

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 25th February – 5th March 2017

EIGHT SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME Year A 26th February 2017

SATURDAY 25th	6.00 pm	Canny family deceased RIP (Canny)
SUNDAY, 26th	Day of Prayer for all who are Unemployed	
FEBRUARY 2017	9.00 am	Reg Clements RIP (An.) (Clements)
	11.00 am	The People of our Parish
MONDAY 27th	9.00 am	Mr & Mrs Tobin (FM)
TUESDAY 28th	9.00 am	Marlene Sounday RIP (Anon)
1st MARCH 2017	TODAY IS A DAY OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE	
ASH WEDNESDAY	10.00 am	Matthias McGrath RIP
LENT BEGINS	8.00pm	Roger Allardyce RIP (An.)
THURSDAY 2nd	9.00 am	Kenneth & Doris Scott RIP (Ryecroft)
FRIDAY 3rd	9.00 am	Rosemary Barden's Intentions (Barden)
	10.00am	WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm	Mass will offered for Ministers of the Eucharist
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT A		
SATURDAY 4th	6.00pm	Nancy Kelly RIP (Anderson)
SUNDAY 5th	9.00am	People of our parish
March 2017	11.00am	Christine Quinn Rip (recently) (Quinn)

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturdays 11am to 12 noon & 5.15pm and by request
MORNING PRAYER is offered at 8.45am in Church, before weekday Masses
DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for this Week are from Week 4 in The Breviary
ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
MONDAY to FRIDAY after 9am weekday Mass for one hour

PARISH MASS BOOK: EIGHT 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,

LENT MASSES: On the Fridays of Lent we will have evening Mass with Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm. Masses will be offered for various groups in our Parish.

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £251.00 Offertory Loose Plate £269.93, Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £50, *Thank you for your generous offerings.*

COFFEE AFTER 11AM MASS: Please note that due to a booking in our Hall there will not be coffee after the 11am Mass on Sunday 12th March 2017.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

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Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

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Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or 01992 001995

EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A 26th February 2017

My dear friends,

“People must think of us as Christ’s servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God” (1Corinthians 4:1-5). St Paul, writing this letter, wanted the first Christians to recognise that they had been given a very precious gift of faith, that was the foundation of their relationship with God, and given to them through Jesus Christ. In our Diocese, at present, we have the “Stewards of the Gospel” programme, that is designed to help us appreciate the gift of faith given to us, and how we protect and nurture it. Like the first Christians, we too are called to serve Christ, and we do so by honouring his holy name, and by worshipping him in private and public.

Our relationship with God is given to us by and through Christ. He shows us that God loves us and tells us, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). When a person is Baptised, child or adult, it is like an outpouring of God’s love on that person. Just as a couple commit themselves to each other in love in making their marriage vows, so too in Baptism God commits himself to us in love, and we in theory, if not always in practice commit ourselves to him in love. God’s intimate love for his people is expressed in maternal terms when the Lord says, “Even if a mother forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the child of her womb, I will never forget you” (Isaiah 49:1-4). The most profound thing we can receive or offer to anyone is love, and it is first of all God’s gift people in their heart.

God’s love for people is also shown in the way he cares for us and for creation. Do we recognise God’s creative love in the world, in nature, in communities and in individuals? If we fail to see it, then there may be a spiritual blindness in our lives, and we may need to ask the Lord to give us a gift of faith that enable us to see his glory and presence. Jesus tells his disciples and us to trust in the providence and love of God, so that might live free from worry and anxiety (Matthew 6:24-34).

Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. In this season, Jesus calls us to walk with him on a spiritual journey, and share with him his time in the wilderness, his glory on the mountain of transfiguration, his triumphant entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and his sufferings and death on the Cross in Holy Week.

May we use this holy season to grow in love for God and for people. 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. The next session will be on Tuesday the 28th February at 8.00pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION The next preparation session for the children will be in our Parish Hall on Tuesday next, the 28th February, at 5.45pm.

ST VINCENT De PAUL SOCIETY RAFFLE The members of the St Vincent De Paul Society in our Parish, visit and support people in their various needs, every week. This weekend they are selling Raffle tickets at all Masses. Prizes are £1K, £2K, £3K, 10 x £100 and 10 x £50 to be drawn on 31st March. Proceeds go to support SVP's charity work internationally, nationally and locally, including eg – feeding refugee babies in Sudan and our Indian twinned parishes and, nearer home, homeless people. SVP welcomes new members **so if you are interested in joining us please talk to Fr John or an SVP member.**

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL We thank everyone who completed the One Minute Survey Form in Church recently. If you did not have the opportunity to complete one you can still do so using one of the forms in the Church and place it in the box. On Saturday Bishop Alan, the Priests and Deacons and the Stewards of the Gospel had a meeting at Brentwood to share and look to the future.

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** to celebrate the Centenary of our Diocese of Brentwood, founded in 1917.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS: A Lenten Journey of Prayer 2017 will be distributed at all Masses this weekend.

EASTER LILIES: In memory of a loved one. Please make an offering of £2 per bloom and mark the envelope "Easter Lily".

PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL: The next meeting of the Pastoral Parish Council will be in the meeting room of Fr John's house at 8pm on Wednesday 15 March. Parishioners are always welcome at all PPC meetings. If you would like an item to be discussed, but are not able to attend, please contact Melanie Hollinshead at parishcouncil@eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 3rd MARCH: Services for the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held at **10.00 am at our church, at 2pm at St Mary's Church, Theydon Bois and 7pm at Epping Green Chapel.** Ladies are enthusiastically welcomed to attend.

CHARITY WALK IN AID OF ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY: Martin Sullivan and family would like to thank all those who supported the recent walk. The total amount raised was £2000. Thank you for your generosity.

VACANCY: "Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (based in Rayleigh) is looking for a new Trustee to join the Board. If you have accounting or finance skills and would like to join the talented Board of this wonderful diocesan charity please contact Steven Webb on 01268 784544 or swebb@bccs.org.uk "

LENT LECTURES IN OUR PARISH HALL on Mondays of Lent at 8.00 pm.

Monday 6th 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.

Monday 13th 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 the recent Synod of Bishops in Rome, that focuses on pastoral practice and moral issues relating to access to Holy Communion following divorce or relationship complications.

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"**.

This course of Lent Lectures has been advertised locally and around the Diocese. We hope many will be interested in these issues. We have excellent speakers and there will be opportunities for questions. All welcome and admission is free.

STUDY DAY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, will take place on Saturday 18th March from 11 am until 3 pm. The theme will be '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, Wonersh. Admission is free, tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch. Please book your place by email to gpstudydays@gmail.com

LENT LUNCHEES 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. This week's dates are as follows:
Saturday 4th March. Life Church, The Box, St John's Road, Epping.
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. 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.

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 will welcome you.