

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SATURDAY	6.00 pm	Mary Canny RIP (Canny)
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)	27 November 2016	
27 November 2016	9.00 am	Doug & Bobby Dew RIP (Heughan)
	11.00 am	People of our Parish
MONDAY	9.00 am	Private Intention
TUESDAY	9.00am	Lady Joan Russell RIP (Hoare)
WEDNESDAY	St Andrew, Apostle & Martyr, Patron of Scotland	
	9.00 am	Jim & Pearl Cole RIP (Murray)
THURSDAY	9.00 am	Cielo Naranjo RIP (O'Neill)
FRIDAY	9.00 am	Bridget McGrath RIP (McGrath)
SATURDAY	St Francis Xavier, Priest. Day of Prayer for Migrants	
Vigil Mass	6.00 pm	People of our Parish
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)		BIBLE SUNDAY
4 December 2016	9.00 am	Carmel Walker RIP recently (Cullen)
	11.00 am	Fr James Hawes RIP (Patterson)

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturday 11am to 12 noon and 5.15pm
(Please note new and longer times on Saturday) and on request to the priest.
DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for Advent Week 1 from Week 1of Psalter
MORNING PRAYER is said in Church, 15 minutes before 9am Mass
ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
MONDAY to FRIDAY: 9.30am to 10.30am, and Saturday 11 to 12 noon

PARISH MASS BOOK: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)

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“**CHILDREN’S LITURGY** restarted last Sunday at 11am Mass. We are grateful to the Leaders & Parents who run it. They would welcome help by more parents. Please phone or e-mail the Parish Office at epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

“**LOOK” FOR CHILDREN** We now have “**LOOK**”, a weekly activity sheet for children. It presents the Sunday Mass theme for Primary School children with word searches, games and colouring. Children please take one home & enjoy it!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AT HOME AND IN HOSPITAL:

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

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £240, Offertory Loose Plate £319.49
Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £52.07

Thank you for your generosity

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

Address: 11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Email: epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

Parish Hall Booking: Arnold Verrall Tel: 07764404813

or 01992 001995 (Dial 01992 code even in Epping)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A) 27th November 2016

Dear Friends,

"They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; nor shall they train for war anymore". These words which we hear today from Isaiah 2:1-5 are carved in stone on a wall at the entrance to the United Nations in New York. They speak not only of the way the founders of that organisation adopted this prophecy about the coming of the Messiah as lofty ideals, but also recognise the great desire of the human heart for reconciliation and peace.

This Sunday we begin the Advent season and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and welcome him as the Prince of Peace, "to whom all authority in heaven and on earth has been given". He told his apostles and us "to go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18) so that they may know God and know peace, "a peace that surpasses understanding, that the world cannot give". When the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds in the field at Christmas, it was with a promise of "peace to people of goodwill".

We have the blessing and lighting of candles on our Advent wreath over the next four weeks to show our progressing in preparation for the Lord's coming. This also shows that "though the world may be in darkness, the light is coming into the world, and the darkness cannot overpower it" (John Ch.1). The significance of light is shown in the decorative Christmas lights around us, since as we enter the darkest time of the year there is the hope and sign of a way forward given to us by light. In church the most important and symbolic light is that which comes from the Paschal Candle which is lit with the proclamation "Christ our Light". ***May his light shine in our heart and through us to others this Advent. Fr John***

FIRST RECONCILIATION On Tuesday, 6th December, children in our parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, when they will receive God's forgiveness and love. This weekend at Masses they will receive their Icon of Christ and Prayer of Sorrow, to put up in their room to pray at home each night.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION on Thursday, 8 December is the patronal Feast and dedication of our Parish. Masses will be at 10am and 7.30pm.

JOURNEY IN FAITH We invite anyone who wishes to understand our faith, wants to support the faith of a family member or become Catholic, to a course of talks on the Catholic Faith in the Priest's House on Tuesdays at 8pm. It is suitable for anyone wishing to return to the practice of their faith or who is not Catholic but come to Mass. The next session will be this Tuesday 29th November at 8.00pm.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS: November is the month of the Holy Souls. Please list the names of your departed relatives and friends and place it at the altar.

BAPTISM *Congratulations to the families of Tadgh Hanifin-Flynn, Amelia Cunningham & Niamh Whittaker who were Baptised in our Church recently. May the Lord help them to bring up their children in the knowledge and love of God.*

WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE What can you give as a gift to someone who has everything? The CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue is being distributed this weekend and lists useful gifts to give to people in poor countries, in honour of one's friends here. You get a Certificate for your friend and practical gift to those in great need.

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.

PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL: The next Pastoral Parish Council meeting will be held in Fr John's house following the 7.30pm Mass on Thursday 8 December. Parishioners are welcome to attend all PPC meetings

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.

THE PARISH BAZAAR IS NEXT SATURDAY

This is the special time of the year when the whole parish community gets together to meet old friends and make new ones. The Bazaar is in the Church Hall from

10.30am until 2.30pm

Please spend the latter part of the week baking for the Cake Stall: sponges, pies, scones, biscuits and buns all go quickly. Young muscle is urgently needed to set up on Friday afternoon from 2.30pm and to help clear away afterwards on Saturday. Fr John is hoping to meet you all and to see the parish in action.

MISSIO RED BOXES (was APF). Thanks to all those who have taken Red Missio Boxes to collect money for the overseas missions. We count the amounts collected in June and December each year and it is then sent to the Mill Hill Missionaries in London. **PLEASE NOW HAND IN YOUR BOX FOR COUNTING.** Boxes can be left in the Sacristy or in the Presbytery or can be handed to Deacon Duncan or Fr John. Please do not leave them in the Church Porch. When counted, the empty boxes will be left in the Church Porch for collection. We encourage more parishioners to join the 15 parishioners in this very simple but worthwhile charitable work by taking a Missio Red Box for use in their own home – it's surprising how much small change can be collected in this way and supports the Mill Hill Missionaries in their work of promoting the Catholic faith in developing countries overseas. Please contact Brendan Carden, our parish organiser for Missio, who will arrange for you to have a Red Missio Box. (Tel: 07983 947505), or speak to Deacon Duncan.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society in association with HCPT will host our very popular Ladies' Christmas Luncheon on **Friday 9th December** 12noon for 12.30pm at the Rayleigh Golf Club, Hullbridge. Tickets cost £25.00 per person. To reserve your ticket, please call Julie on 01268 784544/ jabbott@bccs.org.uk

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society presents, 'Come-and-Sing-Messiah': In the beautiful setting of Brentwood Cathedral and under the baton and leadership of Andrew Wright, you are invited to attend a unique performance of Handel's masterpiece, where a specially formed choir will perform alongside professional soloists and orchestra. **Date:** Saturday 3rd December 2016 7pm performance **Venue:** Brentwood Cathedral **Tickets:** £15 per person. For further information or to book tickets please contact: Julie Abbott 01268 784544 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

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