



# Newsletter

## The Church of the Immaculate Conception

### MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

#### 16th/17th April 2016

Saturday 16th April (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Peter Nash RIP
Sunday 17th April	9 a.m.	Tulia Borelli RIP
	11 a.m.	People of Parish

#### Week Commencing 18th April 2016

Monday 18th April	9 a.m.	Nancy Cusack RIP
Tuesday 19th April	9 a.m.	Young married couple
Wednesday 20th April	9 a.m.	Des Toohey RIP
Thursday 21st April	9 a.m.	David Clancy RIP
Friday 22nd April	9 a.m.	Grace Leader RIP
Saturday 23rd April <b>Feast of St George</b> (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Angela Beard RIP
Sunday 24th April	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
	11 a.m.	People of the 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, James Bullen, Hannah Robinson, Sean Clohessy, Daphne McAdam, Catherine Steel, Ann Dowd, Patricia Salter, Veronica Beard, Ann Davis. And Malcolm Silver.

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<b>OFFERINGS (£):</b>	Offertory Envelope	219.50
	Offertory Loose Change	274.03
	CAFOD	60.85

**Thank you for your generosity**

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

17th April 2016

Dear friends,

today is Good Shepherd Sunday when the Church worldwide offers up prayers for vocations to the priesthood. I use it as an opportunity to thank God for my own vocation given as a teenager sixty years ago. I have never regretted the commitment I made then since it resulted in a life of fulfilment and great happiness. Five other young men in my home parish of St Mary's Hornchurch went on to become priests as well. It is a sobering thought that Epping parish, founded in 1932, has never produced a single priest. All the more reason then that we should pray with ever greater urgency for vocations. Priesthood entails service and sacrifice and the aggressively secular mind set of our age is not conducive to fostering vocations. I would be happy to speak with any young, or not so young man, who may be thinking of answering our Lord's call: *follow me*.

The Easter season was marked by several bereavements in the parish. We offer prayerful condolences to the families of Mrs Pauline Johns, Mrs Angela Beard and Mrs Betty Bere, a parishioner of long standing. We pray that perpetual light may shine upon them and that those who mourn them may experience the solace of the Holy Spirit.

Deacon Duncan's appeal regarding parish finances met with a very positive response. Thank you to him and those who showed such interest.

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: <a href="mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org">epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk">www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk</a>

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS:** the next meeting is on this Tuesday 26th April at 5.45pm

### **CONFIRMATION GROUP 2016**

The next meeting of the Group will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. This will be the last meeting before examinations and the summer holidays.

### **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.

### **CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTIONS**

Can you please help our parish's commitment to collect from about 20 streets in Epping and Coopersale, Dorothy Whitehouse (01992 577173) and JoAnn O'Neill (01992 571571) are looking for **confirmation from last year's team of 20 collectors that they will help again this year**. They are also looking for **a number of new collectors to join the team**. Please contact them either outside Mass or give them a telephone call. The total commitment is about 3 hours (deliver envelopes and collect them a few days later).

**Christian Aid Week is 15<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May-** during which all collections have to be made.

### **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.

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to Sophie Stimpson.

**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 Wieliscka, 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.

### **PARISH WHIST GROUP**

How about coming to a pleasant evening's Whist (social – not serious!!). The next meeting of our group is on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm**....Contact Dorothy Whitehouse (01992 577173) or Arnold Verrall (01992 573633) for more information.....**you would be most welcome!!**

### **FINANCE APPEAL**

On the weekend 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> April, there was an **important appeal in connection with Parish Finance**. The appeal met with a very generous response (40 in total!!). For those who did not come to Mass in Epping, **copies of the appeal notes have been left at the back of the church, together with some forms for use in your response**. Please feel free to use these and either place your response on the Offertory plate, give it to Deacon Duncan or Fr James, or put it through the presbytery door...we will then be in touch with you. Thank you for your consideration.

**ECCA QUIZ NIGHT:** Eccla are holding a quiz night on Saturday 14th May in our church hall. 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tables of 8 - (10 max) although fewer numbers can be accommodated. Tickets £7.50. Bring own nibbles, drinks and **food**. For a good fun evening and to book, ring Janet Clements on 01992 578262.

### **Diocesan Quizzlympics in aid of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society:**

Thank you to everyone who was involved in our Quiz Night challenge last year and especially to the eight teams who came forward to the Grand Final in March at the Brentwood Cathedral. The **'bccs Diocesan Quiz Cup'** went to the winning team 'Chelmsford City United' which was made up of a group from several Chelmsford parishes; second place went to St. Joseph the Worker, Hutton and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to the Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Billericay. Congratulations to all our teams and many thanks to our Quiz & Score Masters, the Butcher family from St. Cedd's Parish in Goodmayes who gave up their time to prepare and deliver the quiz for us. We look forward to a similar event in spring next year.

**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.