

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 28 January to 5 February 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 29th January 2017

Saturday 28th 6.00 pm Constans Fernandes RIP (Anniv) (Murray)

Sunday 29th 9.00 am People of Parish

January 2017 11.00 am Ryan & Poole Family Deceased RIP (Poole)

12.15pm Baptism of Elizabeth Anne Pimblott

MONDAY 30th 9.00 am Rob Morris (Silver)

TUESDAY 31st St John Bosco, Priest

9.00 am Hugh McAdam RIP (McAdam)

WEDNESDAY 1st 9.00 am Deceased members of Rizzi Family RIP (Rizzi)

THURSDAY THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD: Candlemas Day

2nd February 2017 9.00 am Deceased members of Merenghi Family RIP (Rizzi)

The Blessing of Candles will be held at this Mass

Today is also World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

FRIDAY 3rd Feb St Ann Line, Martyr

9.00 am David Knight (Birthday)

FIFTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME Readings Sunday Year A; Weekday Year 1

SATURDAY 4 Feb 6.00pm People of our Parish

SUNDAY 5th 9.00am Jim Hayes RIP (Coyne/Hayes)

11.00am Sr Mary Byrne (Clohessy)

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturdays 11am to 12 noon and 5.15pm in church,
and by request to the priest

DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for Week 4 in Breviary are from the Psalter Week 4

MORNING PRAYER is offered at 8.45am in Church, before weekday Masses

ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

MONDAY to FRIDAY after 9am weekday Mass and Saturdays 11 to 12 noon

PARISH MASS BOOK: FOURTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

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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 £342.45 Offertory Loose Plate £301.50,

Standing Orders £700 Thank you for your generous offerings.

NEW PARISHIONER OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you moved into our parish recently or changed address in the parish, please let our Parish Office know, by e-mail, or completing or updating a Parish Registration Form. New parishioners, please introduce yourself to Fr John or Deacon Duncan who would like to welcome you.

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 or e-mail: arnold_verrall@email.com

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

29th JANUARY 2017

My dear friends,

“Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”(Matthew 5:1-12). Holy Simeon looking at the infant Jesus at his Presentation in the Temple, prophesied he would “be a sign to be contradicted” (Luke 2:34). Jesus in his teachings and work, was frequently contradicted by the religious figures of his time who consistently tried to undermine or destroy him. His teachings and way of life set new standards and ideals not only for the people of his time, but for people of every time and place.

Some of Jesus greatest and most challenging teachings are in The Beatitudes, which promise blessings and a happiness which is everlasting. The Beatitudes give Gospel values in their most distilled form, and contradict the values of the world around us, which are advocated and lived by so many today. Today, poverty in any form is seen as a curse not a blessing, yet devout religious who take and live a vow of poverty of spirit are given real freedom, since they are no longer possessed or controlled by things. They have a spiritual detachment from things that enables them to grow and blossom as people, and helps them deepen their relationship with God and people.

Equally the Beatitudes speak to us of the values we should have in our lives and the way in which we should relate with people. Being gentle as opposed to arrogant, knowing that the Lord sends his Spirit to comfort those who mourn. That he satisfies those who hunger and thirst for what is right. That he offers mercy to those who show mercy, gives a vision of his face to those who have spiritual insight and are pure in heart and blesses the peacemakers, those who are abused, persecuted or calumniated.

Just as we might reach out with pure love and compassion to a loved one who might be going through some difficulties or suffering, so Jesus shows us in the Beatitudes that they heart of God reaches to love and bless us in our greatest needs.

May the Lord give us the grace to listen to and follow his call. Fr John

AVAILABILITY & PARISH OFFICE: Fr John’s day off is Mondays, and though celebrating Mass he would like to be free otherwise. Our Parish Secretary is in the Parish Office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30am to 2pm. Requests for Certificates and other Parish business should be done through the Parish Office. Items for the Parish Newsletter should be sent in to the Parish Office by 10am on Fridays.

VISIT TO OUR CRIB: Our lovely Crib will be dismantled after Mass on **Thursday 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.** This weekend presents a last opportunity to visit the Crib and to contribute to the very worthwhile work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. We hope that all parishioners managed to visit the Crib during the Christmas period and, in particular, that the children were moved by the loving scene. The donations left in the Crib basket will be sent to BCCS on Monday 5th February. Thank you for your generosity.

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of Patrick John Nyhan, who was Baptised in our Church recently. May the Lord bless them and help to bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.*

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 7th February at 8.00pm.

MASS FOR THE SICK: Our Lady of Lourdes is Patroness of our Diocese & the sick. All are invited to a Mass Bishop Alan will celebrate in her honour at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead E11 2PR at 3 pm on Sunday 5th February. During the Mass, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are unwell.

INAUGURATION OF THE CENTENARY OF OUR DIOCESE: On **Saturday 11 February 2017**, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the patron saint of our diocese, we are asked to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in every church in our diocese. We will have the Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes in our church on that morning at 10 a.m. This will be followed by Adoration and Exposition until before the 6 p.m. evening Mass. Please put your name on the rota for one of the ½ hour periods. Since this feast is also the World Day of Prayer for the sick, the sacrament of anointing of the sick will be offered to people suffering illness or infirmity.

CENTENARY MASS: On **Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at 7 p.m.** there will be a solemn concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at **Brentwood Cathedral** Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Archbishop Antonio Mennini, the Apostolic Nuncio. Five invitations are being offered to representatives from each parish of the diocese. Parishioners who may wish to represent the parish can complete the slip below and return it to the priest's house. A ballot will then be taken to determine who will be chosen to attend.

CENTENARY MASS REPRESENTATIVE BALLOT

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

e-mail address:

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL & 1 MINUTE SURVEY NEXT WEEKEND:
Please see enclosed information leaflet on this Programme in our Diocese.

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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.

FLAME CONGRESS, SSF WEMBLEY ARENA, SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2017: We will join 75 young people from Brentwood Diocese (but travel on our own 16 seater coach from Epping) at this joyful occasion. We invite all aged between 15 & 23 to contact James Ryan (Tel. 07814 226468) to book a place. Our parish will pay for the coach. The registration fee of £15 must be paid to James, when booking (cheques payable to Catholic Church, Epping). **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.**

CHARITY WALK IN AID OF ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY 5 FEBRUARY 2017
A walk in memory of parishioner, James Sullivan, who died in 2016 of this illness will be held in Epping Forest. approx 5 miles. Afterwards, there will be refreshments & a raffle at Pelly Court Hall, Hemnall Street, Epping. Entry £10 per person. Anyone wishing to donate but cannot attend to walk, visit www.justgiving.com Search for Epping Forest 5 mile walk. For details contact Martin Sullivan on 07787 319855.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC): 2017 will be a special year for SPUC. They are marking the 50th Anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act 1967 and commemorating over 8.7 million lives lost through abortion. Deacon Duncan & Dorothy Whitehouse thank you for your generous support for this good cause last weekend, and will be pleased to receive any further tokens of support which parishioners may wish them to pass to SPUC.

LENT LUNCHESES 2017: Each Saturday during Lent, one of the churches in Epping will offer a light lunch (soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee) between 12.30 and 2.00pm. **A donation of £3.00 is suggested for Christian Aid.** Please bring your friends. Everyone is very welcome. The dates are as follows:

Saturday 4th March. Life Church, The Box, St John's Road, Epping.

Saturday 11th March. URC, Lindsey Street.

Saturday 18th March. Methodist Church.

Saturday 25th March. St John's Church

Saturday 1st April. Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday 8th April. Epping Green Chapel

Every Tuesday in Lent. St Mary's, Theydon Bois.