



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception

Second Sunday of Lent

1st March 2015

Dear friends,

during his forty days in the wilderness our Lord Jesus had to contend with the forces of evil and was called upon to confront various temptations contrary to the law of God. As his followers, we are also struggling with the powers of darkness. This is very evident at the present moment when our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East are being horribly persecuted by Islamic fanatics. But the Scriptures are very clear: the victory that overcomes the world is our faith. St Paul, in our second reading today, boldly asserts that we are on the winning side: since God is with us, who is against us? Against all the odds, we are asked to holdfast and to persevere in faith. Lenten discipline equips us for the struggle, with special emphasis on prayer and fasting. The CAFOD family fast this weekend is an endeavour to heighten our awareness of the world of deprivation and need. It provides us with an opportunity to do something practical to alleviate poverty. Today's gospel tells how some of Christ's followers were privileged with a glimpse of him transfigured in glory. Every act of charity, no matter how simple, contributes to the transformation of our society. The common good need not be an abstract ideal: it becomes a practical reality when we all take seriously the call of Jesus to love our neighbour.

***God bless you always,
Fr James***

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse
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FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: The next class for the children will take place this coming Monday 2nd March 2015 at 5.30pm. Parents' session Tuesday 3rd March at 8pm.

PARISH WEBSITE: We are planning on upgrading the parish website to add a couple of pages. If you have, or know someone who has, relevant experience and can offer just a few hours of help or advice, please contact any PPC member or the parish secretary at epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN AID PARISH CO-ORDINATOR: Our Justice and Peace Group is seeking a new Parish Co-ordinator, to take over from Dorothy Whitehouse, who is stepping down after many years of kind service. Could you help? If you would like further information on the role, please call Emma on: 07876 897 942.

CAFOD: Family Fast collection will be taken this weekend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Sunday 1st March at 6pm.

EASTER LILIES: the traditional donation of £2 is invited for an Easter lily in commemoration of a loved one at Easter. Please mark the envelope "Easter Lily".

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS ROTAS: Please will you collect your new rotas from the post box in the church porch.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday 6th March at 10am and 7.30pm at the URC Church in Lindsey Street and at St Mary's Church in Theydon Bois 2-3pm. Please join us at St Mary's Church between 1pm & 1.45pm for refreshments before the service again this year; we will also be having refreshments after the service as in previous years.

PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 March at 8pm in the presbytery. All welcome - please do come if you can! If you are unable to attend and have any issue you would like to raise, contact Debbie on 01992 575900 or email dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com

PIETY STALL: we have a selection of Easter cards, First Holy Communion cards and a selection of gifts for all.

JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 11th April in the Hall. Please start sorting any good quality jumble to donate.

BAPTISMS: Orla Hannifin and Sian Hannifin-Flynn - congratulations.

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP: The (usual) Lent Discussion Group will meet each Wednesday in Lent. We will meet from 2.30pm to 4pm at 3 Lynceley Grange, Epping. Please let Deacon Duncan know if you wish to join the Group (telephone 577173).

Lenten Day Retreat led by Bishop Alan at Abbotswick House of Prayer, Brentwood: This Lenten day retreat on 14th March 2015, starts from 10.30am to 3:30pm and Mass will be celebrated. The suggested donation for the day is £15 per person and advanced booking is essential. All are welcome but spaces are limited. Please visit www.abbotswick.org for more information or call Abbotswick on 01277 373959.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPPING & DISTRICT LENTEN

LUNCHES: Saturday 7th March at the United Reform Church Hall, Lindsey Street, Epping. A donation of £3 is suggested for Christian Aid.

A LENTEN SUGGESTION: During Lent please: 1. pray for the Rosary vigil at Marie Stopes, Buckhurst Hill, especially that mothers under pressure to abort will accept the practical help (advice, money, accommodation etc) offered through the Good Counsel Network. 2. Consider supporting the Good Counsel Network financially (cheques payable to The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel, PO Box 46679, London NW9 8ZT). 3. Come to the vigil at the top of Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill Saturdays 7.45am -11.30am if you can spare some time, even if just half an hour. More details or a lift call Paul on 01992 577104.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: St Francis Catholic Primary School, Gilchrist Way, Braintree, Essex CM7 2SY. Closing date: **10th March 2015**. For an application pack please contact Carolyn Kerr, Essex County Council, School Workforce Development Team tel. 0333 013 0784 or email: headships@essex.gov.uk.

Lent Annual Day of Reflection- Saturday 21st March: *Journeying with Jesus- 'God loved the world so much..'* Bishop Alan Williams will lead the day. Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood. Arrivals: 10.00am for 10.30am start, finish at 3.45pm. Cost: £10 per person. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee provided. For booking and further information, please contact the the Adult RE office on 01277 265255 or email are&fm@dioceseofbrentwood.org

PERMANT EXAMS OFFICER & ASSISTANT TO DATA

MANAGER: Trinity Catholic High School. Closing date 16th March. More details from Margaret_keegan@fc.tchs.uk.net.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please make yourselves known to Father James or Deacon Duncan, so we may welcome and inform you about our parish life.

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS
28th February & 1st March 2015

Sat 28th Feb 6 p.m. Christine O'Donohoe RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 1st March 9 a.m. Monica Worsfold RIP
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Week Commencing 2nd March 2015

Mon 2nd 9 a.m. Fr Andrew Hurley RIP

Tues 3rd 9 a.m. Mary Canny RIP

Wed 4th 9 a.m. Intentions of Christopher Joseph

Thurs 5th 9 a.m. Sadie McIniskey RIP

Fri 6th 9 a.m. Rocky Fernandez RIP

Sat 7th 6 p.m. Les Black RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 8th 9 a.m. Mary Furlong RIP
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Morning Prayer will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9 am Liturgy

Confessions: 11.30am -12 noon and after 6pm Mass.

Please pray for the sick:

Yvonne Morrall, Doris Scott, Gina Pelosi, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, Rosemary Freeman, Keith Miller, Jennie Downs, Sean Clohessy, Peter Nash and Diane Harrington.

OFFERINGS (£):

Loose Plate	354.51
Offertory Envelopes	292.00
CAFOD	45.00

Thank you