

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS
19th and 20th December 2015

Sat 19th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Dan Gray RIP
Sun 20th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Tullia Borelli RIP People of the Parish

Week Commencing 21st December 2015

Mon 21st	9 a.m.	David Sabire RIP
Tues 22nd	9 a.m.	John Perkins RIP
Wed 23rd	9 a.m.	Fr George Lyons RIP
Christmas Eve	11-12 noon 6 p.m. 10 p.m.	Confessions Family Mass Mass and Carols
Christmas Day	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Mass Mass
Sat 26th	6 p.m.	Thanksgiving
Sun 27th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Tullia Borelli RIP People of the Parish

Morning Prayer will be said in the week, 15 minutes before 9 am Mass

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

Please pray for the sick:

Doris Scott, Paula Hall, Tony Mullan, David Kenworthy, James Bullen, Hannah Robinson, Sean Clohessy, Daphne McAdam, Mima Vitello and Catherine Steel

OFFERINGS (£):

Offertory Envelopes	131.00
Offertory Loose Plate	304.68
CAFOD	59.00

Thank you for your generosity



Newsletter
The Church of the Immaculate
Conception
Epping

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **20th December 2015**

Dear friends,

one of the most powerful themes running through the letters of St Paul is that of the ***obedience of faith***. It is a theme that resonates strongly in today's readings. Mary believed in the promises made to her and responded obediently in faith: ***let what you have said be done to me***. Jesus, also obeys his heavenly Father: ***I am coming to obey your will***. The obedience of faith stands in direct contradiction to the original sin of pride. Pride is a refusal to obey God and all the woes of human history can be ascribed to it. When we examine our conscience and our conduct we have to ask ourselves how often have I preferred to follow my own agenda rather than do what God asks of me? The obedience of faith is powerfully exercised through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For those who have yet to celebrate that great expression of God's mercy there will be a further opportunity on Christmas Eve when confessions will be heard from 11am to 12 noon.

As we celebrate Christmas we must keep in mind our brothers and sisters in the Middle East as they endure a constant and virulent assault in their freedom to worship. We pray that their faith may be steadfast in these troubled times.

God bless you always

Fr James

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 Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173
 Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall Tel: 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813
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 11, Church Hill, Epping CM16 4RA Registered Charity No. 234092

CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE – THIS SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2015

AT 6PM: Everyone (young and old) is invited to come to the Children's Carol Service. We are looking for lots of children of all ages to take part in the **Nativity Tableaux (Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds etc)**. **We also need readers and singers.** Those who came last year will remember how lovely it was and how well the children played their parts. **Casting and rehearsals will take place in the Church Hall at 4.30pm**, just before the service. Please do come and enjoy!!

WEDDING: Congratulations to Natalie Lewis and Edward Gamwells.

BOXING DAY: Please take note that the 6pm Saturday Mass will take place as usual but there will be no Mass in the morning.

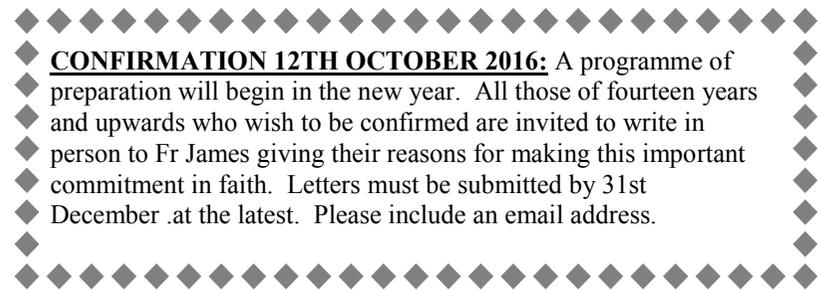
NEW ROTA for MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION and READERS. Please collect your new Rota, which starts on the first weekend in January. **Please note that there is an important attachment with this issue.**

EARN A LITTLE EXTRA: Anyone over the age of 18 who has around 6 hours per week to spare (evenings and weekends or mixed) to escort a young parishioner, aged 19, for walks, shopping, entertainment etc. Hours are flexible and salary plus expenses paid. For further details please contact 07790 060410.

APF / MISSIO RED COLLECTING BOXES: Following the untimely death of John Gee RIP, MRS MOIRA VALLANCE has kindly agreed to take over the task of Parish Organiser for the Red Boxes. Thank you Moira! She can be contacted, if necessary on 01992 560241, particularly by anyone who would like to join the scheme and would like a new Collecting Box.

As it is now **time to empty those boxes which have not been emptied since October 2015**, would **box-holders please return their boxes to the Sacristy as soon as possible**. Moira will empty the boxes, note the contents on the sealing-label and place the boxes in the Church Porch for collection by the owner. **THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL THE BOX-HOLDERS. Your joint efforts result in over £1000 being sent each year to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF), which enables the Gospel to be spread throughout the developing countries around the world.'**

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: Anyone alone on Christmas Day is invited to join us for a traditional luncheon in our hall. Couples and carers able to help or those who would like company are welcome to join us. Transport can be provided. Please contact Mary Morgan on 01992 574719. Drivers are needed to take our guests home from 3.30pm. Please phone Mary on the number above. The hall will be open during each Mass and on Christmas Eve 9am onwards to receive items of food and gifts. Your help and generosity is always greatly appreciated.



CONFIRMATION 12TH OCTOBER 2016: A programme of preparation will begin in the new year. All those of fourteen years and upwards who wish to be confirmed are invited to write in person to Fr James giving their reasons for making this important commitment in faith. Letters must be submitted by 31st December .at the latest. Please include an email address.

No room at the inn? There are now 7,500 refugees in Calais, living in very basic and squalid conditions. They are being helped only by volunteer goodwill and in January a group from Our Lady and All Saints Parish, Basildon, will be taking insulation for the wood and tarpaulin shelters that are gradually being built. To read more please go to www.basildoncatholics.org where there are photos and reports from visits over the last four months; if you would like to donate, the details are in the December report. Please pray for all those sleeping far from home this Christmas.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to raise money for The Box by collecting/bag packing at Epping M&S this Sunday 20th and Monday 21st December. The time slots each day are 10-12, 12-2 and 2-4 and ideally at least four volunteers at one time. If you are able to help then please phone Kate Collin on 07951 484805.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS. Please retain used postage stamps throughout the year, but particularly at Christmas time. It is helpful if you can tear them with a ¼” border and place them in the box on the bottom shelf of the bookcase in the Church Porch. The stamps will then be taken to St Clare Hospice in Harlow, from where they will be sold for cash to contribute to the Hospice's running expenses. Thank you for your help.

USED SPECTACLES. A reminder that we have a **Used Spectacles Box in the bookcase in the Church Porch**. When you no longer need a pair of spectacles, they can be used in the developing world. The spectacles we collect are sent to a prison in UK, where they are checked by qualified prisoners (!!!), catalogued and sent overseas for use by people who would otherwise remain poor-sighted. It's a very **worthwhile action of charity and is commended for your thoughtful generosity**. The box is available in the Church Porch throughout the year.

CHURCH HALL VACANCY: There is currently a vacancy on Wednesdays from 3.20pm. If anyone would like to hire the Hall then please call Arnold Verrall on 573633 or 0776 4404813. Preference will be given to a regular hirer-f or example, a dance class would be ideal.

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