



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS 6th and 7th February 2016

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|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Sat 6th (Vigil Mass) | 6 p.m. | Frank Swann RIP |
| Sun 7th | 9 a.m. 11 a.m. | James Hughes RIP |
| | | People of the Parish |

Week Commencing 8th February 2016

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| Mon 8th | 9 a.m. | Dooley Family deceased RIP |
| Tues 9th | 9 a.m. | Ken Scott RIP |
| Wed 10th Ash Wednesday | 10 a.m. 8 p.m. | Mary Furlong RIP People of Parish |
| Thurs 11th | 9 a.m. | Fr Michael O'Rourke RIP |
| Fri 12th | 9 a.m. | Frank McManus RIP |
| Sat 13th (Vigil Mass) | 6 p.m. | Intentions of Catherine Steel |
| Sun 14th | 9 a.m. 11 a.m. | George Clerk (sick) 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, Ann Dowd, Patricia Salter, Betty Bere and Veronica Beard.

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| OFFERINGS (£): | Offertory Envelopes | 154.00 |
| | Offertory Loose Plate | 293.29 |
| | CAFOD | 30.80 |

Thank you for your generosity

Fifth Sunday of the Year

7th February 2016

Dear friends,

Ash Wednesday falls this week and Lent will be upon us. For followers of Jesus it is a valued season of reflection and repentance. As we hear in today's Scriptures, both Isaiah in the Old Testament and St Peter in the gospel, experienced a sense of their unworthiness in the presence of God. Peter's words are brief and to the point: *I am a sinful man*. In saying this he is a spokesman for us all. Our Lenten prayer and reflection should lead us to a real awareness of our own shortcomings: more importantly we should also be brought to an awareness of the love and mercy of God. Pope Francis is encouraging us all to put mercy to the forefront of our minds throughout this year. I hope that you will use the Lenten booklet "Walk with me" to help you in your daily reflections. Furthermore make a conscious decision to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation once between now and Easter. Any further Lenten observance should be undertaken positively. We can give something up but we can also make or build something up for the benefit of others and for the common good. We must also be realistic and honest, only undertaking what is within our capability.

On Ash Wednesday Mass will be at 10am and 8pm. It is a day of fasting and also of abstinence when we refrain from eating any meat products. For those who are able, the Church strongly encourages fasting and abstinence on Fridays, especially in Lent.

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 |

CONGRATULATIONS to Cara Hollinshead and Paul Williams, married this weekend at St Joseph's, Upminster.

MR KEN SCOTT RIP: His funeral service will take place on Tuesday 9th February at 12 noon.

REMINDER OF 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 was reinstated on Sunday evenings, starting last **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.

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.

OUR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP meets in the **Church Hall on TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY at 7.30pm** for the first of 5 weekly meetings during Lent. Led by Pope Francis' direction, we shall take our part in the Holy Year of Mercy by reminding ourselves about the **Works of Mercy**. There will be times for prayer, quiet reflection and discussion (refreshments at half time). **Please come and make your important personal Lenten contribution to the Holy Year of Mercy**. If you have any queries, please contact Deacon Duncan (Tel: 01992 577173).

WALK WITH ME BOOKLET: This Lenten booklet is available free of charge. One per family please.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: Friday 19th February. The collection will be taken on the weekend of 21st/22nd February.

LENT LUNCHESS 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. **On Saturday 13th February the lunch will take place at Life Church, The Box, St John's Road, Epping.**

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Liam Longmore and his family on the occasion of Liam's baptism this weekend.

2016 CONFIRMATION GROUP meets **this Monday evening (8th February) at 7.30pm** in the Church Hall for the 2nd Session of their Preparation Programme for confirmation on 12th October 2016. Please bring your bible

YEAR OF MERCY: As part of the Year of Mercy, Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral would like to invite all refugees, those enslaved by all forms of human trafficking and those who help, defend and care for them to come to the Cathedral and join the Cathedral parish community at Mass on Sunday 14th February at 6.30pm. The preacher will be Fr Sean Connelly.

EAST LONDON THREE FAITHS FORUM: On Thursday 10 March at 8pm, Bishop Alan Williams will be speaking in St Anne Line Parish Hall, Grove Crescent, South Woodford E18 2JR on "Spirituality and High Places". All welcome. Light refreshments afterwards.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: 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.

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.