



# Newsletter

## The Church of the Immaculate Conception Epping

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**10th April 2016**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

We may think we live in troubled times, but compared with others with whom we share this planet, our troubles are slight and comparatively insignificant. For example, we can think about the plight of migrants and those suffering from drought, famine or flood; then there are those suffering from religious persecution or the horror of terrorism. Closer to home, however, many of our woes are the result of relatively minor upsets to our expectation of enjoying a good standard of living. Many countries around the world would cheerfully swap their way of life with us.

Our 1st Reading at Mass today reminds us of the tremendous courage of the early followers of Christ. They were a very small group, but proclaimed their faith loudly, openly and fearlessly, being inspired by the evidence of the resurrection which they had witnessed, such as that recounted in today's Gospel. Our 2nd Reading from the Apocalypse emphasises the glory of life we might enjoy in heaven, and provided great comfort and encouragement to those early followers who were being hounded and persecuted by the Jewish authorities.

Surely, all this leads us to ask ourselves how strong is our faith today? What priority do we give to demonstrating our love of God? Do we have a good, strong daily relationship with him? Do we honour and worship him as he deserves? Or do we get distracted and 'worship' other gods, such as wealth, comfort, personal status etc? It's good to remind ourselves of God's importance and relevance in our lives as we try to grow in faith.

God Bless.

***Deacon Duncan***

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to James Ryan, Ella Celaschi, her sister Mia and their cousin Benito Celaschi, all of whom were baptised this weekend.

**2016 CONFIRMATION GROUP** The next meeting of the Group is on **this Monday 11th April at 7.30pm**. Please bring your bible.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS:** the next meeting is on **this Tuesday 12th April at 5.45pm**

**PARISH JUMBLE SALE**

The next Jumble Sale is on **Saturday 7th May 2016** at 2pm in our Church Hall. Please bring your saleable jumble to the Church porch at any convenient time, from where it will be taken for storage and pricing, ready for the big event. If you are new to the parish (or even if you are a seasoned parishioner!) and would like to join the team of helpers, either to help get the Hall ready on Friday afternoon of 6th May or to help at the Jumble Sale itself, please let Janet Abbot know (01992 571128). She will be delighted to hear from you.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2016/17**

If you have not already done so, please collect your named boxes of offertory envelopes for the 2016/17 tax year from the church porch. Please let Mrs Margaret Lechley know (telephone 01992 812935) if you would like a set of envelopes or if you need a letter for the Inland Revenue detailing your gift aided total for the tax year 2015/16. Please also let her know if you no longer pay income tax.

**STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL**

As already announced, our Diocese has launched a major review of its resources and future needs, in the light of reducing numbers of clergy and mass-attending laity. The project is expected to provide a **Diocesan Plan covering the next 10 years**. Each parish is being asked to **appoint a lay-volunteer** to collect information about his or her parish, which will enable the collation of data within our deanery and, subsequently, across the whole diocese. Many parishes have now appointed a **Steward of the Gospel**, which is intended to be a relatively short-term appointment, but we have not yet had a volunteer come forward from our parish. Whilst **the preferred option is still to appoint one person**, we recognise that it **may be necessary to appoint a small team (2 or 3) to carry out this important task**. We are looking for volunteers with some **'organisational' background**, who can offer their skills on this project. It is **not expected that the time-commitment will be particularly heavy**. If you think you may be able to help with this challenging task, **please speak fairly urgently to Deacon Duncan or Fr James**, who will be pleased to explain further.

**PARISH HALL:** A reminder that our Parish Hall is available for bookings. Special rates for charities and parishioners. Please phone Arnold Verrall on 01992 573633 or mobile 0776 4404813 for further information.

**BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL YEAR OF MERCY MASS** on this Sunday, 10th April at 6.30pm. Are you a doctor, nurse or involved in the care of those with physical or mental health issues? Are you a carer for someone with poor health? Are you a minister of God's mercy to those who are sick? You are warmly invited to join the community at Brentwood Cathedral and come into the presence of the living, merciful God. Preacher: Fr Stephen Wang, Senior Chaplain at the University of London.

**CATHOLIC POLICE GUILD ESSEX BRANCH:** All are invited to the launch of the Essex Branch of the Catholic Police Guild on 23rd May 2016 at Our Lady of Ransom Church, 50 London Hill, Rayleigh SS6 7HP. Mass commences at 11am and is being said by Essex Police's newest Chaplain, Father Paul Fox. This is followed at 12 noon by a reception at The Royal British Legion, situated at the top of London Hill. Everyone welcome.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) with Pope Francis, Krakow, 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016.** If you are in school year 12 through to your early twenties, and want a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity then join Pope Francis and 3 million young people from across the world in Krakow this summer. The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS) trip includes the full WYD programme plus visits to the salt mines at Wieliska, a day in the mountains at Zakopane, and time visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau, as a sombre reminder of recent history. There are 90 young adults travelling and we have just 7 places remaining. The cost of £890 includes all travel, hotel accommodation and virtually all meals, as well as all excursions, and will be reduced to £640 by bursary funding if needed. For lots more information email Clare Sullivan on [info@bcys.net](mailto:info@bcys.net) before 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to St Mark's Academy, Harlow (our local Catholic Secondary School with its very successful 6th Form), whose girls have won the Essex U14 Schools' Netball Cup. Having been undefeated for three years, the Year 9 team beat Brentwood Independent School in the final, held on 22nd March. Congratulations to the team and to the coaches!! For further information about the school, visit their website at [www.st-marks.essex.sch.uk](http://www.st-marks.essex.sch.uk)

**HEALING MASS** at Abbotswick House of Prayer, Brentwood to be celebrated by Fr Eamonn Power at 2.30pm on Wednesday 13th April 2016. Please call 01277 373959 or visit [www.abbotswick.org](http://www.abbotswick.org) for more information. All are 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.

**MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS**

**9th/10th April 2016**

Saturday 2nd April                      6 p.m.                      Patricia Clydesdale RIP  
(Vigil Mass)

Sunday 3rd April                      9 a.m.                      Tom Hughes RIP  
(3rd Sunday Easter)

11 a.m.                      People of the Parish

**Week Commencing 11th April 2016**

Monday 11th April                      9 a.m.                      Intentions of Liz Raymond

Tuesday 12th April                      9 a.m.                      Patricia Clydesdale RIP

Wednesday 13th April                      9 a.m.                      Kathleen Scanlon RIP

Thursday 14th April                      9 a.m.                      Michael McGoldrick RIP

Friday 15th April                      9 a.m.                      Patrick Cremin RIP

Saturday 16th April                      6 p.m.                      Peter Nash RIP  
(Vigil Mass)

Sunday 17th April                      9 a.m.                      Tulia Borelli RIP  
(4th Sunday of Easter)

11 a.m.                      People of Parish

**Morning Prayer** will be said on weekdays, 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.

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**OFFERINGS (£):** Offertory Envelope                      214.00

Offertory Loose Change                      305.82

CAFOD                      20.16

***Thank you for your generosity***