

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SATURDAY	6.00 pm	The 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)
MONDAY	9.00 am	Holy Souls RIP
TUESDAY	9.00am	Cleonagh Jolly RIP (Jolly)
WEDNESDAY	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor	
	9.00 am	Mrs Pamela Magri RIP (McAniskey)
THURSDAY	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	10.00 am	Private Intention
	7.30pm	People of our parish
FRIDAY	1 p.m.	Requiem Mass
		Mrs Lorraine Giblin RIP
SATURDAY	6.00 pm	Private Intention Vigil Mass
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)		Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday
11 December 2016	9.00 am	Intentions of Hilda Silver
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

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 2 from Week 2 of 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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“LOOK” FOR CHILDREN 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:

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

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £12.50, Offertory Loose Plate £250.72

Standing Orders £700, 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

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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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A) 4th December 2016

Dear Friends,

St John the Baptist preached “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand” (Matthew 3:1-12). A sense of expectancy had arisen amongst the people that something new was going to happen when John started preaching and calling people to repent of their sins. They showed repentance and a conversion to God by being baptised in the river Jordan. John the Baptist was confrontational in his approach and condemned those who did not live in good relationship with God or people. He said, “If you are repentant, produce the fruits of repentance”, which are good works, right relationships and good moral living.

If St John the Baptist were preaching today, his approach would be no different for he would confront us with the ways we compromise and fail to live according to God’s law. His message would be considered dated, and he would be “a voice crying in the wilderness, prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight” to people who do not want to hear or believe his message. He would call on us to listen to and obey God’s word. John’s call to repentance is addressed to each of us. In Advent we are called to prepare a way for the Lord to come into our life by examining our conscience, confessing our sins and asking him for mercy and forgiveness. We have many opportunities during Advent, to receive the Lord’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation. If you have not been to this Sacrament for some time, it is essential to prepare spiritually for Christmas and to receive Holy Communion by turning to God for mercy and forgiveness.

Welcoming people is a part of being a good Christian. St Paul tells us to “make hospitality (or welcoming) your special concern” (Roman 12:13). Parish meetings often discuss the importance of welcoming people to Church and our Parish community. This is especially important at Christmas for people who may not have been to Church for some time. Our Bishops suggest we invite people who no longer come to Mass to “Come home for Christmas”. We invite them to their and our spiritual home in the Church, to join the Lord’s family in celebrating his birth at Christmas. **God Bless you. Fr John**

FIRST RECONCILIATION On Tuesday, 6th December at 5.45pm, children in our parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, when they will receive God's forgiveness and love.

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.

ADVENT SERVICE OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION will be at 8pm on Tuesday 13th December when there will be a visiting priest to assist Fr John.

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 6th December at 8.00pm.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY for 2017 giving information about the church and parishes in our Diocese. On sale in the church for £2.75

BRENTWOOD NEWS available free in the Church. This issue has a photo and the presentation of the Papal Award, Bene Merenti, to our parishioner, Stan Holder.

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 in the Priest's House, on Thursday 8 December, following the 7.30pm Mass, our Patronal Feast, which will be offered for the people of our parish. 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 circumstances in their situation. It is essential that integrity and truth are fully respected in this process.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO DIED RECENTLY:

MRS LORRAINE BERNADETTE GIBLIN, wife of Peter, who died on Saturday, 26th November. She will be received into our Church on Thursday, 8th December at 4.30pm. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday at 1.00pm and to be followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May she rest in peace.**

MRS PAMELA MAGRI, wife of Ray, who died on Monday, 28th November. She will be received into our Church at 12 noon on Monday, 12th December, for the celebration of Requiem Mass, which will be followed by burial at All Saints Churchyard, Theydon Garnon. **May she rest in peace.**

May the Lord grant eternal rest and lasting peace to those who have died, and send His Holy Spirit, The Comforter, to all who mourn at this time.

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.

CHURCH READING Could you **read the Word of God at Mass?** We are looking for some **additional Readers for each Mass** to help to carry out this vital ministry. A **training session has been arranged for 9.30am – 11.00am on next Saturday, 10th December.** You would join the reading rota from 30th December and read at your chosen Mass about once every 4-6 weeks. Please phone Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) to confirm your interest in helping with this important ministry...if you cannot manage the 10th December training session, you could book-in for a later session.

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING
TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2016: Trinity is a highly successful school with specialist Science and Sports College status. Students interested in applying to Trinity Sixth Form for admission in September 2017 are invited to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 6 December 2016 at our Mornington Road site. The school will be open to visitors from 5.00pm. The Headmaster and Director of Sixth Form will speak to all students and parents about the application process in the Ratcliffe Hall at 7.00pm.