

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 11th February – 19th February 2017

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 11th February 2017

Saturday 11 th	6.00 pm	McAdam Family's intentions (McAdam)
Sunday, 12 th Feb.	9.00 am	Larry Byrne RIP (Armstrong)
Racial Justice Day	11.00 am	People of our Parish
MONDAY 13 th	9.00 am	Rev Michael O'Rourke RIP (FM)
TUESDAY 14 th	9.00 am	St. Cyril, Monk, & St Methodius, Bishop David Love RIP (Whitehouse)
WEDNESDAY 15 th	9.00 am	Eileen Reilly RIP recently (Tsindedes)
THURSDAY 16 th	9.00 am	Mary Renroe RIP (Toohey)
FRIDAY 17 th Feb	9.00 am	Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order Thanksgiving for Consecration (Palmer)
SEVENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME Readings Sunday Year A; Weekday Year		
SATURDAY 18 th	6.00pm	Nancy Kelly RIP (Scannell)
SUNDAY 19 th	9.00am	Tom Ryan RIP (Coyne/Ryan)
	11.00am	People of Parish

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

MORNING PRAYER is offered at 8.45am in Church, before weekday Masses
DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS are from the Psalter Week 2 in Breviary for Week 6
ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
MONDAY to FRIDAY after 9am weekday Mass, and Saturdays 11 to 12 noon

PARISH MASS BOOK: SIXTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AT HOME AND IN HOSPITAL James Bullen, Mark Toohey, Brenda Sebire, Paula Hall, Tony Mullan, Sean Clohessy, Ann Dowd, Hannah Robinson, Daphne McAdam, Roger Minnis, Marcheta Swift-Daley,

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £265.50 Offertory Loose Plate £277.67, Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £10, Donations at the Crib for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society came to £280.67 *Thank you for your generous offerings.*

OFFERTORY COLLECTION BAGS Our Parish Finance Committee met at the end of last year to consider guidance from the diocese on the handling and protection of the monies offered by parishioners to the church. In the interest of safety we will soon move to using collection bags rather than the open plates, which we presently use.

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 by completing or updating a Parish Registration Form. New parishioners, please introduce yourself to Fr John or Deacon Duncan who would wish 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: e-mail: arnold_verrall@email.com

Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or 01992 001995

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

12th February 2017

My dear friends,

“They are happy who follow God’s law” we say in response to Psalm 118 today. The first Psalm says, “Happy the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked; but delights in the law of the Lord and ponders his law day and night”. Psalm 19 tells us “The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul and gives wisdom to the simple”. We can be selective in our approach to law, disdaining or disobeying laws we do not like, and may even think it ok to break some laws, so long as we do not get caught. Some man-made laws are immoral and contrary to God’s law, and present difficulties for people who seek to live conscientious moral lives in accordance with God’s laws.

Since “The Law of the Lord is perfect”, it should of be the foundation for man-made laws. God’s law, which is expressed in the Ten Commandments, Exodus.20, directs us to honour God, to love and serve others and to protect our own life and integrity. Good law is of necessity in compliance with God’s law for it protects the dignity of the person, promotes the good of society, and brings blessings on God’s people. As good Christians and good citizens, our instinct should be to obey God’s laws, and to respect and obey the laws of the country which promote the common good and give glory to God in whom all life, law and justice has its source.

It is sad when people who hold public office and who have power to make good laws choose a humanist and self-centred approach in opposition to God’s law. Equally there are some in positions of leadership, and others who inform and shape public attitudes, who ill serve people by denigrating good laws and procedures and belittling those working conscientiously to enforce just laws in and through the justice system. Jesus told Pilate that he would have no authority, “unless it had been given to you from above”. A pagan writer wrote of how the first Christians respected the laws of the land and lived in this world as if they belonged in another world. Jesus underpins the Law of God with the law of love. He said, “If anyone loves me he will keep my commandments, and my father shall love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him”. As citizens of God’s kingdom and this world, let us choose to love the Law of the Lord, and by loving it, obey it. Then we will have a framework for our life which leaves us open to receive the blessings which the Lord offers to all who love and obey him. *May God bless and guide you and your families. 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 comes to Mass. The next session will be on Tuesday the 14th February at 8.00pm.

