

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 1st April to 9th April 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT A 2nd April 2017

SATURDAY 1 st	6.00 pm	Fr James Hawes RIP
SUNDAY	9.00 am	Helen Cummins RIP (Lavin)
2 nd April 2017	11.00 am	People of our Parish
	12.15pm	Baptism of Amelia Crighton
	6.00pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
MONDAY 3 rd	9.00 am	Tommy Callaghan RIP Anniv (Callaghan)
TUESDAY 4 th	9.00 am	Canon C Loughran RIP Anniv (McAdam)
WEDNESDAY 5 th	9.00 am	Angela Beard RIP (Beard)
THURSDAY 6 th	9.00 am	Michael Carty RIP Recently (Darcy)
FRIDAY 7 th	9.00 am	Veronica Beard RIP (Beard)
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm	The Mass will be offered for our Catechists & Children's Liturgy Group

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD Year A 9th April 2017

SATURDAY 8 th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
SUNDAY 9 th	9.00am	John Clohessy RIP (Clohessy)
April 2017	11.00am	Paddy Dear RIP Anniv (Schofield)
	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 5 are from Week 1 of The Breviary
ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
MONDAY to FRIDAY after 9am weekday Mass for one hour

PARISH MASS BOOK: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

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

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 £385.00, Offertory Loose Plate £193.64, CAFOD £250.00, East African Famine Appeal £1086.92, Standing Orders £700. Thank you for your generous offerings.

COUNTERS NEEDED We need more people to help count our Offertory Collections on a rota with our existing team of counters. It does not take very long but we need to augment the existing team, especially as we are about to introduce Offertory collection bags, which will give greater security and help protect people's offerings.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516
Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173
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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
Hall Bookings: e-mail: arnold_verrall@email.com
Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or
01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

2nd April 2017

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We all know the story of Lazarus and how he was brought back to life by Jesus. This dramatic event in Jesus' ministry, emphasises for us both the power of the Holy Spirit and God's wish for us to spend eternal life with him.

Jesus is drawing close to his death and has carried out many miracles, but the death of his friend Lazarus is used to emphasise the power and authority he had been given by God. By not going to see Lazarus whilst he was ill, but waiting until he had died, a seemingly impossible task confronted Jesus. But he simply prayed out loud to God and, for the benefit of the onlookers, praised God and called Lazarus from the tomb, to the amazement of everyone present. All must have been mystified, but Jesus explained that if people would only believe that he was authorised by God to carry out this miracle, they could all enjoy the glory of God. Shortly afterwards, Jesus talked of his impending death and how he will draw all people to heaven for eternity – and that includes all of us who do our level best to lead a life which is wholly pleasing to God.

The gift of the Holy Spirit, granted to us in Baptism enables us to be responsible Christians, but our freedom to use this gift, or to ignore it, can mislead many of us. What is required is a sincere and generous cooperation with God's will. Unfortunately, we often lose our way, particularly when life's burdens become heavy. We need to remember that whether or not we shall share eternal life with God in heaven is our personal choice. We believe, that the rewards for loving and pleasing God will be a reflection of the commitment we make to him.

God Bless.

Deacon Duncan

EASTERN AFRICAN FAMINE CRISIS: The sum of **£1186.92**, which will be matched by the parish, was raised last weekend. Many thanks for your generosity. If people still wish to make contributions to the Eastern African Famine Appeal they can do so by using the special donation envelopes in the church.

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 4th April at 8.00pm.

ROTAS: Please can all Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers collect a copy of the new rota available this weekend.

ALL ALTAR SERVERS, please let Peter Day, MC, know of your availability to serve in Holy Week & Easter. There is much to be done and we need everyone's help.

GOOD FRIDAY CAR PARKING: Parishioners are reminded that **car parking on Church Hill is restricted to Residents and permit holders.** Parking enforcement officers will be on duty during our Good Friday afternoon service.

LENT LUNCHESES 2017 Every Saturday in Lent from 12.30 to 2.00pm, one of the Epping churches will offer light lunch of soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee. A **£3.00 donation is suggested for Christian Aid.** Everyone is welcome and please bring your friends. **Every Tuesday in Lent.** St Mary's Church, Theydon Bois. The final Lent Lunch will be on **Saturday 8th April at Epping Green Chapel.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: The next preparation session for the children will be in our Parish Hall on Tuesday next, 25th April, at 5.45pm.

DIocese OF BRENTWOOD CENTENARY BANNER is on display in Church, with an explanation of symbols and patron saints of our Brentwood Diocese.

ECCA CHOIR CONCERT: ECCA will sing Handel's Messiah part 2 on Good Friday at 7.30pm in St. John's Church, Epping. Admission is free but a programme costs £2.50 to offset expenses. A retiring collection will be made for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. We have professional soloists/musicians, and we would really appreciate your support. This is a very appropriate way to end Good Friday.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The boxes of offertory envelopes for 2017/18 are now available, personally addressed, in the church porch. Please collect your box. If you would like to join our Gift Aid Scheme contact Margaret Lechley in the parish office.

DIocesan PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: To celebrate the establishment of the Diocese of Brentwood, on 20th July 1917 there will be a Centenary Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan Williams, to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, on **Saturday 22nd July.** We are asked to have at least one coach from every parish in the diocese and the pilgrimage Mass will be celebrated at Walsingham at 3pm. There will be no Saturday evening Masses celebrated in the parishes of the diocese on that Saturday evening. Details of the coach arrangements will be announced shortly.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL	7.00PM	Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral
MAUNDY THURSDAY	8.00PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper. The church will be open until midnight for people to pray at the Altar of Repose
THURSDAY 13th APRIL		Children's Stations of the Cross
GOOD FRIDAY 14 APRIL	9.30AM	Walk of Witness starts at the Shell Petrol Station and finishes on the Green in front of our church, with refreshments in our Hall.
	11.00AM	Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion.
	3.00PM	EASTER VIGIL
SATURDAY 15th APRIL	8.00PM	Mass of the Resurrection of Our Lord
EASTER SUNDAY	9.00 AM	Mass of the Resurrection of Our Lord
16th APRIL	11.00 AM	Mass of the Resurrection of Our Lord

THE LIFE OF CHRIST: WE MUST PURCHASE TICKETS FROM WINTERSHALL THIS WEEK, so please book your seats urgently.

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.**

AN OPPORTUNITY IN LENT TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR: On Saturday morning come to Calvary and 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 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 quietly join the vigil for as short or long a time as you wish. For details please call Rose on 079606 50517 or Paul 0808 252 9459

Diocesan Centenary Exhibition, Cathedral House Conference Room, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AT: April-June 2017. Opening Times: Saturday 10am-5pm (except Holy Saturday 15 April); Sunday 9am-1pm & 3pm-8pm. Other times by arrangement: archives@dioceseofbrentwood.org 01277 265238.

Sainsbury's Active Children – Schools Vouchers: Parishioners who have vouchers, and would like to donate them to St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, please place them in an envelope, and put them into the parish mail system at the back of the church addressed to Peter Pleydell.