



Newsletter
The Church of the
Immaculate Conception
Epping

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

18th SEPTEMBER 2016

Readings at Mass Page 140

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Today's readings present us with a direct challenge to look at the honesty and integrity of all our dealings measured against the standards of good Christian living. There will be many who will feel comfortable with this challenge, because they are always 100% honest in their dealings with others and with God and can be depended upon to respond to every situation with complete integrity. So be it, but a review can often be helpful.

As today's first reading spells out, our honesty and integrity are measured not only in money-terms, but in the way in which we deal with others. The prophet Amos reminds us that exploitation of others, in whatever form, has to be avoided in all our dealings, so as not to displease God..

In the second reading, Timothy focuses on our commitment to God and encourages us to practise prayerful devotion in ways that will always please God....another aspect of honesty and integrity!

And then, we hear the parable of the rich man and his steward. At first reading, we may believe that the steward was being dishonest when he gave significant discounts to the debtors, but on closer reading, we can see that the reductions given to the debtors will have been his normal commission and therefore were his to give away, if he wished, in the interests of his future relationships. But we can question whether he had been deficient in the management of his master's affairs and therefore had become 'wasteful with his property' ...another example of how easy it is to offend God through our inefficiency or lack of endeavour.

In worldly terms, it is not easy being a Christian! Our first responsibility is always to please God. In doing this there may be a conflict with what society at large allows of us. However, we need to ensure that our dealings, including those at the margins of life, are all good, honest and trustworthy.

God Bless.

Deacon Duncan

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016-17: Please pray for the 15 First Holy Communion children and their families. Following a **Mass of Enrolment at 11am on Sunday 2nd October, their first Class will be held at 5.45pm on Tuesday 4th October in the Church Hall.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Fr John will celebrate this Sacrament on Saturdays from 11.30 am to 12 Noon and after 6.00 pm Mass. The screen will be used in the Reconciliation Room, giving a choice of anonymous or face-to-face celebration of this Sacrament in the Year of Mercy.

VERONICA BEARD RIP: Please pray for Veronica Beard who died on 7th September. She will be received into our church at 4.30pm on Thursday 22nd September. Requiem Mass will be celebrated at Friday 23rd September at 10.00am, followed by private burial in Berkhamstead. **May she rest in peace.** We offer our sympathy to her husband, Peter, and family and pray that the Lord sends his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, down upon them at this time.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: We invite anyone who is interested in finding out about our faith, wants to understand our faith or support the faith of family members, or who would like to become Catholic, to a series of talks on the Catholic Faith in the Priest's House on Tuesdays at 8pm, starting this week on Tuesday the 20th of September. This course is suitable for people who wish to return to the practice of their faith and people who are not Catholic but come to Mass regularly. There is no implication of commitment by attending one or more sessions.

BRENTWOOD NEWS: The latest issue of the Brentwood News is available free in the Church porch and has a tribute to Fr James RIP. It shows him presenting the Bene Merenti award from Pope Francis to Mrs Dorothy Whitehouse in honour of her long and very committed service to the Church and the community.

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!!

"MEET & GREET" WEEKEND: There will be coffee, tea and cake (maybe even wine) after all Masses on the weekend of 8 and 9 October.

PARISH ASSEMBLY: You are warmly invited to the Annual Parish Assembly, at 8pm on Wednesday 19 October, to review the past parish year and help to plan the coming year. Group leaders, please send your reports to the Parish Secretary no later than 1 October.

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.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS: Catholic newspapers are on sale in the church porch: the Catholic Universe, The Tablet, The Catholic Herald, The Catholic Times & 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 & District), a forum where all 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.

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 next **Sunday 25th September**. However, everyone is invited to come to have a cup of coffee/tea and enjoy a chat with other parishioners after 11am Mass on most other Sundays.

URGENT request for your charitable help for the **CALAIS JUNGLE REFUGEE CAMP**. The “Jungle” has slipped out of the news but there are 7000+ refugees there who need your help and the big aid agencies have pulled out apart from Medicins Sans Frontieres. The Basildon Parish Our Lady and All Saints travel approximately once a month with aid. **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY**. Cheques can be made payable to “Our Lady and All Saints” and sent to Fr Dominic Howarth, Calais Appeal, Holy Trinity Church, 71 Wickhay, Basildon, SS15 5AD. See www.basildoncatholics.org. Also latest newsletter on our notice board in the church porch.

ST MARGARET'S HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY TEAM: The opportunity arises for one or more of our parishioners to join the team of St Margaret's Hospital visitors. Rev Paul Walker, Epping Green Chapel would be interested to hear of your interest. Please telephone 07769 585411.

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.

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

17th /18th September 2016

Saturday 17th		Vigil Mass 25th Sunday of Year
	6 p.m.	Intentions of Cecilia Joseph
Sunday 18th		25th Sunday of Year
	9 a.m.	Denis Armstrong RIP
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 19th		St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop
	9 a.m.	Marian Ward RIP
	12.30pm	Chapter of Canons Mass Brentwood Cathedral parishioners invited
Tuesday 20th		St Andrew Kim & Companions, Martyrs
	9 a.m.	Annie Faughnan RIP
Wednesday 21st		St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
	9 a.m.	Eamonn Young RIP
Thursday 22nd		Florrie Noonan RIP
Friday 23rd		St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pia)
	10 a.m.	Mrs Veronica Beard RIP Requiem Mass
Saturday 24th		Vigil Mass 26th Sunday of Year
	6 p.m.	Malcolm Silver RIP
Sunday 25th		26th Sunday of Year
	9 a.m.	People of the Parish
	11 a.m.	Mary Cooney RIP

Morning Prayer is said on weekdays, 15 minutes before the 9 a.m. Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 11.30am—12 Noon & 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 (£)

o: Offertory Envelopes 174.00

Offertory Loose Change 288.28

CAFOD 80.00

Thank you for your generosity