CHRISTINE QUINN RIP: Christine (wife of John), mother of Alex and Fiona, of Theydon Bois, died on Thursday 2nd February at Harlow Hospital. She will be received into Our Lady of Lourdes Church Wanstead E11 2PR, on Thursday 23rd February at 6pm. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday 24th followed by committal at the City of London Crematorium. **May she rest in peace and rise in glory, and may the Holy Spirit, Comforter console her bereaved family and friends at this time.**

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL We thank everyone who completed the One Minute Survey Form in Church last weekend. If you did not have the opportunity to complete one last week, you can still do so today using one of the forms in the Church and place it in the box. This weekend we have a letter from Bishop Alan on Stewards of the Gospel and a useful information leaflet on the programme is being handed out at Mass.

FLAME CONGRESS, SSF WEMBLEY ARENA, SATURDAY 11 MARCH: 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 when booking (cheques payable to Catholic Church, Epping). **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.**

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.

CHARITY WALK IN AID OF ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY: Martin Sullivan and family would like to thank all those who supported last Sunday's walk. To date, £1700 has been raised and this amount is still rising. Thank you for your generosity.

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

CENTENARY MASS There will be a Solemn Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at **Brentwood Cathedral**, with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, on **Wednesday 22 March at 7 pm**. Invitations are offered for five representatives from each parish of the diocese. Parishioners who wish to represent our parish can complete the slip below and return it to the Priest's House. A draw will be made to decide our representatives at this Mass

CENTENARY MASS REPRESENTATIVE BALLOT

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

e-mail address:

LENT LECTURES IN OUR PARISH HALL

We will have Lent Lectures in our parish at 8.00 pm on the Mondays of Lent.

On Monday 6 March, Dr Colin Harte will speak on "The Privilege of Suffering", which we find very difficult to accept and cope with in our time. All suffering is in some way redemptive and can be associated with the sufferings of Christ.

On Monday 13 March, Fr Alban McCoy OFM, Dean of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, will speak on **Pope Francis' exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy of Love)**, reflection on last year's Synod in Rome, that focuses on pastoral practice and moral issues relating to access to Holy Communion following divorce or relationship complications.

On Monday 20th March, Dr Charlie O'Donnell FRCP, Consultant on Emergency Medicine & Intensive Care, will speak on **"Being a Catholic Doctor in 21st Century England & staying true to the Catholic Faith - lessons for a lay Catholic"**. I hope many people will be interested in these contemporary issues and that our Lent Lectures will be very well attended – all are welcome and admission is free.

LENT LUNCHES 2017 Every Saturday in Lent from 12.30 to 2.00pm, one of the churches in Epping will offer a light lunch of soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee. **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 Church, Theydon Bois.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has several charity places for The Vitality London 10K run on 29th May 2017. There is a lovely atmosphere at this May Bank Holiday event and it takes in many of London's iconic landmarks, finishing in front of Buckingham Palace with all the event facilities, food and entertainment close by in Green Park. For each place, we ask for a registration fee of £30 and a pledge to raise a minimum sponsorship of £200. If you have your own place in the race, we would love to have you on our team; we won't set a sponsorship target, but any funds you can raise for us would be hugely appreciated. For details please contact Julie at jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912 277413.

VACANCY AT CATHEDRAL HOUSE: Diocesan Property Consultant, working out of Cathedral House in Brentwood. Full-time role. If you – or your family/friends – are interested in applying, please request a job description and person specification from property-recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org. You should then send in your CV, with a covering letter demonstrating how your experience and skills match the requirements and attributes of the role. Closing date for CVs/applications is 19.00 on Tuesday 28th February 2017. Interviews take place week starting 6th March 2017."