



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS 13th and 14th February 2016

Sat 13th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Intentions of Catherine Steele
Sun 14th	9 a.m.	George Clerk (sick)
	11 a.m.	People of Parish

Week Commencing 15th February 2016

Mon 15th	9 a.m.	Intentions of Anthony Steele
Tues 16th	9 a.m.	Margaret Baker RIP
Wed 17th	9 a.m.	Cleary Family Deceased
Thurs 18th	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Fri 19th	9 a.m.	Elizabeth Mary Cooney RIP
Sat 20th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Edna Keeling RIP
Sun 21st	9 a.m.	Gerald Hayes RIP
	11 a.m.	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.

OFFERINGS (£):	Offertory Envelopes	216.50
	Offertory Loose Plate	288.53
	CAFOD	30.00

Thank you for your generosity

First Sunday of Lent

14th February 2016

Dear friends,

Lent began well with encouraging attendances at both Masses on Ash Wednesday: keep it up. The forty days of Lent recall our Lord's forty days in the wilderness during which he had to combat the forces of evil. Whatever observances we undertake in these coming weeks are intended to unite us in a spirit of sacrifice with our blessed saviour. Since this is the Year of Mercy inaugurated by Pope Francis, we do well to remind ourselves what the seven corporal works of mercy are: ***to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked and to welcome the stranger; to visit the sick and those in prison and to bury the dead.*** Our Lenten sacrifices are to point us in the direction of others and to respond to their needs. By way of personal devotion each one of us should try to come to Stations of the Cross at least once in Lent. They will be celebrated each Sunday evening in Lent. Make it your aim to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter. In so doing we focus yet again on God's mercy to us. Finally, have a few minutes each day of quiet reflection. If you have a copy of the ***Walk With Me*** booklet use it to prompt your prayer. Our CAFOD Family Fast day falls on Friday 19th February and the collection will be taken next week.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 6pm every Sunday during Lent.

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.

WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 4TH MARCH: Services for the Women’s World Day of Prayer will be held at **10.00 am at St John’s Church, Epping and at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church, North Weald. The Theydon Bois service will take place at 2pm at the Baptist Church, Theydon Bois**. Lady volunteers are enthusiastically welcomed to be part of the team to read short passages during the services. It would be wonderful to have some new volunteers from our Church. Please contact Maggie Keeling for information.

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).

PRAYER VIGIL BUCKHURST HILL SATURDAY MORNINGS: In Lent please come to pray that mothers in crisis pregnancies will accept help and support to have their baby rather than abort. We are there from 7.45am to 11.30am. If you can spare 15 or 30 minutes please come and quietly join the peaceful, prayerful vigil (it is NOT a protest) at Marie Stopes Clinic at the top of Russell Road. Your presence really will make a difference and might save a life. For more details please call Paul on 01992 577104 or Rose on 0208 2529459 or just turn up!

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: Friday 19th February. The collection will be taken on the weekend of 21st/22nd February. For those of you who receive your newsletter by email please note that there will be CAFOD envelopes available at the back of the church.

LENT LUNCHES 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 20th February the lunch will take place at St John’s Church, 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.

2016 CONFIRMATION GROUP : Next meeting on Monday 22nd February at 7.30pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Next meeting on Tuesday 23rd February at 5.45pm

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.

’Lenten Day Retreat led by Bishop Alan Williams S.M. : Saturday 27th February 2016 11:00 - 16:00

Please join us for a Lenten Day Retreat led by Bishop Alan to be held at Abbotswick, Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood. Mass will be celebrated and talks given throughout the day. The suggested donation is £15pp and you are invited to bring your own packed lunch; refreshments will be available. Spaces are limited and advanced booking is essential. For more information, please call 01277 373959 or visit www.abbotswick.org.

ALMSHOUSE VACANCY: A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses in Ingatestone for someone over 50 who is in need. The cottage, which is part of a group of twelve with a chapel, is small, with a living room, bedroom, fitted kitchen and bathroom. It is suitable for a single person who can live independently, as there is no warden care available. Because of the listed nature of the building we cannot make major adaptations for someone with a disability. Please note that priority may be given to Roman Catholics. For more information, and for an application form, please contact Homes & Watson Partnership (who manage the properties) on Tel no 01277 355200.

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.