

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 7 to 15 January 2017

Vigil of the Epiphany	6.00 pm	Mary Canny RIP (Canny)
EPIPHANY of the LORD	9.00 am	Holy Souls RIP (Holder)
8 th January 2017	11.00 am	People of our Parish

Ordinary Time Week 1: Lectionary Readings: Sundays Year A; Weekdays Year 1

MONDAY 9 th January	Feast of the Baptism of our Lord
	9.00 am Private Intention
TUESDAY 10 th	9.00 am Maura Dowling's Intentions (Toohey)
WEDNESDAY 11 th	9.00 am Tom & Mary Barden's Intentions (Toohey)
THURSDAY 12 th	St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot
	9.00 am Holy Souls RIP
FRIDAY 13 th	St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor
	9.00 am Terence Dowling's Intentions (Toohey)
SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME	DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE
SATURDAY 14 January	6.00 pm The Sullivan Family's Intentions (Canny)
SUNDAY 15 th	9.00 am Larry Byrne RIP (Armstrong)
	11.00 am People of our Parish

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays 11am to 12 noon and 5.15pm
(Please note the longer times on Saturday) and on request to the priest.
DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for Week 1 of Breviary, from Week 1 of Psalter
MORNING PRAYER is prayed 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 £282.00 Offertory Loose Plate £250.43, CAFOD £36.50, Standing Orders £700

Thank you for your generous offerings.

NEW PARISHIONER OR CHANGE OF 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

Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

*Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa*

*Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall Tel: 07764404813
or 01992 001995 (Dial 01992 code even in Epping)*

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (Year A) 8th January 2017

My dear friends,

Today, the Feast of the Epiphany, we recall that "some wise men came to Jerusalem from the East and asked 'Where is the king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose and have come to worship him'" (Matt.2:1-12). God speaks to and comes to people in different ways, times and situations. On the first Christmas God led shepherds by a message from an angel, to worship Christ. Having seen the glory of God and honoured Christ, they praised God ((Luke 2:1-20). The shepherds were uneducated, unlike the Wise Men who were wealthy and learned. We could say the shepherds were led to Christ by a Word from the Lord, whereas the wise men were led to him by the light of the star and the signs that they found and interpreted in nature.

We imagine the shepherds coming to visit Jesus with their sheep and offering him a lamb. When Jesus began his mission and work, John the Baptist pointed him out to people as, "The Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world" (John 1:29-34). The wise men presented three gifts to Jesus; gold symbolising his kingship, frankincense symbolising his divine nature and godliness, and myrrh that symbolised the humanity and mortality he was sharing with all of us.

We could ask ourselves how do we come to know the Lord: through the word of another, through Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church, through private prayer and public worship, or through seeing him in nature and other people? All these things and ways can help us in our journey of faith towards Jesus, and they should be esteemed and valued for the way they assist us on our faith journey.

It was edifying to see a notable increase in the numbers at Christmas Masses. Thank you on behalf of Deacon Duncan and myself to everyone who helped prepare our Christmas celebrations. Special thanks to all who worked so hard to provide a fine meal and excellent hospitality to the eighty people who had Christmas Dinner in our Hall on Christmas Day. I express my gratitude to you for your very generous Christmas offerings, and the many gifts and greetings I received at Christmas.

I wish you and your families a blessed and happy New Year. Fr John

FR JAMES MEMORIAL WINDOW: On the noticeboard in the porch is the design of the *Fr James Memorial Window*. It was designed by former parishioner, Andy Smith, and funded by parishioners who donated to Fr James' Retirement Fund. The window will be installed in the sacristy some time in the next two months.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: Churches Together would like to thank Fr John and the Catholic community for their amazing contributions in every way on Christmas Day. Gifts, puddings and pies galore together with so many young and adult helpers, welcomers and drivers supported by Fr John to bring Christmas and the love of our Lord to so many otherwise alone people.

MISSIO (RED BOX) COLLECTION: The collections for the second half of 2016 have now been counted and amount to **£679.17**. The **total for 2016 amounts to £1037.93 – a wonderful contribution!!**. Thanks to all those 18 parishioners who use this means of supporting the Overseas Missions. The (red) boxes for parishioners who handed them in for counting are now in the church porch for collection, clearly labelled with the collector's name. If any parishioner would like to help support this very worthwhile charity, please contact Brendan Carden, our Mission Organiser, on 07983 947505, and he will be pleased to issue a new box to you and explain what is involved.

THANK YOU: Deacon Duncan thanks all parishioners who have sent Christmas and New Year gifts and messages to him (and to Dorothy) and expresses warm feelings for a blessed New Year to everyone.

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 10th January at 8.00pm.

CHURCH UNITY WEEK will be celebrated this year in the week commencing 23rd January. There will be a combined service in St John's Church, Epping. Date to be notified. We will be hosting a Service of Prayer and Reflection in our church on Friday 27th January at 8pm. Please make every effort to support this inter-church activity.

Flame Congress, SSE Wembley Arena, Saturday March 11th 2017: Travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to the largest Catholic youth event in the country! Open to all aged 15-23, this Congress includes music by Grammy Award winner Matt Redman, talks from the Cardinal Archbishop of Myanmar (Burma), experiences shared by young people who have worked in refugee camps in Jordan, conversation with Fr Augusto Zampini, who was once a parish priest in the slums of Buenos Aires and now works very closely with Pope Francis, and input from Sarah Teather, once an MP and now head of the Jesuit Refugee Service. The day also includes music, dance and drama, as well as times of reflection and prayer and lots of activities in the break times. It is an amazing day, it only happens once every two years, and tickets are limited. Travel on your own or with friends, and we will meet you at Liverpool St or Fenchurch

St station. Cost just £15, plus your train fare. Book now by emailing gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org or calling Gabby on 01268 515970.

MASS FOR THE SICK: Our Lady of Lourdes is both the patroness of our diocese and the sick. At 3 pm on Sunday 5 February, Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass in her honour at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead. This is a diocesan celebration; all are invited. During the Mass, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are unwell.

STUDY DAY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: The next Study Day at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH, will take place on Saturday 18th March from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The theme is 'The Journey of Faith in the Gospel of John'. The day will be led by Fr Victor Darlington, professor of Scripture at St John's Seminary, Womersley. The day will include exploration of the Lenten Sunday Gospels from the Gospel of John. Admission is free, tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample free parking is available at the church, which is three minutes' walk from Gidea Park Station. It is essential to book your place and this should be done by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com

INAUGURATION OF THE CENTENARY OF OUR DIOCESE: on Saturday 11th 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, so that we may be united in prayer across the Diocese.

CENTENARY MASS: will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday 22nd 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 22nd 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.

ECCA NEW YEAR CONCERT on Saturday 21st January at 7.30pm in St. John's church Epping. We will be singing Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' accompanied by harp, and 'Messiah, part 1' with organ. Free admission and programme £2.50. Retiring collection for choir funds. Interval refreshments. Please support us.

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BLIND PEOPLE are looking for collectors on Thursday 16th February to stand outside Tesco store, Epping. Perhaps 3-4 people in 2 hour shifts throughout the day depending on how many volunteers there are. It will be a very flexible arrangement. Please contact direct The Rev Fr Jonathan MacNeaney on macneaneyj@gmail.com or 07949468905 if you can help. Many thanks.