



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS 20th and 21st February 2016

Sat 20th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Edna Keeling RIP
Sun 21st	9 a.m.	Gerald Hayes RIP
	11 a.m.	People of Parish

Week Commencing 22nd February 2016

Mon 22nd	9 a.m.	Claire Lafford RIP
Tues 23rd	9 a.m.	Canon Pat Sammon's Intentions
Wed 24th	9 a.m.	Maura O'Rourke RIP
Thurs 25th	9 a.m.	Joan Stimpson RIP
Fri 26th	9 a.m.	Helpers of God's Infants
Sat 27th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Intentions of Piers Bloomfield
Sun 28th	9 a.m.	Tullia Borelli 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, Veronica Beard and Ann Davis.

OFFERINGS (£):	Offertory Envelopes	258.08
	Offertory Loose Plate	355.98
	CAFOD	30.00

Thank you for your generosity

Second Sunday of Lent

21st February 2016

Dear friends,

an account of the Lord's transfiguration always forms the gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent. This year we are given St Luke's version which is the only one in which we are told what Moses and Elijah were talking about with Jesus viz his Passion in Jerusalem. The transfiguration looks beyond Christ's suffering to the victory of the resurrection. In the second reading St Paul reminds us that our homeland is in heaven. As followers of Jesus we must always be forward looking because we know that we have here no abiding city. Through prayer, the reading of Scripture and works of charity we are to keep our sights firmly fixed on the things to come.

One of the Lenten exercises which I commend to your attention is Stations of the Cross, performed here every Sunday evening at 6pm. It is a very ancient devotion helping us to concentrate on our Lord's supreme sacrifice for us and the sufferings which it entailed. It is something that each one of you should try to attend at least once between now and Easter. With a bit of extra effort many of you should also be able to make it to a weekday Mass at least once in Lent. Christ Our Saviour has done so much on our behalf, a little extra from each of us this holy season would not come amiss.

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.

EASTER LILIES: In memory of a loved one. Please make an offering of £2 per bloom and mark the envelope "Easter Lily".

LENTEN SERVICE OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION: Wednesday March 16th at 8pm.

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

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.

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!

GLOBAL EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT – 4th / 5th MARCH 2016.

Pope Francis has requested all parishes in the world to have **24 hours of prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday 4th/Saturday 5th March as part of this Holy Year of Mercy.** We shall be **joining with St Edmund's Church, Loughton** in this 24-hour devotion and we are all invited to visit St Edmund's to take part. **The silent 24 hours' Exposition will commence after Mass at 10am on Friday 4th March and will continue, throughout the night until 10am Mass on Saturday morning 5th March.** Please choose the time for your visit which suits you (notification not required) and **make your own travel arrangements and, if you have spare seats in your car, offer lifts to friends.** Any queries to Deacon Duncan (577173), who knows of 2 or 3 spare seats for a visit from 5am – 6am on Saturday 5th March.

NEW GROUP FOR PEOPLE WITH EARLY ONSET OF PARKINSON'S:

The first meeting of this group is on Tuesday 23 February 7-9 at the Bell Hotel, Epping. The aim is to bring people together to share ideas and offer support. Please contact Tracey Thorpe 07947 465967 or thorpie1971@hotmail.co.uk.

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. ***On Saturday 27th February the lunch will take place at URC, Lindsey Street, 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.

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.'

2016 CONFIRMATION GROUP meets **this Monday evening, 22nd February, at 7.30pm** in the Church Hall for the 3rd Session of their Preparation Programme for confirmation on 12th October 2016. Please bring your bible.

OUR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP meets **IN THE SACRISTY on TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY at 7.30pm** for the **second 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. **Even if you missed the first meeting last week, please come and make your important personal Lenten contribution to the Holy Year of Mercy. It is expected that the meeting will conclude at about 8.30pm.** If you have any queries, please contact Deacon Duncan (Tel: 01992 577173).

PARISH WHIST GROUP Do you enjoy a not-too-serious game of Whist? Our Parish Group (numbering 8-10) meets monthly and its members enjoy a good evening's entertainment. This month, we are meeting at **35, Church Hill, Epping at 7pm on Thursday 25th February.** We would welcome a few more players. Please ring Dorothy Whitehouse on 01992 577173 or Arnold Verrall on 01992 573633 for more details or just come on the night....**you will be very welcome!!**

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.