

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS
30th and 31st January 2016

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| Sat 30th Jan (Vigil Mass) | 6 p.m. | Constance Fernandes RIP |
| Sun 31st Jan | 9 a.m. | Thanksgiving |
| | 11 a.m. | People of the Parish |

Week Commencing 1st February 2016

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| Mon 1st Feb | 9 a.m. | Intentions of David Knight |
| Tues 2nd <u>Presentation</u> | 9 a.m. | David Loughlin RIP |
| Wed 3rd | 9 a.m. | Des Tully RIP |
| Thurs 4th | 9 a.m. | Joyce Jones RIP |
| Fri 5th | 9 a.m. | Donor's Intention |
| Sat 6th (Vigil Mass) | 6 p.m. | Frank Swann RIP |
| Sun 7th | 9 a.m. | James Hughes 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.

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| <u>OFFERINGS (£):</u> | Offertory Envelopes | 273.00 |
| | Offertory Loose Plate | 337.81 |
| | CAFOD | 32.87 |

Thank you for your generosity



Newsletter
The Church of the
Immaculate Conception

Fourth Sunday of the Year

31st January 2016

Dear friends,

we hear today one of the most famous passages in the New Testament, St Paul's proclamation of love from his first letter to the Corinthians. Love is defined in very different ways by very different people. Sadly it is for some just another four letter word signifying lust: for others it is overloaded with romantic and sentimental connotations as in paperback novels. Listening to St Paul we are presented with something altogether other. True love is a reflection of God himself and has to be understood in the context of **self giving** and **sacrifice**. At the heart of the Christian marriage service are the words: ***for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish***. The supreme act of sacrificial love was the death of Jesus for us all with words of forgiveness on his lips. Sacrificial and self giving love confronts and exposes all jealousy and arrogance and exposes all rudeness and conceit. It communicates kindness and joy: it promotes peace. Along with faith and hope it is reckoned as one of the three Christian virtues and is the greatest of them. The Scriptures warn us that it is all too easy to waffle on about love. The real test is not what we say but what we do. We are not asked to speak about love, we are challenged to put it into practice.

Lent begins exceptionally early this year. Ash Wednesday falls on 10th February. Please bear that date in mind and start thinking of how best to profit from the graces of that holy season.

God bless you always.

Fr James

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| 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 |

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.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is hosting a **James Bond-themed Charity Ball** at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge on **Friday 12th February 2016.** Tickets are priced at £50 per person and guests will enjoy a Martini Reception, a delicious 3 course dinner in the Crystal Dining Room, and various 007 themed surprises throughout the evening. There will be a charity raffle and silent auction as well as our own fun 'Casino Royale', and dancing. To reserve tickets, or to donate an raffle or an auction prize, please contact Julie 01268 784544 / 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

CAN YOU HELP SOMEONE WHO IS BEING TORTURED? If you can write a letter on behalf of someone who is being tortured in prison overseas, **we would love to hear from you.** It is a most rewarding task and you would be joining our team of 16 letter-writers – just one letter-a-month will help some poor soul who is languishing in prison and is being mistreated. Full instruction is given. Please **contact Deacon Duncan (577173) if you can help.**

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION – PARISH ORGANISER: The Epping door-to-door collection for Christian Aid takes place in the second week in May each year and our parish is allocated 20 streets in Epping and Coopersale. We are looking for someone to help Dorothy Whitehouse to organise our parish team this year with a view to taking over responsibility as the Parish Organiser in 2017 (Dorothy has done the job for 20 years and needs a rest!!). most members of the team of collectors carry out the collections each year (though we could always use some 'new blood', so the Organiser simply allocates the streets and takes in the money collected. **If you feel that you can help in this charitable work, in which we are strongly encouraged by our Bishops' Conference, PLEASE CONTACT DOROTHY ON 01992 577173.** She will be delighted to explain more.

MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES will be celebrated by Bishop Alan next Sunday (7 February) in Brentwood Cathedral at 3 pm. This will be an opportunity to thank God for graces received at the Shrine, to pray for those we know who are sick and to think about joining this year's Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PEACE: Friday 4th March, times to be confirmed. The Theydon Bois service will take place at the Baptist Church. Catholic women helpers are needed. Further details to follow.

LENT LUNCHESES 2016: A chance to meet friends and support Christian Aid. Each Saturday during Lent, one of the churches in Epping will offer a light lunch (soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee) between 12.30pm and 2pm. A donation of £3.00 is suggested for Christian Aid. Please bring your friends. Everyone is welcome.

OUR LENT LUNCH takes place on **Saturday 12th March 2016.** Donations of soup will be appreciated. We also need waitresses/waiters and kitchen helpers. If you can help in any way then please phone Mary Morgan on 01992 574719.

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!!)

COME AND SEE! The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham invites young men and women open to the call of religious life and who would like to discover more about the spirituality of Walsingham. next **Saturday 6th - Sunday 7th February** at Abbotswick House of Prayer in Brentwood, with the possibility of an overnight stay on the Friday. For further details please visit www.walsinghamcommunity.org or telephone Sister Theresa on 01277 373848.

FAMILY BARN DANCE to be held in St John's Church on **Saturday 6th February, 7:30 to 10 p.m.** Simple finger buffet included, but people need to bring their own - soft or alcoholic - drinks. *Price £10 for adults, £5 for children aged 5-14 and under 5s are FREE.* Proceeds to be shared between The Box and St John's Church Development appeal. Tickets available from Kate Collin, Marjorie Austin and The Box – 01992 577 300

QUIZZYLYMPICS: The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society will be holding their **Quizzilympics** final on Saturday 19th March 2016 in the Hall at Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30 pm. Many parishes have already held a Quizzilympics heat and therefore already have a team to represent them at the final. There are, however, a limited number of places available for those parishes who were unable to host a local quiz night. Teams must be made up of between 6 and 8 people over the age of 16 and the cost of entering a team is £50. Tea coffee and cake will be provided on the night but you are free to bring along your own drinks and nibbles. If you would like any further information or to enter a team, please call Julie Abbott on 01268 784544 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk.

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.