



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS 5th and 6th March 2016

Sat 5th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Timothy White RIP
Sun 6th	9 a.m.	Sadie McAniskey RIP
	11 a.m.	People of Parish

Week Commencing 7th March 2016

Mon 7th	9 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tues 8th	9 a.m.	Anna McCall
Wed 9th	12 noon	<u>Requiem</u> Caroline Kirwan
Thurs 10th	9 a.m.	Helpers of God's Infants
Fri 11th	9 a.m.	Neal Hanratty RIP
Sat 12th (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Christine Donohoe RIP
Sun 13th	9 a.m.	Fero Silva 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, Veronica Beard and Ann Davis.

OFFERINGS (£):	Offertory Envelopes	222.00
	Offertory Loose Plate	391.89
	CAFOD	52.11
	Standing Orders January/February	2762.00

Thank you for your generosity

Fourth Sunday of Lent

6th March 2016

Dear friends,

we are now well into the Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis and the theme of reconciliation is spelled out very clearly in the readings today. St Paul, speaking to his Corinthian converts, cries out: **Be reconciled to God:** Our Lord has exactly the same message in his moving and powerful parable of the Prodigal Son. That story concludes in an open ended way: did the elder brother allow himself to be reconciled with his feckless sibling or not? Their father tries to persuade him but the outcome is unknown. But what about ourselves? How are we affected by the healing process both in our reconciliation with God and in our reconciliation with each other? Lent is the acceptable time; it is the season of salvation.

I am away this weekend. My brother and I are going to Buckfast Abbey in Devon for a three day retreat. I welcome the opportunity to prepare for Holy Week in such peaceful surroundings. Meanwhile, we welcome to Epping Fr Joseph Farrell, a very old friend of mine, who will hold the fort in my absence.

On this Mothering Sunday we pray for all the mothers of the parish and thank them for all that they do within their families and within the wider community.

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

ALTAR SERVERS: Please could the altar servers collect a list of the Easter Services from the sacristy, and return to Fr James as soon as possible, so that a practice can be arranged.

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

PRAYER VIGIL BUCKHURST HILL SATURDAY MORNINGS: In Lent why not be part of the Church's witness to the sanctity of life? There were 200,000 surgical abortions in this country last year, many 1,000s carried out at Buckhurst Hill. 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. We pray the Rosary, various litanies and, at about 9.30am, the Stations of the Cross. 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!

2016 CONFIRMATION GROUP meets **this Monday evening, 7th March, at 7.30pm** in the Church Hall for the 4th session of the Preparation Programme for confirmation on 12th October 2016. Please bring your bible.

OUR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP meets **IN THE SACRISTY on TUESDAY 8th MARCH at 7.30pm** for the fourth of 5 weekly meetings during Lent.. We will 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

HALL MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE meets in the Church Quiet Room at 8pm on Thursday 10th March. New committee members will be very welcome to join this committee, which meets quarterly and manages all activities associated with the Church Hall.

EPPING FOREST RE USE OPEN DAY: **Thursday 10th March 11.00am - 3.30pm. All welcome.** Epping Forest Re Use is a non profit Social Enterprise charity which sells furniture, white goods and household items at affordable prices, to those on income based benefits at a discount and sometimes free. 5 minutes from Epping station down Bower Hill on the right. For more details please see the leaflets and flyers in the porch.

OUR LENT LUNCH takes place next **Saturday 12th March 2016 between 12.30pm and 2pm.** A donation of £3.00 is suggested for Christian Aid. 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".

"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."

EPPING FOREST DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE is a non profit organisation which aims to spread nationwide and is currently trying to establish itself in Epping Forest District. The purpose is to reduce the stigma of dementia and, by increasing awareness and understanding, to create a dementia friendly community. It plans to do this by linking with a wide cross section of organisations of all types and sectors. Anyone interested in getting involved or learning more should go to dementiaactionalliance@alzheimers.org.uk or speak to Deacon Duncan or Paul Ives.

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL YEAR OF MERCY MASS: Sunday 13th March at 6.30 pm. Are you a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) man or woman? Are you the parent, relative or friend of a LGBT man or woman? You and all people are warmly invited to join the community at Brentwood Cathedral and come into the presence of the living, merciful God. Preacher: Fr Dominic Howarth

PILGRIMAGE TO THE NORTHERN SAINTS: Join parishioners from Basildon on a pilgrimage that will include Saints such as Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert and Hilda, with tours in Durham, Jarrow, Lindisfarne and Whitby, as well as a look along Hadrian's Wall. Accommodation in the Ramada Hotel, Gateshead, with dinner, breakfast and a touring coach throughout. May 29th – June 3rd (half term). £445 per person for twin or double room. Full details from Sarah in the Basildon parish office, 01268 281732 or email parishadministrator@basildoncatholics.org

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.