

# 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

Parish Administrator: Mrs Margaret Lechley

Email: [epping@brcdt.org](mailto:epping@brcdt.org)

Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)

Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

As we enter this third week of Lent, our readings remind us of God's love for us, soon to be witnessed in the suffering and death of Christ Jesus.

In the First Reading (Exodus 20: 1–17), God speaks to the people of Israel after their release from slavery in Egypt. The Ten Commandments show his people how to freely live in service of the One who has liberated them.

St Paul reflects on the way in which those who are called to follow Jesus see the crucified Christ. For those early Christians, and ourselves, this is not a sign of God's foolishness or weakness, but a demonstration to the world of God's power and wisdom. (Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25)

In this week's Gospel (John 2: 13–25), we see Jesus sweep away the buyers and sellers from the Temple, which should be revered as the house of God. We are reminded that it is through Christ's suffering and death that salvation will come, and the power and wisdom of God will be revealed.

This week, perhaps we can pray for all those areas of the world where places of holiness and sanctuary are debased and de-valued. We pray too, for all people who are prevented from worshipping openly, and from practising their faith in freedom.



<b>MASSES &amp; SERVICES from: Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B) 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024</b>		
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Private Intention (BK)
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
March 2024	11.00am	Intentions of Dorothy & Duncan Whitehouse (Poole)
	5.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Celia Cornwell RIP Anniv (Willis)
	7.30pm	Lenten Reflections
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Mary Morgan RIP Recently (Cullen)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	Mary Morgan RIP Reception into Church
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Mary Morgan RIP Requiem Mass
March	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) "Laetare" Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>		
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Fr Paul Madden RIP Recently
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
March 2024	11.00am	Ints of Michael Morgan & Family (Palmer)

**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: £82, Loose: £219.46. 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.

**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.

*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, 6<sup>th</sup> March**, at the usual time.

**LENTEN REFLECTIONS:** **NEXT 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.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** Our next Parish Council meeting is on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 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.

**40 HOURS DEVOTION:** 40 hours of Continuous Eucharistic Adoration during Lent (night and day except during Mass) will take place on the weekend of **16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March** at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clayhall, Ilford IG5 0HE, starting with Mass of Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 7am on the Saturday and ending with Benediction at 11pm on the Sunday. All are welcome to take part in this very special devotion.

**ENQUIRERS' EVENING:** The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Deacon Frank Westcott. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: [voeprom@brcdt.org](mailto:voeprom@brcdt.org)

**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 take place on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March** at Epping Green Chapel.

**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 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. **Amen**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Theresa Walsh, Robert Wood (2/3), Reginal Wright, Sharon Reeves, Mark Dower, Mgr Patrick O'Donnell, Fr Francis Hastings, Fr Brian Galvin (4/3), Lawrence Ryan, Sadie McAniskey, Samuel Palmer, Fr Malachy Kelly, Ceilia Cornwell (5/3), Ian Cook, Nancy, Maddin (6/3), Rosalie Shannon, Rosamund Flower, Charles Derenge (7/3), Canon Joseph Whitfield (8/3), Frances Arrow, Fr Thomas Lawton, Fr John Gordon (9/3), Timothy White, William Simmons, Maria Watson, Peter Ryan, Maura Butler, Fr Edmund Meyer, Fr Maurice Roche, Dianne Harrington, Mgr Michael Corley (10/3). *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

**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.

**EPPING FOREST RECORD FAIR:** **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10am-3pm** in our hall. Free entry. This is not affiliated to our parish but may interest parishioners.

**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."

**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