



Parish Newsletter
The Catholic Church of the
Immaculate Conception
Epping

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

30th October 2016

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Dear Friends,

“Lord, you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men’s sins so that they can repent” (Wisdom 11:22-12:2). The present translation of the Roman Missal frequently omits the word “so”, which has great importance in our reading from the book of Wisdom. ‘So’ shows that it is God’s grace that enables people to repent or turn back to him, and that happens because he is merciful and overlooks our sins. God tells us, “he loves all that exists, and holds nothing that he has created in abhorrence”. By contrast, we can give up loving, we can detest people or things, and in our hurts, which can be imagined as well as real, we may even turn to hate and be condemnatory and unforgiving to others.

God never gives up on us, nor does he reject or hate us. This is shown in the images from the Gospels chosen for this Year of Mercy. The Good Shepherd seeks out the Lost Sheep and brings it home on his shoulders and restores it to its place in the herd (Matt.18:12-14). The Father of the Prodigal Son, looks out for his dissolute son and longs for his return home, and celebrates his return to the family (Luke 15:11-32). In today’s Gospel Jesus called Zacchaeus, a man despised and hated by people, to join his company and then honoured him by going to his house and dining with him and others considered to be sinners (Luke 19:1-10). Jesus as he was dying on the Cross shows God’s forgiveness for sinners by praying to his Father for his persecutors, and says, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

Each of us receives God’s mercy and forgiveness throughout our life and in Catholic tradition we pray for those who have died saying “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace”. This leads us into our thinking of the month of November, when we remember, celebrate and pray for our dead. On the Feast of All Saints, November 1st, we rejoice that those who have gone before us to the Lord, and repented of their sins are now, due to his mercy, seeing God face to faces and sharing in the glory of heaven . On Holy Souls Day, November 2nd, we remember and pray for all who have died and are still on their way into the presence of God, and are being purified or purged so that they be cleansed from all stain of sin and be made holy and worthy to enter the presence and glory of the all Holy God. We rejoice with our loved ones in heaven, and pray for the souls of those on their way to seeing God face of God.

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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 on Tuesday 8th November—(No meeting on 1st November due to evening Mass)

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.

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.

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 will be available this week.

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 giving from cash or envelopes to Standing Order or Direct Debit.
- Gift Aid your offering, if you pay Income Tax. (worth +25% of your donation – at no extra cost to you)

For your convenience, a further copy of the form we used to gather your responses is attached to this Newsletter (those who receive the Newsletter electronically will have received the attachment last week). This form can 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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: **Bazaar date this year is December 3rd.** The Grocery Stall is always popular with our patrons. If each family provides two or more items in the bag provided as you leave Mass today, the stall will be well stocked. Thanks for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON 12.30pm for 1pm: All who may be 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 an **enjoyable children's party in St John's Church, Epping, on Monday 31st October Entry is free.** The fun and games **start at 5pm and last until 6.30pm**...see notices on the notice board. **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 £5 each, is for sale at the back of the church. Please put the money in the newspaper payment box.

PUBLICATIONS: The Gospel of Luke for the Year of Mercy, Magnificat with daily prayer and Mass readings, and Catholic newspapers, are on sale in church.

HAVE YOU AN OLD BICYCLE ? Have you an old bicycle in a 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 contact Arthur Catterall on 020 8508 9834 who can collect it from you and deliver it to the Centre.

FAMILY BARN DANCE. 'The Box' is holding a Family Barn Dance on Saturday 12th November in our Church Hall from 7.30pm—10.00pm. The event is being run to raise funds for 'The Box', which provides support for the young people in Epping, including an educational facility for those needing extra support. Details are displayed on our Church Notice Boards.

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS
WEEK BEGINNING 30th OCTOBER 2016

Saturday 29th		<i>Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time C</i>
Vigil Mass for Sunday	6 p.m.	Margaret Jennings RIP
Sunday 30th October	9 a.m.	The People of our Parish
	11 a.m.	Victoria & Joseph Soosai RIP (Patten)
Monday 31st October	9 a.m.	Peggy Flanagan's intentions
Tuesday 1st November		Solemnity: All Saints Holyday of Obligation
ALL SAINTS DAY	10.00a.m.	The People of our Parish
	8.00pm	Special intention
Wednesday 2nd		THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS
ALL SOULS DAY	10.00am	Tullia Borelli RIP (Anniv)
	8.00pm	All in our parish who died in the past year
Thursday 3rd		St Martin de Porres, Religious
	9 a.m.	Mary Furlong RIP (Anniv)
Friday 4th		Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop
	9 a.m.	Holy Souls RIP
Saturday 5th November		<i>Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time C</i>
Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Liz Raymond & Family's intentions
Sunday 6th November	9 a.m.	Fr James Hawes RIP (Mansell)
	11 a.m.	People of our Parish

Morning Prayer is said on weekdays, 15 minutes before 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 any 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

Please pray for the sick at home and in hospital:

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

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £209.00 Offertory Loose Plate £307.12
CAFOD £20.01