid so it would be wonderful if we could do so this year. The date we have been allocated is **Saturday 2nd March**. We desperately need volunteers to help run the lunch and/or make donations of soup. Please let Fr Martin or the parish office know if you can help in any way.

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 out Parish Office.

JUMBLE/UNWANTED GOODS: Please do NOT leave jumble/unwanted goods in the church porch as we do not envisage holding a Jumble Sale at any time in the near future.

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.”