



Newsletter The Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception Epping

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

23rd October 2016

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Dear Friends,

Jesus spoke a parable to “people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else” (Luke 18:9-14). In this parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, Jesus shows that pride leads people to be spiritually blind to their own faults and shortcomings. People involved in religion in a professional way, or committed to the practice of religion in a religion-less society can be judgemental and in danger of thinking that by fulfilling duties to God and people they are justified or saved. Nothing could be further from the truth; for we are justified and saved by God’s grace, which is given to us through faith in Jesus Christ. Our prayers and good works are the responses we make to God with the help of his grace. They show the desire of our heart to love and serve him, and to love and serve people.

Some may think themselves superior to others who appear to give little or no time to God or people. They take pride in their religious or devotional life and service to God and others and think that justifies them. Jesus shows it is important to recognise our failings and weaknesses rather than be comparing ourselves to others. We need to think, “We are unworthy servants and we have only done our duty” (Lk.17:10).

Humility on the other hand develops an awareness of our sins. It makes us conscious of our dependence on God and people, and stops us from becoming proud. “The humble man’s prayer pierces the clouds”(Eccl:35:12-19) and we respond today in Psalm 33 “This poor (or humble) man called and the Lord heard him”. When we come before the Lord or other people, we must do so with humility, not pride. It is a blessing to recognise how much we depend on God’s grace and the love of people. We should constantly thank God for all that he and other people have done for us. God has forgiven and saved us from our sins and failings; we must then be humble and grateful before him, as we say with the Psalmist; “I praise you, Lord, you have rescued me; you, have not let my enemies rejoice over me” (Psalm 30).

Bishop Alan’s Pastoral Visit to our Parish and his celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation went very well. Our congratulations to the 18 young people who were Confirmed and express our gratitude to the team of Catechists who helped them prepare for this Sacrament, which gives us power to live the Christian life.

May God bless and protect you and your families. Fr John

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Whitehouse	Tel: 01992 577173
Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall	Tel: 01992 573633 or 0776 440 4813
E-mail: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org	Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk
11, Church Hill, Epping, Essex CM16 4RA	Registered Charity No. 234092

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016-17: The next session for the children will be held at 5.45pm next Tuesday 8th November in the Church Hall.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: We invite anyone interested in finding out about our faith, wishing to understand our faith, support the faith of family members, or would like to become Catholic to a course of talks on the Catholic Faith in the Priest’s House on Tuesdays at 8pm. It is suitable for people wishing to return to the practice of their faith or who are not Catholic but come to Mass regularly. The next session will be this Tuesday 28th October.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/READERS ROTAS: Would those involved please collect the new rotas from the post box in the church porch. Please note that on this occasion only, the rota runs for 9 weeks.

MASS INTENTIONS The Mass is the most powerful form of prayer in Catholic tradition. In the Mass we have the Real Presence of Christ who intercedes for us with God our Father. Through Christ, and with the prayerful support of our community, we offer the needs of the living and dead to God our Father. People wishing to have a Mass offered for a person or particular intention can ask the priest, deacon or parish office. We need the name of the person and preferred date and time. Envelopes for Mass intentions are being prepared and will be available .

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS: November is the month of the Holy Souls. You are invited to make a list of the names of your departed relatives and friends and place it in the envelope beneath the altar, for remembrance at each Mass during November. On All Souls Day, 2nd November, we will have Mass at 10am and 8pm, and the Mass will be offered for all in our parish who died in the past year.

OUR ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT SERVICE This year the service will be held on **Sunday 20th November at 3pm**. Everyone is invited to come to pray for the repose of the souls of their loved ones. More details later, but please book the date in your diary and invite any of your friends who have been bereaved.

COLLECTION APPEAL. Thanks to those who have completed their responses to Deacon Duncan’s April appeal for increased Offertory giving. However, a number of the forms filled in after the appeal have not yet been followed-up. In the hope that they have simply been overlooked, this is a gentle reminder! You may remember that there were three alternative suggestions:

Enrol for a supply of Planned Offertory Giving envelopes.

Switch your giving from cash or envelopes to Standing Order.

