

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa



December 2024

CHRISTMAS DAY

Heavenly king, yet born of Mary;

Jesus Son of God, we praise and adore you.

Eternal Word, yet child without speech;

Jesus, Son of God, we praise and adore you.

Robed in glory, yet wrapped in infant clothes;

Jesus, Son of God, we praise and adore you.

Lord of Heaven and earth, yet laid in a manger;

Jesus, Son of God, we praise and adore you.

To you, O Jesus, strong in our weakness,

glorious in your humility,

mighty to save, be all praise and glory,

with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

*Fr Martin wishes you and your families
a Happy Christmas and a Holy New Year*



MASSES & SERVICES from: Sat 21st December to Sunday 5th January		
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)		
EXPECTANT MOTHERS' SUNDAY		22nd December 2024
Saturday 21 st	6.00pm	Dennis Gage RIP (Coyne)
Sunday 22 nd	9.00am	People of our Parish
December	11.00am	Intentions of Joan Holland (Scannell)
Monday 23 rd	9.15am	Fr Geoffrey Gray RIP
CHRISTMAS MASSES		
CHRISTMAS	5.30pm	Carol Service followed by Mass
EVE	6.00pm	Dec'd Members of Lennon & Lechley Families
24th December	9.00pm	People of our Parish
CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00am	Kate & Patrick Lavin RIP (Lavin)
25 th December	11.00am	Our parishioners who have died during 2024
Thursday 26 th	ST STEPHEN'S DAY	
December	10.00am	Catherine Anne Gribben RIP (FM)
Friday 27 th	Feast of St John	
	12 noon	Helen Folland RIP (Goode)
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 29th December 2024		
Saturday 28 th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 29 th	9.00am	Patrick, Helen & Tommy Lavin RIP (Lavin)
December 2024	11.00am	Intentions of Elaine Hudgell & Katie Hughes (Scannell)
Monday 30 th	9.15am	Des Toohey RIP (Toohey)
Tuesday 31 st	Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	
	9.15am	Robert Turner RIP Anniv (FM)
Wednesday 1 st	MARY MOTHER OF GOD	
January 2025	12 noon	Intentions of Anne Robertson (Nalan)
Thursday 2 nd	NO MASS	
Friday 3 rd	12 noon	Jimmy Gilmartin RIP Recently (Darcy)
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C) 5th January 2024		
Saturday 4 th	6.00pm	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP Anniv (Stevenage)
Sunday 5 th	9.00am	Giovanni Borelli RIP Anniv (Mansell)
January 2025	11.00am	People of our Parish



CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Christmas Masses is your personal gift to your Priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Easter this provides a major part of their income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

CRIB OFFERINGS: Once again this Christmas, we will be raising money for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please do give what you can.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING:

May there be harmony in all your relationships. May sharp words, envious thoughts, and hostile feelings be dissolved.

May you give and receive love generously. May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ. May the honour given the Babe in Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

May the hope of this sacred, season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you. May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.

May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide you and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world.

Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES:

Please inform us if there is someone seriously ill and let us know if anyone on the list is no longer ill so we can remove their name from there.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.



O Come Let Us Adore Him