

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 24 December – 8 January 2017

<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Deceased members of the Lennon Family RIP (Lechley)
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY:</b> <b>THE BIRTH OF</b> <b>JESUS CHRIST,</b> <b>THE LORD</b>	<b>8.30 pm</b> <b>9.00 pm</b> <b>9.00 am</b> <b>11.00 am</b>	Christmas Carols Jim Sullivan RIP (Kath & Steve Clayson) Private Intention People of our Parish
<b>MONDAY 26 December</b>	<b>St Stephen, Deacon &amp; first Martyr</b>	
	<b>10.00 am</b>	Danny & Ann McCall's intentions (McCall)
<b>THERE WILL BE NO SERVICES TUESDAY TO FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK.</b>		
<b>Sunday 1 January 2017 THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>		
<b>SATURDAY 31 Dec</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	James Larkin's intentions (Barden) <b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Sheehy Family's intentions (Clohessy)
	<b>11.00 am</b>	People of our Parish
<b>MONDAY 2nd</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Mary Kelly's Intentions (Flanagan)
<b>TUESDAY 3rd</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Denis & Margaret Murrihy's intentions (Flanagan)
<b>WEDNESDAY 4th</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Mark & Trisha Toohey's intentions (Toohey)
<b>THURSDAY 5th</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Tom & Sylvia Foster's intentions (Toohey)
<b>FRIDAY 6th</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Karen & Pat's intentions (Toohey)
<b>SATURDAY 7th</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Mary Canny RIP (Canny)
<b>SUNDAY 8th</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Sr Mary Burke's intentions (Clohessy)
	<b>11.00 am</b>	People of our Parish

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

**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 £338.00, Offertory Loose Plate £290.37  
Standing Orders £700 *Thank you for your generous offerings.*

**NEW PARISHIONER OR CHANGED ADDRESS:** Welcome to our parish if you moved in recently and do introduce yourself to Fr John or Deacon Duncan.

If you changed address in the parish, or did not receive a parish Christmas card from us, we may not have your correct address. Please let us our Parish Office know, by completing or updating a Parish Registration Form or e-mailing your address etc.

## *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](mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org)**

**Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://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)**

## **CHRISTMAS DAY THE BIRTH OF CHRIST 25 December 2016**

*My dear friends,*

“The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around them. And the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you news of great joy to be shared by the whole people – a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ, the Lord’” (Luke 2:1-14). The birth of a child is good news that brings great joy not only to the parents but to the extended family and the wider community. That news is often spread immediately today as parents look with delight and joy on their newborn child. The angels in heaven also rejoiced and celebrated the birth of Jesus with a hymn of praise as they gave glory and praise to God. They expressed their joy and shared the good news with the shepherds and offered “peace of people of goodwill”.

There are so many joyful and hopeful things to celebrate at Christmas with the birth of Christ. Light comes from heaven into the darkness of the night and, “the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:1-7). The stable, a place of poverty and refuge is inhabited by the Son of God and transformed into his earthly home. The shepherds, despised by people in their time, are honoured by God to be the first to have the privilege of hearing God has sent his Son as Saviour of the world. Two thousand years later there is still an expectation that there should be peace, through healing of hurts, divisions and reconciliation amongst people in this season.

Our world it is dreadfully troubled by wars and conflicts, terrorism and violence, poverty and greed, hate and envy, divisions between peoples from different nations, races and creeds. Even in our own hearts and relationships there are problems that need addressing and healing. Christ came to us as our Saviour to deal with all these issues, and to take the problems and sins of the world on himself. By entrusting all these matters and difficulties, of others and ourselves, to him we really recognise and accept him as the Saviour who has come to bring God to us, and bring us to God.

On this my first Christmas in Epping, I thank you for your warm and kindly welcome over the past three months. I am grateful to so many parishioners, especially Deacon Duncan and Margaret Lechley, the Parish Secretary, for all your assistance and help.

*I wish you, your families and friends a very happy Christmas & New Year. Fr John*

**CHURCH READING** Could you read the Word of God at Mass? We need some **additional Readers for each Mass** to carry out this important ministry. A **training session took place on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December**. You could read at your chosen Mass once every 4-6 weeks. Please phone Deacon Duncan 01992 577173 or contact our Parish Office to confirm your interest in helping with this ministry. If you did not manage the last training session, you can book for a later one.

**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 on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 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** – There are still some copies available free in the church.

**“LOOK” SHEET FOR CHILDREN** This sheet, for primary school age children, has Word searches, colouring and other activities is available free in the church.

**FEASTS IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

MON 26 Dec **St STEPHEN**, Deacon & first Christian Martyr  
TUES 27 Dec **St JOHN**, Apostle & Evangelist  
WED 28 Dec **THE HOLY INNOCENTS**, Martyrs  
THURS 29 Dec **St THOMAS of CANTERBURY**, Bishop & Martyr,  
**Patron Saint of the Pastoral Clergy in England**  
FRI 30 Dec **THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**  
SUN 1 Jan 17 **THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**  
MON 2 Jan **St BASIL THE GREAT & St GREGORY NAZIANZEN**  
SUN 8 Jan **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
MON 9 Jan **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS ROTAS:** Will those involved please collect their new rotas from the post box in the church porch.

**CAROL SERVICE:** A big thank you to the young adults and children who led the Children's nativity and Christmas carols last Sunday evening. It was a really beautiful and heart-warming service. Thanks to Norah for preparing the children and to the kitchen team who provided the wonderful refreshments afterwards.

**INAUGURATION OF THE CENTENARY OF OUR DIOCESE:** on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017, we celebrate the Inauguration of the Centenary of our Diocese. In order to mark this important day, Bishop Alan has asked that all parishes hold a Day of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in their churches, to that we may be united in prayer across the Diocese.

**CENTENARY MASS:** will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 with Apostolic Nuncio and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and representatives of parishes in our Diocese.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 in which all parishes are to participate. There will be no evening Mass on that Saturday in any parish in our diocese so that all can be involved in the pilgrimage.

**ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY:** The next meeting of the Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) will be on Saturday 21 January 2017 at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4EY. The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Ken Carleton, Church Historian and Permanent Deacon at St Alban, Elm Park, who will be speaking on the Bishops of London during the Tudor Reformation.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017:** Bishop Alan will lead our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes from 23 - 28 July. The cost per person - full board and flights - is £695. Booking information will appear very soon.