

**MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS**  
**9th and 10th January 2016**

Sat 9th Jan (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Mark Toohey
Sun 10th Jan	9 a.m.	Tullia Borelli RIP
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

**Week Commencing 11th January 2016**

Mon 11th Jan	9 a.m.	Mark Toohey
Tues 12th Jan	9 a.m.	Young married couple
Wed 13th Jan	9 a.m.	Joyce Parish RIP
Thurs 14th Jan	9 a.m.	Mima Vitello RIP
Friday 15th Jan	9 a.m.	Evelyn Whitbread RIP
Sat 16th Jan (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Lois Gosnell RIP
Sun 17th Jan	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
	11 a.m.	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, Catherine Steel and Ann Dowd.

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<b><u>OFFERINGS (£):</u></b>	Offertory Envelopes	226.70
	Offertory Loose Plate	349.61
	CAFOD	20.00



**Newsletter**  
**The Church of the**  
**Immaculate Conception**

**THE FEAST OF OUR LORD'S BAPTISM**    **10th January 2016**

Dear Friends,

today's feast of Our Lord's Baptism is an extension of Epiphany in as much as it reveals Jesus as the Beloved Son to whom we are to listen. The Lord had no need to be baptised for the forgiveness of sin but in submitting to the rite he wished to stand in solidarity alongside fallen humanity. We are told that the Holy Spirit descended upon him and he was thus empowered for his mission to mankind: to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the broken hearted. This feast is an opportunity for us to reflect upon our own baptism through which we become followers of Christ. We, too, have been gifted with the Holy Spirit: we, too, have a calling or mission to proclaim the good news of God's love. Today we have an opportunity to renew the high promises made at Baptism: to renounce whatever is alien to God and to live in constant union with the most Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We must also be tireless in prayer for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East whose faith is being severely tested in these troubled times.

I cannot fail to express my deep disappointment that so few young people in the parish have expressed a wish to be confirmed in the faith. Last time round we had thirty eight candidates. This time we have just a dozen applicants.

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
E-mail: <a href="mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org">epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk">www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk</a>

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES:** Classes re-commence this coming Tuesday 12th January at 5.45pm

**CONFIRMATION INFORMATION SESSION:** Monday 11th January at 7.30pm.

**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.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for Tony Austin and Evelyn Whitbread. We offer their families our prayerful condolences. R.I.P.

**HOLY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY – FOR YOUR DIARY:** Pope Francis has designated 2016 to be a **Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy**. Our usual parish discussions during Lent will help us to gain a better knowledge of what this is about and what each of us can do to make our contribution. **Everyone is warmly invited to join 5 sessions on Tuesday evenings between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March.** More information later, but **please make a note of the dates in your diary** (or wherever you make such important notes!!)

**CHURCH UNITY SERVICE AT OUR CHURCH:** As our contribution to the Churches Together in Epping and District (CTED) arrangements for CHURCH UNITY WEEK, **we shall be hosting** all the local churches to a service on **MONDAY 18th JANUARY at 7.30pm.** Each church is acting at host on a different night of this week (please see our Church Notice Board for the details) and will be having a service which is typical of a normal liturgy. **WE SHALL BE PRAYING THE ‘STATIONS OF THE CROSS’.** It would be good to see a good number of parishioners attending, particularly to welcome those from other denominations who come to the service and the refreshments afterwards. **This is an opportunity to extend a friendly welcome to our visitors as part of our Holy Year of Mercy.**

**SUNDAY EVENING MASS IN OLD HARLOW.**

Particularly for the convenience of those Catholics who cannot attend weekend Mass on Saturday evenings or on Sundays (often due to shift working), Mass will be reinstated on Sunday evenings, commencing on **Sunday 31st January 2016 at 7pm.** Venue:- **Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mulberry Green, Old Harlow CM17 0HA** (Opposite the Green Man). Parking is available at the rear of the church. Location at [www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk](http://www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk). The 6pm Mass on Saturday evening at Old Harlow will continue to be said as before.

**MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES:** On Sunday 7 February at 3 pm, Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass at Brentwood Cathedral in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Patroness of our diocese and all who are ill. Join the bishop to pray for our diocese, anyone who is ill and if you have a devotion to the shrine of Our Lady at Lourdes. This Mass is a wonderful opportunity to thank Our Lady for graces received at the shrine or should you be planning to make a pilgrimage.

**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.

**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.

**CHURCH READERS’ REFRESHER & NEW READERS SESSION:** As already notified by email or post, for those Readers who did not attend the Refresher Session on 28<sup>th</sup> November, **a further Session has been arranged on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in the church,** which it is hoped that they will all attend. **Also welcome at this Session will be anyone who would like to become part of this important ministry.** It is expected that the Session will conclude by about 9.15pm.

**MASS INVITATION:** As part of the Year of Mercy, Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral would like to invite all those men and women who are ***separated, divorced, remarried or who are experiencing difficulties in their marriage,*** to come to the Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese, and join the Cathedral parish community at Mass on Sunday 17th January at 6.30pm. The preacher will be Mgr Gordon Read, the Chancellor of the Diocese.

**'Abbotswick Quiz Night, Brentwood Saturday 16th January 2016 :** Please join us for a fun filled Quiz evening including light supper, you are welcome to bring your own drinks. Tickets £10pp, places are limited and advanced booking is essential by 13/01/16. For more information please call **01277 373959** or email [info@abbotswick.org](mailto:info@abbotswick.org)

**ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY:** The next meeting of the Essex Recusant Society will be held on Saturday 23rd January at 2.30 pm at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood. Dr. Carmen Mangion of Birkbeck College, University of London will speak on, "The English Catholic 'modern girl' and religious life, 1940's - 1960's.

**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.