



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS 27th and 28th February 2016

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

Week Commencing 29th February 2016

Mon 29th	9 a.m.	Mary Furlong RIP
Tues 1st March	9 a.m.	Leslie Stimson RIP
Wed 2nd	9 a.m.	Ruby Fernandez RIP
Thurs 3rd	9 a.m.	Canon John Formby RIP
Fri 4th	9 a.m.	Mary Robinson RIP
Sat 5th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Timothy White RIP
Sun 6th	9 a.m.	Sadie McAniskey 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	250.00
	Offertory Loose Plate	310.86
	CAFOD	673.54

Thank you for your generosity

Third Sunday of Lent

28th February 2016

Dear friends,

in our search and hunger for God we try to maintain a balance between our belief that God is all holy and that he is all loving. Scripture says that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. A reverential fear overcame Moses during his spiritual experience in the desert when he saw a bush being consumed with fire. This is the subject of today's Old Testament reading. We are told that he covered his face and was afraid to look on God. We do well to ponder this incident for sometimes we can be very casual in our dealings with the Almighty. Our prayer is sometimes rushed and his holy name profaned. Despite all this we also know deep down that God the Almighty is also our Father who loves us and we say so as our response to the psalm: ***The Lord is compassion and love.*** The proof of his loving compassion is the gift of Jesus his son whose supreme sacrifice we ponder in our Lenten journey.

As part of my personal Lenten journey I went to confession last week in the hope that by so doing I may grow in my own awareness of both the holiness and love of God. I would encourage you all to do the same. Reconciliation is a sadly neglected sacrament: many have not experienced it for a very long time and yet it opens a door to profound peace and joy. Our parish celebration will be on Wednesday 16th March: please join in.

Thank you for the CAFOD Family Fast day collection which raised a sum of nearly £700.

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - Wednesday 8 March: The next Parish Council meeting is at 8pm on Wednesday 8 March in the presbytery. Everyone is welcome. If you have an item that you would like the PPC to discuss, please contact parishcouncil@eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk, or phone Melanie Hollinshead on 01992 812504

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Next meeting this coming Tuesday 1st March 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.

CATHOLIC SINGLES is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicssingles.org.uk or email info@catholicssingles.org.uk

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 5th March the lunch will take place at the Methodist 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.

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".

OUR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP meets **IN THE SACRISTY on TUESDAY 1st MARCH at 7.30pm** for the third of 5 weekly meetings during Lent. Having addressed the Works of Mercy in the first two sessions, the Group will now address the Gospel of St Luke. There will be time for prayer, quiet reflection and discussion. Everyone is warmly invited to this meeting, which will conclude at about 8.30pm

"St Mark's West Essex Catholic School Harlow. Golden Jubilee Magazine – calling all past pupils & staff:

We aim to produce a commemorative magazine as part of our Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Any past pupils, or staff, who would like to submit a **short piece/poem** on their memories of their time at St Mark's should forward it to: Admin@st-marks.essex.sch.uk and mark it Golden Jubilee Magazine. **The deadline is Monday 14 March.**

If you would like to be kept informed of any other Golden Jubilee celebrations for former staff/pupils, please contact Mel Gunn at the Admin address above."

VACANCY: The Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, Upminster are recruiting a Casual/Relief Lettings Supervisor. ATPC Scale 2 Point 13 (£9.46 per hour). Required as soon as possible. Further information by email to admin@mary.havering.sch.uk. Closing date Monday 7th March 2016.

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.