

<b>MASSES &amp; SERVICES from: Sat 24<sup>th</sup> February to Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024</b>		
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B) 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>		
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Margaret Kerr RIP Anniv (McAdam)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
February 2024	11.00am	Private Intention (AW)
	3.00pm	Traditional Latin Mass
	5.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy souls RIP
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Mary Morgan RIP Recently (Poole)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	Intentions of Michael Morgan & Family (Palmer)
March	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B) 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024</b>		
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
March 2024	11.00am	Intentions of Dorothy & Duncan Whitehouse (Poole)

**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: £184, Loose: £436.79. 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.

**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

Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse

Tel: 01992 577173

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B**

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

### *LISTEN!*

The readings for this second Sunday in Lent invite us to listen and to trust that God will lead us in ways that are life-giving.

Abraham learns that he can trust God with the life of his precious son, even though what he is asked to do seems contrary to all God's previous promises. His obedience and faithfulness are blessed by God (**First Reading** Gen. 22: 1–2, 9–13, 15–18).

St. Paul reminds us that, since God gave up his only Son as his gift to us, we can be certain that he will not refuse us anything that we ask. God is on our side! We can trust him for our needs (**Second Reading** Rom. 8: 31–34).

In the **Gospel** (Mark 9: 2–10), we hear Jesus ask for a different kind of trust from Peter, James and John. After seeing Jesus transfigured in all his glory on the mountain top, they are asked to listen and believe in him, but to wait for the right time to speak of all they have seen and heard.

The **Psalmist** (116) sings a song of rejoicing. Even when sorely afflicted, he has trusted in the Lord. Now he gives thanks for the ways in which the Lord has freed him and becomes a joyful witness before all God's people.

We pray for the grace to listen and to trust more fully in Jesus this Lent so that we, too, may “walk in the presence of the Lord”.



**RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**MARY MORGAN RIP**, who died on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. May she rest in peace. **She will be received into our church on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 4.30pm followed by a Requiem Mass here on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 11am.** Mary and her husband, Michael, have contributed a great amount to our parish over many years. We offer Michael and their family our deepest sympathy.

**PEGGY FLANAGAN RIP**, a longstanding member of our parish, who died on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. May she rest in peace. Funeral arrangements pending. We offer her family and friends our deepest sympathy.

**FR JOHN TAYLOR RIP**, a retired priest of our Diocese, who died on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. May he 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.*

**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:** Classes will continue NEXT Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, at the usual time.

**LENTEN REFLECTIONS:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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: 28<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:timdolan@theboxepping.co.uk) if you think you can help.

**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 Lent Lunch will take place NEXT Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March.** We have had a wonderful response for soup and offers of help. All we need now is support from the Parish on the day. Please bring friends and family to the Parish Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 12.30pm onwards.

**EPPING CHORUS** will hold a concert on **Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.30pm** at St. John's Church, Epping. Simon Winters will conduct "*The St Luke Passion*", Heinrich Schutz. Admission is free but a retiring collection will be taken.

**WE 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:** Robert Richardson, Patrick Watson, Sidney Field, John Turner, Fr Gerard Murphy (24/2), Kevin Nugent, Christopher Carroll, Mgr Jules Van Meenen, Fr Clifford Beecroft (26/2), Connie Charlton, Edna Gooding, Fr David Chapman (27/2), Elizabeth Farrell, John Turner, Teresa Negri, Fr John Wall (28/2), Victor Blunt, Genevive Richardson, (1/3), Theresa Walsh, Robert Wood (2/3), **May they 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.*

**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.

**HOUSEKEEPER VACANCY- ONGAR:**The successful applicant will prepare meals for the Parish Priest and effectively manage the routine cleaning of the Presbytery to ensure that it provides a comfortable living space for the Parish priest. Hours: 6 Hours per week. Salary: £10.90 per hour. Start Date: ASAP. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org). Closing date for applications is 15th March 2024.

**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."