

<b>MASSES &amp; SERVICES from: Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Newton James Bridle RIP Recently (Stevenage)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Elizabeth Rodgers RIP Anniv (Digby-Rodgers)
March 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
		Traditional Latin Mass
	5.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Mary Morgan RIP Recently (Sr Susan)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>		NO MASS
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	12 noon	Holy Souls RIP
March	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (B) 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
March 2024	11.00am	Victoria & Joseph Soosai (Patten)
<b>Mass will start in our Hall with a procession into the church</b>		
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	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

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

**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: £92.90, Loose: £470.65. 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.

**THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST:** Film screening on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Lindsey Street, Epping. Over 18s only. Free Entry.

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA



Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

As Lent draws to a close, each Spring day is gradually suffused with increasing light. All around us, nature is waking up from the long darkness of winter. This Sunday's readings encourage us to stir from our own darkness and turn towards growth and transformation out of pain and suffering.

The prophet Jeremiah makes a great proclamation: 'See, the days are coming ... when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel'. God's eternal covenant of love and forgiveness is written deep within our hearts (First Reading Jeremiah 31: 31–34).

It is because of this same promise, that Christ became human to share with us in our suffering, forever praying for us and with us (Second Reading Hebrews 5: 7–9). In Christ, all suffering and death are transfigured into growth and new life through his resurrection.

In the Gospel (John 12: 20–33), Jesus speaks of the personal suffering and death that he will soon be facing. He knows that he could ask his Father to save him from this fate, but instead he willingly makes a choice that leads to our salvation. Jesus invites us to follow his way of living. It is not an easy path to travel, but Christ is always with us, helping and sustaining us.

Let us pray for each other that through God's infinite grace, we will remain true to the law of love that is written deep within us.



**THE EASTER OFFERINGS:** Just a reminder that the Offertory collection, taken at the Easter Masses, is our personal gift to the priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Christmas this provides a major part of his income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN OUR CHURCH**

<b>MONDAY &amp; WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Mass</b>
<b>TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Requiem Mass – Peggy Flanagan</b>
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord’s Supper with washing of feet until 10pm.</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Walk of Witness</b>
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of the Passion</b>
<b>HOLY SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Easter Vigil &amp; Celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection</b>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH</b>	<b>9.00am &amp;11.00am</b>	<b>Mass of Christ’s Resurrection</b>
<b>Sacrament of Penance available Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 5pm-5.45pm &amp; Monday of Holy Week after morning Mass.</b>		

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE** will be held at St Edmund’s parish, Loughton on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**. All parishioners are invited.

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER POSTERS:** Please take them from the church and display them on a window, or in your home as a reminder of this Holy Season.

**GOOD FRIDAY CAR PARKING:** People are reminded that **parking on Church Hill is restricted to permit holders, even on Good Friday**. Parking enforcement officers will probably be around during our Good Friday services.

**PARISH EASTER CARDS** are available for collection and distribution this weekend. Our thanks go to Peter and Sarah Day for preparing them.

**LENT LUNCHESES:** last of these lunches will take place on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 12.30pm to 2pm**. at Epping Restore Church (in the Box).

**EASTER LILIES:** 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.

**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.”

**RECENTLY DECEASED: PEGGY FLANAGAN RIP.** She will be received into our church on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 4.30pm** with her Requiem Mass here the following day, **26<sup>th</sup> March, at 11am**. We offer her family and friends our deepest sympathy. *Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** **NEXT Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March** the classes will continue at the usual time of 5.30pm. At all Masses **THIS** weekend, the children will be presented with their first Reconciliation certificates.

**‘BISHOP ALAN LISTENS’ RESEARCH REPORT:**

Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church. This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese. Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Please share this link/report with those whom you know have participated in this research. Go to the home page of <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/> to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

**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:** Vera Doherty, Muriel Mulligan, Brenda O’Connor (16/3), Edward Palmer, Hannah Smith (17/3), June Fitzpatrick (19/3), Fredrick Fenton, Patricia Scull, Fr Jim Jones, Fr Sidney Williams (20/3), Maurice O’Brien, Paul Gallagher, Peter Eard (21/3), Maurice O’Regan (22/3), Richard Tanti, Canon Arthur Holmes (23/3). *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

**REPOSITORY:** The Religious Goods stall in our church porch has a wide range of cards and rosary beads, religious goods and gifts for all places and occasions. We are in desperate need of volunteers to help open the stall at the weekend Masses. Please let Fr Martin know if you can help.

**CRY CHAPEL:** We are looking for donations of small, no noise toys, for the Cry Chapel to keep our youngest parishioners happy during Mass. Please drop any donations off to Fr Martin or the Parish Office.

**DONATIONS:** In the absence of the collection box at the back of the church, please put donations for Holy Souls, Poor and Needy or any other charities in a clearly marked envelope and post through the letterbox to the priest’s house. Many thanks.

**LOST PROPERTY:** Two coats have been left on our premises: a quilted, black women’s coat and a black, men’s woollen coat. Both have been placed on the chairs under the gallery stairs in church.