



Newsletter

The Church of the Immaculate Conception

TRINITY SUNDAY

22nd May 2016

Dear friends,

the feast of the Most Holy and Blessed Trinity brings to a conclusion the great liturgical cycle of Lent, Easter and Pentecost. After this we return to the ordinary time of the Christian calendar and this will last until Advent. Jews and Moslems, like us, believe in one God. We Christians believe that God reveals himself to us in a threefold fashion: the Father who creates, the Son who redeems and the Spirit who sanctifies: not three gods but three persons in one God. The Trinity is rightly called a mystery, a mystery not to be puzzled over like some mathematical equation but a mystery to be experienced through faith, hope and charity. We acknowledge the Trinity every time we make the sign of the cross which begins all acts of worship both personal and communal.

This week I received a most moving letter from Fr Dominic Howarth, a parish priest of Basildon. On a monthly basis he is making a trip to Calais with a van load of basic supplies for the four thousand refugees existing there in total squalor. I have sent him £500 from a charitable fund which I administer. The cause is very deserving of our support. Donations, payable to "Our Lady & All Saints" may be posted to Fr Dominic Howarth, Calais Appeal, Holy Trinity Church, 71 Wickhay, Basildon, Essex SS15 5AD

Congratulations to Dorothy Whitehouse who was 80 last week. Deacon Duncan will be 80 in a few weeks time. They are having a joint celebration this weekend together with family and friends: *ad multos annos*.

God bless you always,

Fr James

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Hawes

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse

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MISSIO RED COLLECTING BOXES FOR APF

Regrettably, Moira Vallance has indicated that she cannot continue as our Parish Organiser for Missio Red Collecting Boxes (for the Catholic Missions). We thank her for her time and effort in carrying out this task during the last year. We are grateful to Brendan Carden, who has agreed to take on the role. We need to count the money collected during the last six months and box-holders are asked now please to bring their boxes to the sacristy or presbytery for counting. Please do not leave them in the porch. If you are already a new box-holder, please make sure that your name and address are shown on the box label When the money has been counted, the boxes will be placed in the church porch for collection by the box-holders. If there are other parishioners who would like to join the team in this valuable Christian charity, please contact Deacon Duncan , who will explain the simplicity of what is involved. **Thanks to the 15 current box-holders for their continued support,**

NAME BADGE WEEKEND: Whether you are new to the parish or were born in Epping, it is difficult to know everyone you meet at Mass (though Fr James seems to manage it!)

If you would like to be able to greet more people by name, there will be an opportunity to wear a name badge at Mass on the weekend of 11 and 12 June. Labels and pens will be provided.

Coffee will be served in the hall after 9am Mass, as well as 11am, and, if you want to meet more fellow parishioners in the hall after 6pm Saturday Mass, a glass of wine!

CHRISTIAN AID: Many thanks to all collectors. Will you please leave your bags in the box in the sacristy in the servers' vestment cupboard. Please telephone JoAnn on 571571 if you have any queries.

JIM SULLIVAN (RIP): Betty Sullivan and her family thank everyone who shared Jim's funeral Mass with them and a special "Thank You" to all those behind the scenes who made it such a lovely farewell.

GIFT AID END YEAR TAX LETTERS: End year letters have been posted out, to those who have requested one, detailing the amount gift aided for the year 2015/16. Please inform Margaret Lechley if you still require one.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alice Millward and her family on Alice's baptism this weekend.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for Mrs Dora Sharpe who died last week.

THANK YOU: “Claire, Maggie, Julie, Mary and John would like to say a big thank you to Father James, Deacon Duncan, the parish and the parents of the children of the First Holy Communion group for the gifts and thanks they received at last Sunday’s Going Forth Mass. We are very grateful and shall remember you all in our prayers. Many thanks (The Catechist Team).”

ST MARK’S 50 YEARS REUNION : Former pupils and staff of St Mark's are warmly invited to the school on Friday 1 July to celebrate it's 50th anniversary. 5.30pm: Mass. 6.30pm-8pm: Light refreshments and tours of the school. To help with planning of seating and catering, please let us know of your intention to attend via (01279) 421267 OR emailing Admin@st-marks.essex.sch.uk For the attention of Mel Gunn.

QUIZ NIGHT PRESENTED BY GIRL GUIDING: On Saturday, 25th June at 7pm for a prompt 7.30 start in Stonards Hill Scout Hut - £5. Bring your own drink and nibbles. Further information and tickets contact Teresa - telgirl@gmail.com or text on 07973336037.

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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM SATURDAY 28TH MAY - coach from Brentwood: Places still available on the coach from Brentwood cathedral. Join us as we celebrate the Year of Mercy and visit the Walsingham priory ruins and site of the 11th century Holy House. Coach leaves at 8am and we will be back by 8pm. Just £15 per person. Phone Sr Theresa, Abbotswick House of Prayer. Tel. 01277 373959.

EVENTS AND PILGRIMAGES CO-ORDINATOR: Do you have experience in running large events, and a heart for Catholic Youth Ministry? The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service seeks an Events & Pilgrimages Co-ordinator, 28 hours/week. September start. Full details www.bcys.net/job-opportunities .

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.