Gift Aid your offering, if you pay Income Tax. (worth +25% of your donation – at no cost to you)

For your convenience, a further copy of the form we used to gather your responses is attached to this Newsletter (This can also be used by anyone who missed the appeal in April and would agree to help us to increase our Offertory collections in one or more of the above ways. Deacon Duncan 01992 577173) or Margaret Lechley (01992 572516 on Thursdays or Fridays) would be pleased to explain if you have doubts.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Bazaar date this year is December 3rd. Six weeks to go. This week we call on the legendary generosity of Parishioners for bottles for the Tombola Stall. Wines and spirits make the stall attractive but soft drinks, sauces and perfumes also qualify.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON 12.30pm for 1pm: All who are alone on Christmas Day are invited to join us for Lunch in our hall; Couples & carers who would like company are most welcome. We need drivers to bring and take our guests home. Donations of food and table decorations are required. Your help and generosity is always deeply appreciated. Please give your name & contact number to Fr. John, Deacon Duncan or Mary Morgan on 01992 574719.

BRIGHT & LIGHT PARTY. As a substitute for Halloween Parties, Churches Together in Epping & District is running another **enjoyable children's party on Monday 31st October** in St John's Church, Epping. **Entry is free.** The fun and games **start at 5pm and will last until 6.30pm.** ...also see notices on the notice boards. **ALL WELCOME, particularly those wearing a SUPERHERO COSTUME**

APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 - DIOCESAN GUIDANCE TO PARENTS/CARERS: Parents and carers who are **practising Catholics** and wish to apply for a place for their child in a Catholic school for September 2017 should hand in their form to the Priest's House, where it will be attended to by Fr John & Deacon Duncan. Some may be contacted to discuss the reference for their child. Families where parents and children are not practising their faith and do not attend Sunday Mass consistently, should make their application directly to the school but not request a priest's reference unless there are extraordinary circumstance in their situation. It is essential that integrity and truth are fully respected in in this process.

ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY: This year's Journal, priced at £5 each, is available for sale at the back of the church. Please put the money in the newspaper payment box.

PUBLICATIONS: Catholic newspapers, Magnificat which has daily prayer & readings at Mass, and the Gospel of St Luke for the Year of Mercy are on sale at the back of the church.

HAVE YOU AN OLD BICYCLE ? Have you an old bicycle in the shed that you could donate to a refugee or destitute asylum seeker? The Jesuit Hurtado Centre in Wapping arranges repair and distribution of bicycles to refugees and asylum seekers in the London area. If you have a bike, any size or condition, that you are willing to donate to this Bike Project please contact Arthur Catterall on 020 8508 9834 who can collect it from you and deliver it to the Centre.

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS
WEEK BEGINNING 22nd OCTOBER 2016

Saturday 22nd Vigil Mass World Mission Sunday.	6 p.m.	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time C John O'Connor RIP (Doherty)
Sunday 23rd World Mission Sunday	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time C Donal O'Callaghan RIP (Longton) People of our Parish
Monday 24th	9 a.m.	St Antony Claret, Bishop Mary & Francis Fletcher RIP (FM)
Tuesday 25th	9 a.m.	Bill McEvoy RIP (FM)
Wednesday 26th	9 a.m.	St Cedd, Secondary Co-Patron of Diocese Tom Gallagher RIP (Anon)
Thursday 27th	9 a.m.	Mrs Peggy Speere RIP (O'Callaghan)
Friday 28th	9 a.m.	Saints Simon & Jude, Apostles Private Intention
Saturday 29th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time C Margaret Jennings RIP (Jennings)
Sunday 30th	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time C People of our Parish Victoria & Joseph Soosai RIP (Patten)

October is the month when we pray the Rosary and reflect on the Mysteries.

Morning Prayer is said on weekdays, 15 minutes before the 9 a.m. Mass.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 9am weekday Mass.
Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays 11.30am - 12 noon & 6pm Mass.

MEETING WITH FR JOHN: If you need to discuss a matter with Fr John please phone or email the church office to arrange an appointment. Mentioning matters in the church porch is not a good idea for a person who does not have a memory stick!

Please pray for the sick:

Paula Hall, Tony Mullan, James Bullen, Hannah Robinson,
Sean Clohessy, Mark Toohey, Daphne McAdam, Ann Dowd and Roger Minnis.

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £240.50 Offertory Loose Plate £307.46
CAFOD £156.39 ***Thank you for your generosity***