

Masses & Services Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th December 2024		
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year C		8th Dec 2024
Saturday 7 th	6.00pm	Nancy Amelia Jane Hellen RIP 1st Anniv (Coyne)
Sunday 8 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
Dec	11.00am	Christie Scannell RIP Anniv (Scannell)
Monday 9 th	Feast of the Immaculate Conception – patron saint of our parish	
	10.00am	Martin Seaman RIP Recently
Tuesday 10 th	9.15am	Fr Dan O'Connell RIP
	7.30pm	Advent Service of Reconciliation
Wed 11 th	12 Noon	Intentions of Tony Armstrong
Thursday 12 th	NO MASS	
Friday 13 th	Feast of St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	
	12 Noon	Intentions of Gloria & Romeo
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year C		15th Dec 2024
Saturday 14 th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 15 th	9.00am	Doug & Bobby Dew RIP (Heughan)
Dec 2024	11.00am	Intentions of Katie Hughes (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 £258 in Envelopes, £258 and £391.63 in Loose Plate. 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.

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.

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.”

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA
Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516
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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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C **8th December 2024**

Today we celebrate the many great deeds God has worked for us, as he shares with us his mercy and bountiful love. For our part, we are called to repentance of heart and to live a life of love.

Using poetic language, the **First Reading** (Baruch 5: 1–9) offers a prophetic message of joy and hope. The saving presence of God brings about the transformation of his broken-hearted people, and the restoration of Jerusalem. The **Gospel** (Luke 3: 1–6) speaks of a still more glorious restoration. John the Baptist, herald of Jesus, appears, calling us to turn again to God. John announces that all humanity is to see ‘the salvation of God’, anticipating the preaching of the gospel to all nations.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading** (Philippians 1: 4–6, 8–11), is writing to the Philippians: a church for which he has deep affection. He encourages the new community to continue to grow in love and knowledge of Christ Jesus, so as to enable them to live even better, more fruitful lives.

During this season of Advent, we seek the true meaning of repentance in preparation for the coming of Jesus. We pray to leave aside anything that might hinder and blind us to God's love, and to become even more open to a deepening, faith-filled relationship with the Lord.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Our Parish Feast Day will be celebrated this year on **Monday 9th December**. **Mass here will be at 10am.**

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.

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

ADVENT BOOKLETS: 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 **THIS 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). No 9.15am Mass on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS DAY – Wednesday 25th December

Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am

St Stephen's Day - Mass 10.00am

USHERS: We have a small dedicated team of ushers at our weekend Masses but desperately need more to help at the Christmas Masses only. Please speak to Fr Martin if you can help with this one off commitment.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are available for collection and distributing after the Sunday Masses. They give details of our Christmas Masses and greetings from our Church to people at home. Our thanks go to Peter and Sarah Day for preparing them. **We need help from any Theydon Bois parishioners, please, to deliver in their area.**

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: Fr Michael Healy, Mary Ivey (7/12), Alfred Gill, Michael O'Mahoney, Ron Gaylor, Fr Bernard Pownall (8/12), Colin Saunders, Beverly Ziade, Jack Lafford, Fr John Lane, Canon Anthony McKenty (9/12), Anthony Turner, Gladys Long (10/12), Margaret Power, Beatrice Webber, Julia O'Mahoney, Nancy Thorpe, Sam Butcher, Jack Goodman (11/12), Fr Geoffrey Pye, Fr Eamonn Magrath (12/12), David Jolly, Alma Longford, Marie Verrrall, Elizabeth Evans, Fr William Evers, Fr Francis Kerrigan (13/12), Geprge Meldon, Fr Gerard Kerr (14/12), Mary McEvoy, Anne Melia (15/12). **Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.**

ASSISTED DYING BILL: Sadly this Bill was passed in parliament recently. However, it is encouraging to note that our two local MPs, Dr Neil Hudson and Alex Burghart voted against the legislation. We pray that they continue their opposition to future readings and voting on this.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: Please send in any newsletter items by midday on Wednesday prior to the weekend. We cannot ensure that items received later than this will always be included.

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!

CAROLS ON THE GREEN presented by Epping Rotary Club on **Christmas Eve at 3pm**. All welcome to attend this community event.

EPHING 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.

BRENTWOOD DIRECTORY: Copies of the Brentwood Directory are on sale at the back of the church. It gives information about our Diocese and details of Parishes and Mass times, Catholic schools, prayer groups and other organisations in our Diocese.

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.**"

EPHING 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