



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS 16th and 17th January 2016

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

Week Commencing 18th January 2016

Mon 18th Jan	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Tues 19th Jan	9 a.m.	Dan & Elizabeth O'Halloran RIP
Wed 20th Jan	9 a.m.	Brian Holloway RIP
Thurs 21st Jan	9 a.m.	Mary Canny RIP
Friday 22nd Jan	9 a.m.	Rose Magri RIP
Sat 23rd Jan (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Tony Austen RIP
Sun 24th Jan	9 a.m.	Tullia Borelli RIP
	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, Ann Dowd, Patricia Salter, Betty Bere and Veronica Beard.

OFFERINGS (£):	Offertory Envelopes	321.50
	Offertory Loose Plate	430.20
	CAFOD	20.00
	Crib Collection	265.03

Second Sunday of the Year

17th January 2016

Dear friends,
the episode of the marriage feast of Cana is traditionally linked both to Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord: all three events are revelatory. The miracle worked at Cana was the first of the signs by which our Lord let his glory be revealed as he embarked on his public ministry. At Cana Mary speaks, a very rare occasion when she voices her feelings. Her words are few but carefully chosen: *do whatever he tells you*. In the first instance she practised what she preached: she was obedient to what God asked of her. Now well into the new year, we must try to do the same. Ours is a very individualistic society: most people are intent on following their own agenda and doing their own thing. Such a course of behaviour leads to extreme selfishness. To do what God asks of us requires regular examination of conscience and a readiness to make sacrifices. Often the Psalm at Mass has the response: *Here I am Lord, I come to do your will*. As we pray those words we should say what we mean and mean what we say.

To mark the annual week of prayer for Christian unity we shall be hosting an inter Church Unity Service on Monday 18th January at 7.30pm. I urge as many of you as possible to come along. It would be an embarrassment if we were outnumbered by Christians from other churches.

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: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org	Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES: The next class for the children will take place on Tuesday 26th January 2016 at 5.45pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: Monday 25th January at 7.30pm.

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 this coming **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.**

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:

Sunday 17th January 3pm: Life Church at The Box, St John's Road, followed by refreshments.

Monday 18th January 7.30pm: Catholic Church, Epping, "Stations of the Cross".

Wednesday 20th January 7pm: Epping Green Chapel, Prayer & Praise Service.

Thursday 21st January 2pm: Epping URC, Lindsey Street, Prayer Fellowship.

Friday 22nd January 8pm: St John's Church, Epping

Sunday 24th January 6pm: St Mary's, Theydon Bois

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. The 6pm Mass on Saturday evening at Old Harlow will continue to be said as before.

STUDY DAY WITH FR NICHOLAS KING SJ:

Fr Nicholas King, well-known biblical scholar, will lead a study day at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH on Saturday 12th March from 10.30 until 3 p.m. The topic of the day will be 'The Helplessness of God'. Biblical texts will be explored to help us reflect on leadership and authority in the Church. The day is free, and tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch. It is essential to book your place and this should be done by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com

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.

CHURCH READERS' REFRESHER & NEW READERS SESSION; As already notified by email or post, for those Readers who did not attend the Refresher Session on 28th November, **a further Session has been arranged on Friday 29th 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.

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.

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.

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 16th February and 15th March.** More information later, but **please make a note of the dates in your diary** (or wherever you make such important notes!!)

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.