

Masses & Services Saturday 13th April to Sunday 21st April 2024		
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 14th April 2024		
Saturday 13th	6.00pm	Graham Childs RIP Recently (Vallance)
Sunday 14th	9.00am	People of our Parish
April 2024	11.00am	Intentions of Joan Scannell (Scannell)
Monday 15 th	9.15am	Intentions of Alex Akin (Joseph)
Tuesday 16 th	9.15am	Mary Morgan RIP (Murray)
Wed 17 th	12 Noon	John Mills RIP Anniv (Murray)
Thursday 18 th	NO MASS	
Friday 19 th	12 Noon	Intentions of Michael Morgan & Family (Murray)
Saturday 20th	12 Noon	Baptism of Kiera Tentis
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 21st April 2024		
Saturday 20th	6.00pm	Danny White RIP Recently (Lechley)
Sunday 21st	9.00am	Private Intention (SB)
April 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.

DIocese OF BRENTWOOD WEBSITE:
<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/>

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £800 Standing Orders. 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.

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

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516
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Parish Administrator : Mrs Margaret Lechley
Email: epping@brcdt.org
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Registered Charity Number: 234092
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

14th April 2024

“Peace be with you!”

In the midst of the joy and exuberance of Easter, this Sunday's readings allow us to consider our sinfulness, our doubts and our weakness. This is not to weigh us down, but to bring us peace and encourage us to live the new life won for us.

In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter is gentle with those responsible for the death of the 'Prince of life'. They must now turn back to God.

The Psalm is both a cry for help and a song of hope and trust. John, in the Second Reading, speaks of Christ as our Advocate with the Father. Not only does he take our sins away, he fills us with God's love.

Jesus appears to his doubting disciples in the Gospel. He reassures them by inviting them to touch him and by eating with them, before increasing their understanding and hinting at their mission.

Let us continue our Lenten journey this week, strengthened by the gift of Christ's peace, and conscious of being his witnesses – even if, at times, we are confused and doubtful.

Opening Prayer: May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

FR JOHN TUOHY: We warmly welcome Fr John Tuohy, a retired priest of our diocese, who will be covering here while Fr Martin is away.

RECENTLY DECEASED: **Graeme Hollinshead**, a longstanding parishioner here, who died earlier this week. May he rest in peace, His Requiem Mass will take place here on **Friday 3rd May at 12.30pm**. We offer his wife, Melanie and his family our heartfelt sympathy.

Fr George Towler, a retired priest of our Diocese, who died on 4th April. 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.*

COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS: The opportunity to receive communion under both kinds will begin from NEXT weekend, **22nd April**. Many parishes in the diocese have already restored the opportunity to receive from the chalice.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The classes will resume NEXT WEEK. The first class back will be at the usual time of 5.30pm on Wednesday **17th April**.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED: If anyone would like to be an altar server, please see Fr Martin or contact the Parish office.

USHERS/WELCOMERS: We have a 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.

GARDENER REQUIRED: We are looking for a volunteer to help with the cutting of the grass and general garden/grounds maintenance. Please let Fr Martin or the Parish Office know if you can help.

AFRICAN PALMS: On Palm Sunday the palm branches we blessed came from the Masasi people in Tanzania, Africa. African Palms, is a charity founded by Rev Alan Talbot RIP, an Anglican priest from Leyton, to help Masasi people make Palm branches into crosses to fund projects for street children, HIV & special needs children, to provide clean water, agriculture projects, health clinics, and schools.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE: “So far, the Catholic community in England and Wales have responded very generously, with many Ukrainian people now living here, miles away from the war zone. As of March 2024, our project has successfully matched 139 guests, and this shortly set to rise with the approval of more visas in the next few weeks. We have also indirectly supported more than 300 people through webinars and offline events. However, the need is still great. The number of families still waiting to find a home is over 2000. Hosting displaced people is a great way to learn about different cultures and build new friendships.

To read about just one family that have benefitted enormously from their UK hosts' generosity, [head to our Do Justice website and read Anna's story](#).

If there is any possibility that you may be able to offer an empty room in your home, please get in contact with us at homesforukraine@SJOG.org.uk or visit the project website at <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>.”

HALL SPRING CLEAN: Many thanks to Dorothy and her team of willing volunteers for their time and effort last Saturday in Spring cleaning our Hall.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION WITHOUT FOOD: Have you a spare bedroom in your house in Epping? This is urgently needed by a well-liked parishioner, who has lived and prayed among us for the last year and a half. If you can help, there is a monthly stipend of £365. Further details from Sister Susan (575017) or the parish office.

ROSARY VIGIL: Processional Prayer Vigil on **Saturday 20th April**, starting from Trinity Catholic School, Woodford Green. The purpose of this Vigil is peaceful prayer but crucially also offering, anyone who wishes to have their baby, help, financial accommodation, baby kit etc. Also the offer of counselling and or retreats for post abortive women. Please see poster in porch for further details.

GIFT AID: Gift Aid envelopes for the new financial year, beginning 6th April 2024, are ready for collection in the church porch. We encourage parishioners to use Offertory envelopes, especially for taxpayers to Gift Aid your donations to the church. This increases the value of your offerings to the church by 25% at no cost to yourself. **Many thanks to our volunteer parishioner, Michele Murphy for carrying out this role so efficiently for our parish.** Any parishioners who require a Gift Aid letter for tax purposes should contact Michele, via our Parish office.

STANDING ORDERS: It is becoming increasingly hard to bank cash. If at all possible, please support the work, running and mission of the parish by setting up a standing order via your bank. Please contact our Parish Office for more information and to complete a form.

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK: 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.

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: Mary Tracey, Bridget Taylor, Fr Owen Fitzgerald, Joseph Elliott, Fr John O'Mahoney (14/4), Shirley Woods-McConville (16/4), Ellen Gladden (19/4), Florence Catchpole (20/4), Gilbert Newsan, Roger Minnis(19/4), Robert Nolan, Sheila Bazzoni, Margaret Crehan (21/4), *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

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.”