

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)		18th February 2024
Saturday 17 th	6.00pm	Mary Morgan RIP Recently (Cullen)
Sunday 18 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
February 2024	11.00am	Celia Hodgson RIP (Dolan-Palmer)
Monday 19 th	9.15am	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 20 th	9.15am	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Wed 21 st	12 noon	Service of the Word and Holy Commuion
Thursday 22 nd		NO MASS
Friday 23 rd	12 noon	Leslie Banting RIP Anniv (Banting)
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
SECOND SUNDY OF LENT (B)		25th February 2024
Saturday 24 th	6.00pm	Margaret Kerr RIP Anniv (McAdam)
Sunday 25 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
February 2024	11.00am	Private Intention (AW)
	3.00pm	Traditional Latin Mass
	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 11.30am 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: £178; Loose: £448.80.** 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.

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

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY will be **NEXT FRIDAY, 23rd February.** CAFOD envelopes will be distributed at all Masses THIS weekend.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Registered Charity Number: 234092

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

18th February 2024

God's Covenant

Lent – a new liturgical season, and an opportunity to start again. We can give thanks to God for giving us this season of grace. Lent is closely associated with God's Covenant and with baptism, and the readings this Sunday strongly underline this.

In the **First Reading** from Genesis (9: 8–15), God makes a Covenant with Noah's people, saved from the flood by the ark. It is a Covenant of peace, symbolized by the rainbow.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading** (1 Peter 3: 18–22), reminds us that just as Noah is saved from the waters, so we are saved by the waters of baptism. It is a pledge made to God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The **Psalms** (25) is a prayer that we may walk in God's ways: a suitable prayer for beginning our Lenten journey.

The account of the temptations of Christ in Mark's **Gospel** (Mark 1: 12–15) is very brief. It is only after this experience that Jesus begins his ministry, calling people to repent and believe the Good News.

This week, we may give thanks for 'this joyful season' (as the Lenten preface calls it) – a time to prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery.



RECENTLY DECEASED:

MARY MORGAN RIP, who died on Wednesday 31st January. **She will be received into our church on Thursday 7th March at 4.30pm followed by a Requiem Mass here on Friday 8th March at 11am.** Mary and her 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.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: No Class next week due to school half term. Classes will continue on Wednesday 28th February at the usual time.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS: Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm in our church.

A one hour Lenten Reflection on the life of Jesus with readings and songs. Presented by Michael Wigley. There is no admission charge. For further details please telephone Michael on 07552 789523.

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 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.

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

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.

THE BOX YOUTH CENTRE is currently looking for volunteers to help supervise the After School sessions (Tues, We, Thurs 3.30pm-5pm) for 11-16 year olds. Please contact Tim Dolan on 077966 574675 or email timdolan@theboxepping.co.uk if you think you can help.

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.

WINE TASTING: A massive thank you to Adriana and Junior for all their hard work in making last Saturday's Wine Tasting such a wonderful event. Thanks to all who attended and supported this fundraiser. The magnificent sum of **£1,478** was raised, this included £633 raised by the raffle and wine auction held on the night. A special thank you to Emma and Simon Armstrong for their wonderful help and support at the tasting.

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: Dennis Verrall, Caroline Kirwan, Douglas Barker, Fr John Joyce, Alison Hoyes (17/2), Gerard Pines, Andy Codling, Bridget Rose (18/2), Reg Clements, Fr Archibald O'Brien, Fr Thomas O'Connor, John Bloomfield (19/2), Antoinette Bonito, Kathleen Schofield, Connie Charlton, Charles Ward, Robert Luker, Tom Ryan (20/2), Matthias McGrath, Agnes Butcher, Ronald Floor, Deacon Sidney Lewis (21/2), Deacon Dwight Hayter, Gemma Upton Jean Swan, Beatrice Cox (23/2), Robert Richardson, Patrick Watson, Sidney Field, John Turner, Fr Gerard Murphy (24/2), (26/2), Connie Charlton, Edna Gooding, Fr David Chapman (27/2). **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

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. The next lunch will be on Saturday 24th February at the United Reformed Church.**

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 out 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."