

Masses & Services Saturday 30th November to Sunday 8th December 2024		
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year C		1st Dec 2024
Saturday 30th	6.00pm	Intentions of Frank Mulligan
Sunday 1st	9.00am	People of our Parish
Dec	11.00am	Intentions of Elaine Hudgell (Scannell)
Monday 2 nd	9.15am	Intentions of Teddy Thomas & Family (Thomas)
Tuesday 3 rd	9.15am	Private Intention (Scannell)
Wed 4 th	12 Noon	Fr Olinda Cramaro RIP Recently (PACT)
Thursday 5 th	NO MASS	
Friday 6 th	12 Noon	Margaret Hunt RIP (Hunt)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year C		8th Dec 2024
Saturday 7th	6.00pm	Nancy Amelia Jane Hellen RIP 1st Anniv (Coyne)
Sunday 8th	9.00am	People of our Parish
Dec 2024	11.00am	Christie Scannell RIP Anniv (Scannell)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15pm-5.45pm.

ROSARY: Prayed after Mass Monday, Tuesday, Friday and before Mass on Wednesday.

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 offerings. Last week you gave £149.50 in Envelopes, £436.32 in Loose Plate & £231.20 for World Youth Sunday. 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.

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.”

MISSIO BOXES: At present we do not have a parish co-ordinator for the Missio (red) boxes. Please let Fr Martin or the Parish Office know if you are able to help.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516
Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173
Parish Administrator : Mrs Margaret Lechley
Email: epping@brcdt.org
Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 234092
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C **1st December 2024**

Today we begin the season of Advent, a word which means ‘the coming.’ There are three comings: of Jesus’s Nativity at Bethlehem, of the Lord in glory at the end of time, and of Christ’s Spirit into our hearts and lives at each present moment. The readings invite us to perceive our place in the present world as something that opens us out to others. They call us to live according to the perspective of the new world to come.

The great prophet Jeremiah, in the **First Reading** (Jer. 33:14–16), offers hope in the promise of that first coming. Through the springing up of the ‘righteous branch of David’ the people will dwell securely.

St Paul, writing to the Christians at Thessalonica (**Second Reading** - 1 Thess. 3:12–4:2), reminds them to be ready for that second coming of the Lord in glory. They believed this to be imminent, and being ready for it meant abounding in loving service.

In the **Gospel** (Luke 21: 25–28, 34–36), Jesus consoles his disciples – and us. When the signs of his coming in glory are to be seen, we can stand tall and eager for the gift of redemption, for what we are awaiting is the fulness of Christ’s Spirit, already alive and active in our hearts.

Let’s pray, this week, that we may find every opportunity to live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the dead today, and is coming in glory tomorrow. Amen.



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

MASS BOOKS: This weekend we are changing to the new version of Mass books, using the English standard version of the Bible, approved by the Bishops of England and Wales.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: At our Masses this weekend we welcome our Confirmation candidates and their sponsors. We ask parishioners to keep them all in your prayers as they embark on their Confirmation journey.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2025: The next session for the children is on **Saturday 14th December** at 4.30pm.

ADVENT BEGINS THIS WEEK: There are a number of booklets being given out free by our parish. You can make donations to cover their costs in the book slot of the box at the back of the church.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE here in our church on **Tuesday 10th December at 7.30pm**. All are welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES IN OUR PARISH:

CHRISTMAS EVE - Tuesday 24th December

Mass at 6.00pm, preceded by Carols at 5.30pm and Mass at 9.00pm (Midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY – Wednesday 25th December

Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am

St Stephen's Day - Mass 10.00am

CHRISTMAS CARDS are available for collection and distributing this weekend. They give details of our Christmas Masses and greetings from our Church to people at home. Please take yours and near neighbours to help reduce our postage costs. Our thanks go to Peter and Sarah Day for preparing them.

HELP NEEDED: As we are currently without a parish caretaker, Fr Martin would appreciate the help of volunteers with routine tasks such as putting out the bins each week and any odd jobs around the parish. Please let him know if you can help!

A 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. holy people. Through Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

NNIVERSARIES: Ann Pretty (2/12), Philip Darcy (4/12), Dougil Qvani, John Goodman (5/12)_Fr Brian Drea. Hans Bengesser, Michael Mulligan (6/12), Fr Michael Healy, Mary Ivey (7/12), Alfred Gill, Michael O'Mahoney, Ron Gaylor, Fr Bernard Pownall (8/12). **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.**

CHRISTMAS MARKET 2024: A big thank you to all those who supported the event, which raised the magnificent total of **£3,125**.

A list of raffle prize donors and winners can be found in the church porch. We would ask that you support those businesses that support our events year after year with their generous donations. These are listed on the poster in the church porch. A huge thanks to all our volunteers, who gave their time and enthusiasm, we could not do this without you. Finally, a special mention to Michael Wigley for providing musical cheer throughout the event.

On behalf of the parish Fr Martin would like to thank Adriana and her team of helpers for their dedication and enthusiasm in ensuring the smooth running of this event.

READINGS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Fr Adrian Gruffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these go to www.whatgoodnews.org and click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Advent Readings'.

EPPING CHORUS next concert is on **Friday 13th December** at St John's Church at 7.30pm. The main work is Vivaldi's Gloria. Admission £10.

MESSAGE FROM EPPING FOREST FOODBANK "With Christmas fast approaching we are committed to making this festive season special for those facing hardship, and we once again seek support for our annual Christmas food drive. December is usually our busiest month of the year, and we think this year will be the same. **The items we urgently need are: Milk (UHT/powdered), long life fruit juice, tinned soup, pasta sauce, sponge pudding, tinned tomatoes, vegetables, meat/fish, tinned fruit, rice, pasta, tea bags, coffee, cereals, jam, biscuits, toiletries, nappies, washing up liquid, dog and cat food.** Together we can help make the Christmas experience special for those in need within our community."

EPPING FOREST CHRISTMAS GIVING: Gift a local child a present this year. Epping Forest District Council is seeking kind donations from residents and businesses to see that no local child goes without a Christmas present this year. **Please see poster in church porch for further details.**

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