

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 18th March to 26th March 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Year A 19th March 2017

SATURDAY 18th	6.00 pm	Timothy White RIP Anniv (Lechley)
SUNDAY 19th	9.00 am	Terry Crehan RIP (Crehan)
March 2017	11.00 am	People of our Parish
	12.15pm	Baptism of Nancy Sara Oakley
	6.00pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
MONDAY 20th	St. JOSEPH, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	9.00 am	Vera Doherty RIP (Doherty)
TUESDAY 21st	9.00 am	Intentions of Hilda Silver (Whitehouse)
WEDNESDAY 22nd	100th Anniversary of the Formation of the Diocese of Essex	
	9.00 am	Intentions of Christopher Jacob (Joseph)
THURSDAY 23rd	9.00 am	Veronica Beard RIP (Beard)
FRIDAY 24th	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm	Mass: Offered for our Flower Arrangers
SATURDAY	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	
25th March	10.00am	Farrow family intentions
FOURTH (Laetare or Rejoicing) SUNDAY IN LENT - Year A 26th March 2017		
SATURDAY 25th	6.00pm	Tony O'Loughlin RIP (Collier)
SUNDAY 26th	9.00am	Peggy Hayes RIP (Crehan)
March 2017	11.00am	People of our Parish (Collier)
	6.00pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturdays 11am to 12 noon & 5.15pm and on request
MORNING PRAYER is offered before weekday Masses at 8.45am in Church
DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for Lent Week 3 are from Week 3 in The Breviary
ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
MONDAY to FRIDAY after 9am weekday Mass for one hour

PARISH MASS BOOK: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

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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.

EASTER LILIES: Donate a lily for our church at Easter in memory of a loved one. Please make an offering of £2 per bloom and mark the envelope "Easter Lily".

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £154.50, Offertory Loose Plate £347.29, CAFOD £672.05, Standing Orders £700. Thank you for your generous offerings.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY was on Friday 10th March. Last weekend's collection for CAFOD from the Fast Day amounted to £672.05. Many thanks for your generosity.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



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Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa
Hall Bookings: e-mail: arnold_verrall@email.com
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01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A 19th March 2017

Dear Friends,

Jesus said, "Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him welling up to eternal life", (Jn.4:5-42). Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well teaches us about the "water of life", which he offers to all who believe in him. Fr Sieger Koder's picture of Jesus with the woman at the well shows her looking down into the well, and seeing a reflection of the face of Christ, standing behind her, as well as her own face in the water. It tells us that if we look deep enough, we can see the face of Christ in other people and in ourselves too.

It is terrible to treat anyone in an inhumane way, yet there is the face and presence of Christ and something of the divine nature of God in every person. If we really understood this, we would have great reverence for our own and other people's bodies, as temples and dwelling places of the Spirit of God. In Baptism and blessing with Holy Water, priests and people demonstrate reverence for a person and the link between the human life and life of God, which we enter into through the waters of Baptism, and by which eventually brings us to share fully in the glory of heaven.

The grace of God and fountain of life is given to Christians by water and the Holy Spirit in Baptism. We are washed clean of sin and given the life of grace through the holy and life-giving water. The Spirit of God living in our heart gives us a share in the life and divine nature of God. He makes us holy and sacred, and sustains and renews our relationship with God in the Christian community. The woman at the well with Jesus found that he opened her heart to the truth, new life and relationship with God. Christ gave her the dignity, which was denied to her by others, and a share in the dignity we have as children of God. In sprinkling and blessing ourselves with holy water we are renewed in grace by Christ, the spring of living water in our heart. It is only by his grace that we are able to grow in the love of God and other people, and to love ourselves and others as God wills.

Try to draw close to God during Lent by coming to Mass on a weekday as well as on Sundays, or by taking part in the Stations of the Cross or other Lent devotions.

May God bless us in our journey of faith in this holy season of Lent Fr John.

