

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Registered Charity Number: 234092
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

21st April 2024

‘They too will listen to my voice ...’

This Sunday we are invited to deepen our awareness of the protective, caring love that surrounds us, holds us and sustains us. This love was made incarnate in Jesus the Good Shepherd.

In John’s letter (Second Reading), we are encouraged to meditate on the deep love that the Father lavishes upon us, by calling us his children. Centring our lives on this reality will help us on our pilgrim journey — and this week’s Psalm is associated with pilgrimage, sung by those entering Jerusalem. For us it becomes a resurrection song. The one who was reviled and rejected becomes the cornerstone that our faith is built upon; Christ is our refuge and our strength, and the psalmist reminds us to place our trust in our loving Lord.

In the First Reading, Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, quotes from this same psalm. Christ, who was rejected and condemned by the religious leaders of the time, is the source of Peter’s authority and his gift of healing.

In the Gospel, the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is used to draw out the depth of the love that God has for his people. Jesus lays down his life for us so that we might truly live. By describing himself in this way, Jesus is describing the close, intimate relationship we are each called to have with the living Lord. Although we are many, we are one flock, with one Shepherd who knows each one of us personally. Jesus trusts that we will listen to his voice.

As we pray this week, let us ask for the grace to truly listen with open and accepting hearts to the needs of our community, and to the needs of the earth. May we, too, may become loving shepherds to each other, and to the environment.

Masses & Services Saturday 20th April to Sunday 28th April 2024		
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 21st April 2024		
Saturday 20 th	6.00pm	Danny White RIP Recently (Lechley)
Sunday 21 st	9.00am	Private Intention (SB)
April 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 22 nd	9.15am	Private Intention (SP)
Tuesday 23 rd	Feast of St George	
	9.15am	Intentions of Alex Akim (Joseph)
Wed 24 th	12 Noon	Graham Childs RIP (SB)
Thursday 25 th	NO MASS	
Friday 26 th	12 Noon	Graeme Hollinshead RIP Recently (Whitehouse)
Saturday 27 th	12 Noon	Baptism of Carmen Grisonia
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 28th April 2024		
Saturday 27 th	6.00pm	Patrick Lennon RIP Anniv (Lechley)
Sunday 28 th	9.00am	Graeme Hollinshead RIP Recently (Christie)
April 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
	3.00pm	Traditional Latin Mass

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 £143.50 in Envelopes, £435.13 in loose cash, £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.

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

MASS INTENTIONS: Masses can be booked through our parish office.

HALL HIRE: Our Hall is available to hire at very competitive rates and a discount for parishioners. Please contact our Parish Office for further details and to book.

CLARE PRIORY PILGRIMAGE: In honour of Mother of Good Counsel.
Sunday 12th May 2024. Please see poster in church porch for details.

This Sunday is **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**, and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese and for those currently training for the priesthood.

RECENTLY DECEASED: **FR GEORGE TOWLER**, a retired priest of our Diocese, who died on 4th April.

GRAEME HOLLINSHEAD, a longstanding parishioner here, who died on 8th April. 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.

MICHAEL MORGAN, another of our longstanding parishioners, who died on Monday 15th April. May he rest in peace. Funeral arrangements pending. Michael is now reunited with his beloved wife, Mary, who passed away on 31st January this year.

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 THIS weekend, **22nd April**. Many parishes in the diocese have already restored the opportunity to receive from the chalice.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The next class for the children will be on **Wednesday 15th May at 5.30pm**. There will NOT be a class next week. On **Tuesday 7th May** there will be a meeting for the parents, at **7.30pm**, in our hall. It is imperative that at least one parent from each family attends this meeting. On **Sunday 12th May** there will be the crowning of Our Lady's Statue at the 11am Mass. All children are asked to attend please. There will be a rehearsal for this on **Wednesday 8th May at 5.30pm**.

CLERGY CONFERENCE: From **30th April to 2nd May**, Fr Martin will join other priests of our Diocese at a three day Clergy Conference. All active priests of the Diocese have been called to this Conference with the Bishop. Please keep them all in your prayers.

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.

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: Florence Catchpole, Desmond Toohey (20/4), Robert Nolan, Sheila Bazzoni, Margaret Crehan (21/4), Queenie Japhed, Hannah Robinson, John Monroe, Margaret Johnson (22/4), George Barnett, James Parello (23/4), Thomas Geoghan (24/4), Doris Pooley, Elva Robinson (26/4), Denis Tedder (27/4), *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR THE BOX YOUTH CENTRE:

The Box and Community Centre is currently looking for more volunteers to help supervise the After School sessions (Tues, Wed, Thurs 3.30pm-5pm) for 1-16 year olds and possibly to supervise later evening sessions for older young people. Anyone interested should contact Tim Dolan on telephone 07966 574675 or email timdolan@theboxepping.org.uk). NB – The Box operates a safer recruitment policy – all recruitment checks, including DBS checks will be made and training will be provided.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL 7.30pm WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SATURDAY APRIL 27th:

The vigil for the sanctity of life which it is hoped will be led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is to witness the 60th anniversary of the introduction of the abortion laws in this country in 1967 which were intended to reduce abortions to 1 to 200 a year. The annual count in England and Wales is now a quarter of a million a year and the toll since '67 is ten and a half million. Please attend if you can and if not pray for an end to this ongoing tragedy and for the babies and their mothers.

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 out Parish Office.**

CHARITY SPRING MUSIC AND DINNER EVENING: The Epping Forest Catenian Circle is sponsoring a Spring Music and Dinner Evening at the Becket Centre, St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Woodford, on **Saturday 27 April 2024**, from 7 pm, in aid of “YOUR PLACE”. With a Catholic foundation and established in 1962, the mission of “YOUR PLACE” is to build hope and enable lasting change for the homeless in east London. Tickets £35. Please text for tickets to Bernard Bourdillon (07867908814) or Iain McLay (07806998187).

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