



Newsletter
The Church of the
Immaculate Conception
Epping

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C 11th SEPTEMBER 2016

Readings at Mass Page 136

My dear Friends,

I thank you for your warm and friendly welcome to the parish last weekend. It takes time to get to know people and remember names and faces. Priests new to a parish do not know who turn to at the beginning of our ministry and there is the way things have customarily been done in a parish and the way a priest is used to doing them elsewhere. We pray and hope that all works out well according to God's plan.

Today's scripture readings at Mass link in very much with the Holy Year of Mercy which we are celebrating in the Church. Exodus 32:7-11 tells us of way in which people break their relationship with God and loose faith. They had set up an idol, a golden calf, and worshipped it instead of the living God. Moses pleaded with God and offers prayer of supplication for the people in their lost state. We too have an obligation in charity and love to offer prayer of supplication and petition for people who are lost, broken or detached from God or others, so that there may be a healing of hurt and restoration of right relationships with God and other people.

King David was convicted of his sin and made the most moving act of Repentance and conversion In Psalm 50, when his sins were revealed to him in a word from the God, spoken by the prophet Nathan. He asks God to have mercy and compassion on him, to "blot out my offence, wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin". We must make that prayer our own as we confess our sins to the Lord and receive an assurance of his mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sadly in our part of the Christian world this Sacrament is underused nowadays, yet the Lord has given it to us to reconcile to himself and one another.

In the Gospel, Luke 15, Jesus acknowledges that things as well as relationships are important to us. There is the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. The process of restoration brings great joy, but the greatest joy is the restoration of a person to right relationship with God and family. So where we see or know those who are lost let us pray that they may be found, and be given the grace and strength, which comes from humility, to find their way into the security of love of God and love of family.

May God bless you and your families with grace and reconciliation

Fr John

Parish Priest: Fr. John McGrath

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016-17: Please pray for the 15 First Holy Communion children and their families. There will be **a meeting for the parents** of the First Holy Communion children on this **Tuesday 13th September at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.**

VERONICA BEARD (RIP): Please pray for Veronica Beard who died on Wednesday. Funeral arrangements pending. **May she rest in peace.** We offer our prayers and sympathy to her husband Peter and family.

STAN HOLDER: Many congratulations to Stan Holder who was presented with an award of the Bene Merenti medal from Pope Francis at Mass last weekend. It is honouring all his good work in service of the Church and wider community.

CONFESIONS: Fr John has confirmed that he will hear confessions on Saturdays from 11.30 am—12 Noon and after 6.00 pm Mass. The screens will be used in the Reconciliation Room for a face to face or anonymous celebration.

JUMBLE SALE—SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER. Please note the date of the next Jumble Sale in our Church Hall and start sorting out all manner of things which are saleable. Small quantities can be left in the Church Porch or in the Cry Chapel, but if you have a large quantity, please telephone Janet Abbott (01992 571128) to arrange to meet her at church, so that your jumble can be put directly into Janet's Shed behind the church. Either way, Janet will be delighted!!

MISSIO RED BOXES. You will be interested to hear that the 15 box-holders in our parish collected £1342 in 2015 for which we have received a note of grateful thanks. The 94 parishes in Brentwood Diocese collected £86,904. All very creditable, but **would you like to play a part in increasing our parish collection without too much pain?**

Missio exists because 40% of the worldwide Catholic Church is too poor to support itself. Missio plays a crucial role supporting the local Church overseas and sharing the light of Christ by training priests, building churches and combating injustice, disease, poverty and exploitation in 157 countries."

If you would like to become one of the Mission collectors, we can provide a collecting box, which you keep at home (no door to door collecting!!). Collectors usually pop in loose change, which all mounts up to a substantial amount (and saves creating holes in your pockets!!). We empty the boxes in June and December each year. To get a box, please take one from the church porch and write your name and address on the label, or contact our **parish organiser, Brendan Carden, Telephone 07983 947505**, who will be delighted to hear from you. **Every little helps!!!**

THE CHURCH FLOWER-ARRANGING GROUP is seeking additional members to join the team on the rota. If you have a love of flower-arranging and would like to help to beautify our church with floral arrangements, Please call Suzanne Newbury on 01992 570069.

READERS AT MASS. We are seeking additional Readers, particularly for the **9.00am Mass on Sundays.** (offers for Reading at other weekend Masses will be welcome!) Would you like to help? There is a rota, which we hope will mean that reading would be every 4 weeks or so. A short familiarisation/training will be given. Please contact Deacon Duncan to offer your help.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS: From this week Catholic newspapers will be on sale in the church porch: the Catholic Universe, The Tablet, The Catholic Herald, The Catholic Times and The Magnificat. Please put money in the black box near the Cry Chapel.

EPPING CATHOLIC REPRESENTATIVE Maggie Keeling & Debbie Harrison are our parish representatives on CTED (Churches Together in Epping and District), a forum where all the local Christian churches meet about 4 times a year to arrange joint Christian activities. We would like to have an additional one or two representatives. Please contact Deacon Duncan, Maggie Keeling or Fr John) if you would like to join this very friendly ecumenical group on our behalf.

Thank you from St Clare Hospice:

We have received a letter from St Clare Hospice expressing their gratitude to us for choosing to send a donation from the *Fr James Retirement Fund*, in memory of Fr James, to help support the good work they do.

COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 11AM MASS: Please note that due to a booking of the Hall there will be no coffee after the 11 am Mass on **Sunday 25th September 2016**

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY would welcome you on **September 17th** at **Ingatestone Hall** for a fundraising **'Tour and Tea'**. The tour of this beautiful Tudor mansion will start promptly at 2pm, taking in the Avenue with its Clock Tower and moving into the house where you will learn of its rich history and see many original features. The tour will end in the Summer Parlour at 3.30pm where you will enjoy a traditional cream tea. Tickets are £25 and as tours are limited to parties of 25, we would advise booking early to secure your place. For tickets & information please contact Libby on 01268 784544/ lphillips@bccs.org.uk

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please make yourselves known to Fr John or Deacon Duncan, so that we may welcome you to the parish and inform you about our parish activities.

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

10th /11th September 2016

Saturday 10th	6 p.m.	<i>Vigil Mass 24th Sunday of Year: Racial Justice Sunday</i> Margaret White R.I.P.
Sunday 11th	9 a.m.	<i>24th Sunday of Year: Racial Justice Sunday</i> People of the Parish
	11 a.m.	Private Intention
Monday 12th	9 a.m.	<i>Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary</i> Dan McEvoy RIP
Tuesday 13th	9 a.m.	<i>St John Chrysostom</i> Private Intention
Wednesday 14th	9 a.m.	<i>Exaltation of The Holy Cross</i> Private Intention
Thursday 15th	9 a.m.	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i> Private Intention
Friday 16th	9 a.m.	<i>St Cornelius & Cyprian</i> Private Intention
Saturday 17th	6 p.m.	<i>Vigil Mass 25th Sunday of Year</i> Private Intention
Sunday 18th	9 a.m.	<i>25th Sunday of Year</i> Private Intention
	11 a.m.	Private Intention

Morning Prayer is said on weekdays, 15 minutes before the 9 a.m. Mass
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament re-commences on Monday 5th

Confessions: Saturdays from 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, Ann Dowd and Roger Minnis.

OFFERINGS (£):	Offertory Envelopes	414.60
	Offertory Loose Change	255.72
	CAFOD	48.45

Thank you for your generosity