

MASSES & SERVICES from: Sat 23rd March to Sunday 31st March 2024		
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (B) 24th March 2024		
Saturday 23 rd	6.00pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 24 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
March 2024	11.00am	Victoria & Joseph Soosai (Patten)
MASS WILL START IN OUR HALL WITH A PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH		
Sunday 24 th	5.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 25 th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
	4.30pm	Peggy Flanagan RIP Reception into Church
Tuesday 26 th	11.00am	Peggy Flanagan RIP REQUIEM MASS
Wednesday 27 th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP NOTE TIME
	11.00am	Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral
Thursday 28 th	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper with Washing of Feet. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Until 10pm
Friday 29 th	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
	11.00am	Walk of Witness
	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (B) Sunday 31st March 2024		
Saturday 30 th	8.00pm	EASTER VIGIL AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION
Sunday 31 st	9.00am	Private Intention
March 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish

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 available Saturday 24th March 5pm-5.45pm & Monday of Holy Week after morning 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: £235.40, Loose: £432.28.** 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.

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

PALM SUNDAY YEAR B

24th March 2024

Today marks the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. The readings focus on Jesus's sacrifice for us and express confidence in God's faithfulness.

St Paul (Second Reading Philippians 2: 6–11) highlights the humility of Jesus, who emptied himself of the glory that was his as Son of God. He gives himself away totally in love, coming among us as the suffering servant described by Isaiah in the First Reading (Isaiah 50: 4–7). Jesus puts others before himself rather than seeking power or honour. Riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus shows us his way is one of love, compassion, mercy, humility, and service. We hear the crowds welcome him excitedly, shouting 'Hosanna', wanting to make Jesus into the king who will save them from Rome. (Procession Gospel)

In the main Gospel (Mark 14: 1 – 15: 47), we see the same crowds turn against Jesus, calling for his arrest. He is mocked, beaten, condemned, crucified, and placed in a tomb. Jesus is betrayed by one of his own disciples, denied by another, and abandoned by most.

We are invited to walk with Jesus through Holy Week. Jesus, in turn, wants to be with us in our experience of this journey. Lord, help us to walk with you, to be strengthened by your example and teaching.



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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: During the Mass there will be a Renewal of Commitment. All Readers and Eucharistic Ministers are invited to attend please.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held at St Edmund's parish, Loughton on **Monday 25th March at 7.00pm.** 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 COLLECTION: On Good Friday our collection will be for the Holy Places. Please give generously.

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.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: **PEGGY FLANAGAN RIP.** She will be received into our church on **Monday 25th March at 4.30pm** with her Requiem Mass here the following day, **26th March, at 11am.** We offer her family and friends our deepest sympathy.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Sarah Day and family, longstanding parishioners here, on the recent passing of Sarah's mother.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The classes will resume after the Easter school holidays. The first class will be at the usual time of 5.30pm on Wednesday **17th April.**

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMS: We thank Dorothy, Adriana and Emma for welcoming the Walsingham Pilgrims this weekend and offering them shelter and hospitality in our parish.

HALL SPRING CLEAN: We need to recruit several able-bodied parishioners to help sort out the cupboards in the hall kitchen and under the stage. The hall is free on **Saturday 6th April.** The work will begin at 9.30am. Please contact Dorothy on telephone number 01992 577173.

USHERS/WELCOMERS: We have a very small, dedicated team of ushers who, on a rota basis, welcome parishioners to our weekend Masses. We are in desperate need of more parishioners to join this team. Please speak to Fr Martin if you can help.

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.

'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: Richard Tanti, Canon Arthur Holmes (23/3). Hannah Ibson, Fr John Sherlock, Marian Branwood (25/3), Kay McDonald, Michael Peachey, Mgr Alfred Gilbey, Fr Denis Hall (26/3), Patricia Ryan (27/3), Mary Flower (28/3), Gerald Bryan (31/3). *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

HELP NEEDED: A parishioner here is looking for a loving home for an 8 year old Bichon Frise dog, Ruby. If you are interested, please call 07740777406.

YOUTH MASS, THURSDAY 4th APRIL 2024:

Celebrating the Easter week with a Praise and Worship Music Workshop. All information can be found at www.bcys.net **Absolutely everyone is very welcome!**

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."