



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception Epping

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

3rd January 2016

Dear Friends,

With the Feast of the Epiphany, we conclude the celebration of Christmas. With the exception of the 6pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, attendance on Christmas Day itself was disappointingly lower than last year. However, we observed Our Lord's birth with faith and joy. As always, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the committed groups of people in the parish who gave of their time and talent in so many ways, to beautify the church and contribute to the smooth-running of the services. On a personal level, I have been touched by the many acts of kindness shewn to me, not least the very generous Christmas Offering.

As we enter the New Year, our attention is now turned to the programme of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. There will be an information session for Candidates and their parents at 8.00pm on Monday 11th January and it is vital that all concerned attend. The sessions proper will then commence on Monday 25th January. Please pray for all who have decided to make this commitment in faith. It is not easy for young people nowadays to express their faith openly and enthusiastically.

I wish you all a blessed New Year in 2016. We pray that the Year of Mercy, designated by Pope Francis, may be rich in grace for us all.

God bless you always.

Fr James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes	Tel: 01992 572516
Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse	Tel: 01992 577173
Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall	Tel: 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813
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CONFIRMATION GROUP 2016:

Did you intend to apply for Confirmation? Did you forget to send your letter to Fr James, during all the Christmas festivities? If so, and you are 14 years of age and upwards, **please let Fr James have your letter of application, giving reasons for making this important commitment in faith.** Letters must be submitted by **Friday 8th January. Please include an email address.**

There will be an **Information Session for all candidates and their parents on Monday 11th January** in the Church Hall at 8pm. **The first Session proper will be on Monday 25th January at 7.30pm.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

Classes re-commence on Tuesday 12th January at 5.45pm

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-for example, a dance class would be ideal.

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.

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP.

The next meeting will be in the Presbytery at 8pm on Tuesday 26th January. We are seeking additional members for the Group and will be delighted to welcome any parishioner who has a special interest in helping to promote peace and fairness for all. We normally have 3 meetings each year. We hope to see you on 26th January.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition re-commences for one hour after 9.00am Mass each weekday from this Monday 4th January 2016.

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.

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.

***HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO EVERYONE!!***

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS
2nd & 3rd January 2016

Sat 2nd Jan (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Maura Dowling
Sun 3rd Jan	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Tullia Borelli RIP People of the Parish

Week Commencing 4th January 2016

Mon 4th Jan	9 a.m.	Fr Michael O'Rourke RIP
Tues 5th Jan	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Wed 6th Jan	9 a.m.	Jeannette Mulligan RIP
Thurs 7th Jan	9 a.m.	Donor's Intention
Friday 8th Jan	9 a.m.	Young Married Couple
Sat 9th Jan (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Mark Toohey
Sun 10th Jan	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	77.50
	Offertory Loose Plate	360.93
	CAFOD	20.16

Thank you for your generosity