FRED ROBERTS RIP: We pray for Fred Roberts RIP, who died on Saturday 11th March. He will be received into our Church at 11.30am on Monday, 27th March for the celebration of Requiem Mass, to be followed by burial at Manor Park Cemetery. **May he rest in peace. May the Lord grant eternal rest and lasting peace to all who have died, and send His Holy Spirit, The Comforter, to all who mourn at this time.**

BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP: Nicholas Khader thanks all in the parish for supporting their work and Christian families in the Holy Land by purchasing religious goods last weekend. They raised £1248 for which they are extremely appreciative.

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 21st March at 8.00pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The next preparation session for the children will be in our Parish Hall on Tuesday next, 21st March, at 5.45pm.

CENTENARY MASS: There will be a Solemn Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at **Brentwood Cathedral**, with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, this **Wednesday 22 March at 7 pm** to celebrate the Centenary of our Diocese of Brentwood, founded in 1917.

AN OPPORTUNITY IN LENT TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR: On Saturday morning why not come to Calvary spend some time at the peaceful, prayerful vigil at Marie Stopes clinic at the top of Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill, where every week hundreds of innocent lives are snuffed out without ceremony or anaesthetic. The Helpers of God's Precious Infants are there to pray for all concerned, the mothers, fathers, doctors, nurses and other staff, and to offer practical help and counselling. Practical help for mothers to have their babies and counselling and healing retreats after abortion. 8.30am to 11.30am just quietly join the vigil for as short or long a time as you wish. For information please call Rose on 079606 50517 or Paul 0808 252 9459

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of George Louis Gamwells 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.*

EASTERN AFRICAN FAMINE CRISIS We must surely have seen the TV accounts of the devastation caused by the famine in Eastern Africa, where **13 million people, including about 2 million children are suffering from a critical shortage of food, leading to many deaths...**The pictures are horrifying!! There is now a national Disaster Emergency Committee campaign to raise funds and it has been agreed at Parish Council on Wednesday that we take a second collection **NEXT** weekend, the proceeds from which will be doubled from our Charity Fund and be sent to CAFOD. Please be generous, (as we usually are in these devastating circumstances)

CAN YOU RE-HOME A CAT? Sadly, Sue Sabin is unable to take her much loved cat, Shadow, with her when she moves home at Easter and so needs to find a new home. Please see the poster in the church porch for more details.

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

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". All are welcome to this, the last of our Lent lectures this year.

LENT LUNCHESES 2017 Every Saturday in Lent from 12.30 to 2.00pm, one of the churches in Epping will offer light lunch of soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee. A **donation of £3.00 is suggested for Christian Aid.** Everyone is very welcome and please bring your friends. This week's dates are: **Saturday 25th March. St John's Church, Epping. Every Tuesday in Lent.** St Mary's Church, Theydon Bois.

OUR LENT LUNCH will be on Saturday 1st April: We need volunteers to wait on tables and donations of soup and homemade bread will be much appreciated. If you can help in any way please telephone Mary on 574719. Please come and join us for the lunch with your family and friends. Your support is always welcome.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST For those who attended the very moving and inspiring **Wintershall** years ago, we are organising another **not-to-be-missed parish outing.** For those who have not yet seen this incredible production of The Life of Christ, it is a play performed at a number of settings in a large country estate near Guildford, with live animals and very realistic props, by the same company that performs the Passion Play in Trafalgar Square on Good Fridays. We propose to run a **35-seater coach on Thursday 22nd June 2017** at an inclusive cost of £25 per adult (£2 reduction for senior citizens. £10 for under 18's). Tickets sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Please **contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) for more details.**

THE JOY OF LOVE (AMORIS LAETITIA): Pope Francis has spoken of the exultation of love in the family. This was the subject of Fr Alban McCoy's Lent lecture last Tuesday. This publication is on sale at the back of the church.

CARDBOARD BOXES Fr John wants to get rid of very good cardboard boxes which he has had from moving here. It would be helpful if people could take and use them rather than putting them into the recycle.

WEEKDAY MASS TIME: Bishop Alan asked priests to consider a regular evening Mass on weekdays, for people not be 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 you think on the times of weekday Masses, possibly later than 9am on some or all weekdays. Please indicate in this tear off slip the time you would **actually attend** a weekday Mass on Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri. and return to the Parish Office. **Fr John**

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
A.M.				
P.M.				