

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 11th February 2024**World Day for the Sick & Day of Prayer for the Unemployed**

Saturday 10 th	6.00pm	Mary Morgan RIP Recently (Christie)
Sunday 11 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
February 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 12 th	9.15am	Intentions of Peggy Flanagan & Family
Tuesday 13 th	1.15pm	Michael Kelly RIP REQUIEM MASS
Wed 14 th	ASH WEDNESDAY – Day of Fasting & Abstinence	
	12 noon	Richard Nash RIP
	7.30pm	Fr Aidan Doyle, OSB RIP
Thursday 15 th		NO MASS
Friday 16 th	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)		18th February 2024
Saturday 17 th	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 18 th	9.00am	Celia Hodgson RIP (Dolan-Palmer)
February 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
	5.00pm	Stations of the Cross

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: £71.00; Loose: £424.55. 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.

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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Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse

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

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

11th February 2024

The theme of today's readings is God's loving compassion and healing. We, too, are called to be loving, as well as pure and holy. Two of the readings speak of leprosy: a disease that can now be cured, but at the time was seen as a punishment for sin. The belief was that either the leper or one of their family had offended God in some way.

The **First Reading** (Leviticus 13: 1–2, 44–46) reveals the requirements imposed on lepers. They were to make themselves physically unattractive, so that people would know they were unclean, and to live apart, outside the city walls. They were thus sentenced to indefinite exile from their community and excluded from worship.

The leper we meet in the **Gospel** (Mark 1: 40–45) breaks the law because of his faith. He approaches Jesus, pleading to be made clean. We see Jesus's compassion, mercy, and healing power in curing him. The leper can be readmitted to his community once he has seen the priest, though conversely, Jesus now becomes the outcast.

The **Second Reading** (I Cor. 10: 31–11:1) calls us to be witnesses to Christ's teaching in everything we do, whilst always being sensitive to others.

This week, I may like to pray for the courage, humility and faith of the leper in the Gospel, as I bring my own desires and needs to Jesus. I ask for the Spirit's guidance to be loving and helpful to others at all times.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

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.

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 next weekend.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR LENT: Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'. The commentaries are also available in book form from Darton, Longman and Todd www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of Mavis Neriah Vazquez-Riley, baptised in our Church on last Saturday. May the Lord bless them and their family and help them bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.*

SAVE THE DATE: On **Friday 7th June** Fr Martin will celebrate his 40th anniversary to the Priesthood. Bishop Alan will visit our parish to celebrate Mass with us at 7pm. This will be followed by a parish gathering in our Hall to which we warmly invite all parishioners to attend. More details nearer the time.

BAKE SALE - Many thanks to Adriana and her team of helpers, to all those who made cakes, bought cakes or made cash donations. The magnificent sum of **£427.50** was raised for our parish!

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: Matthew Clarke, Oswald Pelossi, Edna Gooding (10/2), Teresa Negri, Pierce Evans, Nora Clark, Fr Donald Mills (11/2), William Deary, Mary Cannon, George Hackett, Mary Fenton, Johnny Darcy, Fr John Garrett, Dezilwa Sperry (12/2), Hilda Darlington, Mary McCarron, Melville Gaughan, Edith Teesdale, Fr Charles Snell (13/2), Agnes Butcher (14/2), Margaret Rawbottom, Daisy Goulder, Kathleen Pomeroy (15/2), Kathleen Stanford, Anastasia Holtham, Clare Lafford (16/2), Dennis Verrall, Caroline Kirwan, Douglas Barker, Fr John Joyce, Alison Hoyes (17/2), Gerard Pines, Andy Codling, Bridget Rose (18/2) **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 LUNCHESES: 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. The first lunch will be on Saturday 17th February at St John's Church Epping.**

Our Lent Lunch will take place on Saturday 2nd March. Donations of soup and volunteers to help on the day would be greatly appreciated please.

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 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.”