



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception Epping

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

27th December 2015

Dear friends,

the build up to Christmas is lengthy but it all seems to come and go very quickly. Thank you all for the many expressions of kindness and affirmation shown to Deacon Duncan and me over the past days.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. As we give thanks for our own homes and families, we should also be grateful for our wider family of faith both in the parish and in the universal Church. Each of us has his or her part to play in contributing to the common good by a generous use of our individual gifts and talents. As we go into the new year of 2016 we must bear in mind that Pope Francis is calling it the Year of Mercy when the estranged and the marginalised are invited to come home. For a nice idea to become a lived experience it requires a genuine effort on the part of us all.

This is the final week for those who wish to be confirmed in the coming year to submit their letters of application. Confirmation is a serious commitment and can only be freely chosen.

Once more, thank you for all your kindness and generosity at Christmas. I wish you all a peaceful and blessed new year.

God bless you always

Fr James

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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.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for Mrs Mima Vitello who died on 21st December. May she rest in peace.

BAPTISM: Congratulations to Alessia Styczynski.

VACANCIES: Trinity Catholic High School wishes to appoint the following:

- Technician to work in the Technology departments. The successful applicant must be organised, flexible and computer literate.
Technology Department – D&T/HE Technician. Required as soon as possible. 36 hours per week – 44.2 weeks per year. Salary Scale 4 Point 18 - £19,524 FTE.
- Examinations Manager and Assistant to the Data Manager. Required as soon as possible. 36 hours per week. Salary Scale 6.

Please contact Sam Gillary on 020 8504 3419 ext 170 or email sam_gillary@fc.tchs.uk.net for further details.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: The 2016 Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage in the Year of Mercy will run from Sunday 14 to Friday 18 August 2016. It will include two new and lovely opportunities:

- The celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption in Lourdes
- Obtaining the plenary indulgence of the Year of Mercy as St Michael's Gate will be a Door of Mercy.

Besides the normal flight arrangements parishioners can be offered the cheaper option of travelling by coach (should there be enough interest). This could work well for many parish groups for whom otherwise the pilgrimage is too expensive.

Brochures and booking forms will be available soon.

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

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.

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.

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.

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS
26th and 27th December 2015

Sat 26th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Thanksgiving
Sun 27th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Tullia Borelli RIP People of the Parish

Week Commencing 28th December 2015

Mon 28th	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Tues 29th	9 a.m.	Mary Canny RIP
Wed 30th	9 a.m.	Fr Walter Drumm RIP
Thurs 31st	9 a.m.	For a young married couple
New Year's Day Friday 1st Jan	10 a.m.	People of Parish
Sat 2nd	6 p.m.	Maura Dowling
Sun 3rd	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Tullia Borelli RIP People of 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, Catherine Steel and Ann Dowd.

<u>OFFERINGS (£):</u>	Offertory Envelopes	216.70
	Offertory Loose Plate	329.05
	CAFOD	40.08
	Standing Orders for November/December	2736.33

Thank you for your generosity