



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

8th May 2016

Thought for the Week.

Our Feast today is a family celebration. We are urged to rejoice in the dignity conferred upon us through the glorification of Jesus Christ, a fellow human. But the Ascension does not concern Jesus alone; it concerns us too! **He ascended into heaven for us all and, as a result, we can all realistically hope to get to heaven when we are called by God.** The Holy Spirit has been poured into our hearts, so our hope for eternal life in heaven is not just imagination. It is a fact that only Jesus can lead us to the Father and give us access to his house, so we should pray earnestly for that enlightenment which will bring us better to know what role it is to which God has called us.

The Ascension introduced the **mission of the Church** of which we are all members. By virtue of baptism and confirmation, we share in its mission in various ways, depending on our vocations in life which forms part of the 'patchwork quilt' of Christianity. We are not meant to be sleeping partners in this 'Christianity'. **We have been allotted various lifetime tasks by God.** This great responsibility should be a great joy for each of us. It should encourage us to **be alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, sensitive to the needs around us and eager to use our many gifts in the service of God and our neighbour.**

God bless.

Deacon Duncan

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHEARSAL: 7pm this coming Tuesday 10th May.

NEW WEBSITE FOR THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD: On this World Communications Day, the Diocese is launching its new website. Please visit www.dioceseofbrentwood.net for all information on the life of the Diocese.

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTIONS: Christian Aid Week is 15th - 21st May- during which all collections have to be made. Many thanks to all the generous volunteers. The collection packs will be ready next weekend.

ST VINCENT de PAUL NATIONAL RAFFLE: The list of prize winners is now on the notice board.....regrettably no Epping winners. However, statistically this means your chances are even higher in next year's raffle!

THANKS TO THE WHISTERS: Thanks to the Parish Whist Group for donations totalling £126 to parish funds during the 2015-16 account year. Any new members in the wings - contact Deacon Duncan (our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday 10th May).

7th National Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Walsingham, 11am-5pm Saturday 4th June 2016

Celebrating The Year of Mercy with Mary, Mother of Mercy.

Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Houghton St Giles, Walsingham, Norfolk, NR22 6AL. Led by Mgr Keith Bartrop and Marian Fathers. Programme includes Holy Mass, Eucharistic procession, Talk on Divine Mercy, Exposition, Devotion to the Divine Mercy. All Welcome. For more information and coach booking, please contact Marian Fathers, Divine Mercy Apostolate, 1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY (Ealing) Tel: 020 8998 0925. E-mail: info@divinemercury.org.uk Web: www.divinemercuryapostolate.co.uk

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for Mr Jim Sullivan who died on April 29th. We offer Betty and the family our deepest sympathy. RIP. We also offer condolences to Mrs Julie McEvoy on the death of her father Mr Peter Blackmore. RIP.

GIFT AID END YEAR TAX LETTERS: End year letters will be posted out this week, to those who have requested one, detailing the amount gift aided for the year 2015/16. Please inform Margaret Lechley if you wish to receive one of these.

SPRING CONCERT: held at The Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Billericay, on Saturday 21st May, 7.45pm, by the Parish's 9am Choir. It will include favourites from their 2015 Florence Tour. They will be joined by guest musicians for a varied programme of Choral music and popular solos. Entry is free – there will be

ECCA QUIZ NIGHT: Ecce 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.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society - Prudential Ride London 100 Sunday 31st July 2016 : The closing date for entries for this Olympic legacy 100 mile cycling event is **Wednesday 25th May 2016**. If you would like to be considered for one of our places, can commit to raising a minimum of £600 (excluding Gift Aid) and are willing to pay a £50 registration fee, please contact Libby on 01268 784544 / lphillips@bccs.org.uk for an information pack.

WORKS OF MERCY: The next Rosary Procession Vigil, led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, will be held on Saturday 21st May 2016, at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church 557/559 High Road, Woodford Green IG8 0RB. We begin with 9am Mass, followed by our Procession at 9.45am to Marie Stopes abortion centre, 88 Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5QB, where we pray 15 decades of the Rosary and sing hymns, returning at approx. 12.30pm to the church for refreshments. Full details on poster in church porch.

The Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) will meet at The Ursuline Convent, The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood CM14 4EY, on Saturday 28 May at 2.30 p.m. The speaker will be Sister Nuala Gannon, IBVM on 'Mary Ward - a Recusant, yet a Woman for our time'. Sister Nuala is a member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters), one of two religious congregations founded by Mary Ward. We are delighted to be able to welcome Sister Nuala, who did outstanding work throughout the Diocese for over 17 years and who will be known to very many people. All are welcome. Non-members are asked to pay £3 to help defray expense of Hall hire and refreshments.

CALLED TO CARE CONFERENCE: A national conference for people working in health and social care is taking place from 23 to 25 June 2016 in St Mary's University, Twickenham. The Called to Care Conference is being organised by the Health and Social Care Advisory Group of the Bishops' Conference, of which Bishop Tom Williams is the Chair. It will focus on the challenges and opportunities for Christians working in health and social care.

'Abbotswick House of Prayer needs you. We are looking for willing volunteers to help tend the gardens and/or perform light housework. No regular commitment is necessary, just come as often as you are able. We offer sustenance for the body and soul including home cooked lunches, refreshments and more, in the peaceful surroundings of Abbotswick. For more information, please visit our website www.abbotswick.org or contact Sr Gabriela on 01277-373959 / email: info@abbotswick.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.

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

7th and 8th May 2016

Saturday 7th May (Vigil Mass)	6 p.m.	Theresa Gourlay RIP
Sunday 8th May	9 a.m.	Andrew Merrick (sick)
	11 a.m.	People of Parish

Week Commencing 9th May 2016

Monday 9th May	9 a.m.	Elizabeth McEvoy RIP
Tuesday 10th May	9 a.m.	Diane Harrington RIP
Wednesday 11th May	11 a.m.	Neliar Shea RIP
Thursday 12th May	9 a.m.	Maggie Keane RIP
Friday 13th May	9 a.m.	Doug & Betty Bere RIP
Saturday 14th May (Vigil Mass)	11 a.m. 6 p.m.	First Communicants Larry White RIP
Sunday 15th May	9 a.m.	Jim Sullivan RIP
	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, Veronica Beard, Ann Davis, Malcolm Silver and Roger Minnis.

<u>OFFERINGS (£):</u>	Offertory Envelope	186.00
	Offertory Loose Change	342.98
	CAFOD	101.35
	Standing Orders March/April	2687.00

Thank you for your generosity