

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 4th March to 12th March 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Year A 5th March 2017 Rite of Election today

SATURDAY 4th 6.00 pm Nancy Kelly RIP (Anderson)
SUNDAY 5th 9.00 am People of our Parish
March 2017 11.00 am Christine Quinn RIP (recently) (Quinn)
6.00pm Stations of the Cross
MONDAY 6th 9.00 am Rocque Fernandes RIP (Murray)
TUESDAY 7th 9.00 am Howard Family intentions
WEDNESDAY 8th 9.00 am Nancy Bixby's intentions (Bixby)
THURSDAY 9th 9.00 am Veronica Beard RIP (Beard)
FRIDAY 10th 9.00 am John Sullivan RIP (Coyne) **CAFOD Lent Fast Day**
Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Mass: Offered for Readers & Stewards of the Gospel

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT A 12th March 2017

SATURDAY 11th 6.00pm Nancy Bixby's intentions (Bixby)
SUNDAY 12th 9.00am People of our Parish
March 2017 11.00am Fr James Hawes RIP (Palmer)

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturdays 11am to 12 noon & 5.15pm and on request
MORNING PRAYER is offered at 8.45am in Church, before weekday Masses
DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for Lent Week 1 are from Week 1 in The Breviary
ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
MONDAY to FRIDAY after 9am weekday Mass for one hour

PARISH MASS BOOK: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

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Page 151 Collect & Readings **Page 25** Eucharistic Prayer 2
Page 12 The Apostles' Creed **Page 56** The Communion Rite
Page 14 Preparation of Gifts **Page 154** Post Communion Prayer

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

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

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES: Bishop Alan asked priests, some time ago, to consider having a regular weekday evening Mass in parishes for people who are not able to attend morning Mass due to work or other commitments. Our weekday Masses at 9am are too early for some retired people and parents on the school run etc. I would like to know what people think on having Mass later than 9am on some or all weekdays and especially if you would in fact attend a later Mass. *Fr John*

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £168.50, Offertory Loose Plate £309.77, Standing Orders £700. *Thank you for your generous offerings.*

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

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 (please dial 01992 even if in Epping district)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

5th March 2017

This weekend and for the next few weeks, the whole tone of our liturgy changes as we embark upon a period of self-examination of our relationship with God.

Although we may 'do our best' to live a good life, during Lent we are called to be even more attentive to recognise the ways in which we may offend God by what we do, say and think. Even small indiscretions need addressing, alongside any more significant ways which cause his displeasure and our shame. Lent is a time for renewed prayer and reflection, which will bring us closer to our loving, merciful God...but it does need our wholehearted commitment to show our love for God by rejecting the interference of Satan in our lives – and we know that he is the master of deception, distraction and temptation. Leading a good life is a challenge for us!!

In lovingly following Jesus through Lent, we are invited to let go of the power of sin in our lives and to learn to live by another, much better, strength. This strength will be found through the total reliance on God's saving love and the presence of the Holy Spirit in all the decisions we make. We can begin to discover this strength by meditating on the Creation Story and its teaching of how good God is, as he guides all things in life. We can reflect on how easy it is to choose to impose our own will and desire for glory, status and goods, rather than accepting a humble and wise recognition of the good in others, and doing all we can to enhance that goodness, beauty and truth in the lives of other people. We will come to realise that seeking the good of God's entire family, rather than trying to grab all that we can for ourselves, will open up the possibility of seeing God's presence everywhere, in every situation. Then we can live for the praise and honour of God, for the respect and enhancement of every human being and for the dignity of our own status as disciples of Jesus Christ and sharers in his risen life.

Let us pray that we may all have a fruitful Lenten journey, as individuals and as a Parish community.

God Bless you all.

Deacon Duncan

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY will be on Friday 10th March. We are encouraged to make some sacrifice to support the poor in developing nations. The CAFOD envelopes will be distributed at all Masses this weekend and be collected at the retiring collection next weekend. Taxpayers can use the CAFOD or their own special Gift Aid envelopes.

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 7th March at 8.00pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The next preparation session for the children will be in our Parish Hall on Tuesday next, 7th March, at 5.45pm.

ST VINCENT De PAUL SOCIETY RAFFLE: Many thanks to all who bought tickets and made donations making a grand total of £500. Please put any outstanding ticket money and stubs in an envelope marked "SVP Raffle" through the presbytery front door this week. The draw will be on 31st March and a winners' list will be put on the church porch noticeboard. Good luck!

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 Priest'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 unable to attend, please contact Melanie Hollinshead: parishcouncil@eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

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.

STUDY DAY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: at Christ the Eternal High Priest, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH, 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, Scripture professor at St John's Seminary, Womersley. Admission is free, tea and coffee provided but bring a packed lunch. To book your place please email gpstudydays@gmail.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES in the Brentwood Diocese Education Department: There are a number of new positions. Details are shown on our church noticeboard.

BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP will visit us next weekend talk about the Holy Land, and sell religious articles made of olive wood in the Holy Land, to help support poor Christian families in Bethlehem. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

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. All suffering has a value and 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 the family, 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 have excellent speakers and there will be opportunities for questions. We hope many will be interested in these contemporary issues. **All 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. This week's dates are as follows:

Saturday 11th March. URC Lindsey Street, 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.

HEADTEACHER Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3HS
The governors wish to appoint a **Headteacher** who is inspirational, enthusiastic and dedicated to lead our school into an exciting future, starting 1st September 2017. See advert in Catholic Teachers Gazette www.e-ctg.com or email for an application pack: recruitment@ourladyoflourdes.southend.sch.uk. Closing date: 10th March 2017.

TRUSTEE 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 "

Charity Family Night 'St Mary's Talent show', 10th March 2017: All proceeds go to enable students support and accompany disabled and disadvantaged young people on a pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter 2018. Please visit our website for details. Prices: £5 ticket/£12.50 Family ticket (2 Adults, 2 children) Time: 7:30pm – 9:30pm at St Mary's Catholic School, Windhill, Bishops Stortford CM23 2NQ. Tel. 01279 654901