

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - EASTER WEEK 15th to 23rd April 2017

EASTER VIGIL & EASTER SUNDAY - THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD A

SATURDAY 15th 8.00 pm The Easter Vigil – The People of our Parish
EASTER SUNDAY 9.00 am Sr Susan's intentions (Dearman)
16th April 2017 11.00 am Rosemary Barden RIP
MONDAY 17th 10.00 am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
TUESDAY 18th 9.00 am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
WEDNESDAY 19th 9.00 am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
THURSDAY 20th 9.00pm Service of the Word & Holy Communion
FRIDAY 21st 9.00pm Veronica Beard RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

SATURDAY 22nd 6.00pm Mary Canny RIP (Canny)
EASTER SUNDAY 9.00am The People of our Parish
23rd April 2017 11.00am Des Toohey RIP Anniv. (Toohey)
12.15pm Rose Abel - Baptism

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturday 11am to 12 noon & 5.15pm and by request
MORNING PRAYER is offered at 8.45am, before weekday Masses in Church
DIVINE OFFICE Psalms in Easter Week are from Sunday Week 1 of Breviary
ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
MONDAY to WEDNESDAY after 9am weekday Masses for one hour.

PARISH MASS BOOK: EASTER SUNDAY A Sunday 16th April 2016

Page 7 The Beginning of Mass **Page 74** Preface of the Paschal Mystery
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Page 14 Preparation of Gifts **Page 255** Post Communion Prayer

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.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations Rosanna Marcantonio, who has been on our Journey in Faith course on Tuesday evening since last September, and who receives the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. May the Lord bless her and all who are being Confirmed or received into the Church this Easter.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: On Good Friday a collection was taken up at all services to support the Holy Places in Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

OFFERINGS: Offertories: Standing Orders £700, Envelopes £208.00, Loose Plate £223.60, CAFOD £35.07, East African Famine Appeal £60.00.
Thank you for your generous offerings.

EASTER OFFERINGS The Offertory Collection at Easter, in our Diocese, is a personal offering by parishioners to support the priest(s) of their parish.

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***
Hall Bookings: e-mail: arnold_verrall@email.com
**Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or
01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area)**

EASTER SUNDAY – THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD 16 April 2017

My dear People,

“The angel told the women “Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen” (Matt.28:1-10). The Gospels show that the disciples and friends of Jesus were in a state of fear and shock after his arrest, sufferings and death on the Cross. They had not believed his prophesy that he would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. At Easter, we rejoice and profess our faith in this great mystery, that “Christ, has died and Christ is risen”. Christ’s resurrection gives us faith and hope of new life in and with God. When we pray as individuals, or come together as a Christian community, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the dead and we know that he the risen Lord is with us. So too he raises people up to the new life of grace here on earth and gives them promise of eternal life with God in heaven.

The angel told the women at the tomb “Do not be afraid”. That same message of hope is held out for us as we live through the difficulties and anxieties of life, and especially the fear of death. The Gospels show Jesus accompanying his disciples on the road to Emmaus on the day of his resurrection, “but something prevented them from recognising him”. He appeared to Mary Magdalene at the tomb, but she did not recognise him. The Risen Christ is our unseen and silent companion on our journey through life for he is with us “always, even to the end of time”. Our eyes, like the eyes of his friends, are not always open to recognise or see him for it is only with the eyes of faith that we can know or recognise his presence.

When the host and chalice are raised up at Mass, our prayer, should be like that of Thomas, who professed his faith in the risen Christ, having at first refused to believe in the resurrection, “my Lord and my God”.

I thank everyone who has given of their time and talents, so generously, in many ways, for a worthy celebration of the Sacred Mysteries in Holy Week.

May Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour, bless you and your families, and all our visitors, with joy and peace this Easter. Fr John

EASTERN AFRICAN FAMINE CRISIS: People still wishing to contribute to the East African Famine Appeal can do so by using the special donation envelopes or a CAFOD envelope marked **African Famine Appeal** and place it in our **CAFOD Box**.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: The present course for people who wish to understand our faith, support the faith of a family member or become Catholic has now finished and will re-start in September, on Tuesdays at 8.00pm. Anyone interested is most welcome and is invited to contact Fr John to discern the way forward in their faith journey.

ROTAS: Please can all Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers collect a copy of the new rotas now available in the church porch.

DIOCESAN CENTENARY EXHIBITION at Cathedral House Conference Room, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AT: April-June 2017. Opening Times: Saturday 10am-5pm. Sundays 9am-1pm & 3pm-8pm. Other times by arrangement with: archives@dioceseofbrentwood.org or telephone 01277 265238.

This is an excellent and fascinating exhibition and well worth visiting.

DIocese OF BRENTWOOD CENTENARY BOOK for sale £7 It has numerous photos showing the history of our Diocese over the past 100 years. It is very interesting and informative on the formation and growth of our Diocese since 1917.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Bishop Alan's desire for the celebration of the Centenary of the establishment of the Diocese of Brentwood, on 20th July 1917, is that we have a great Centenary Pilgrimage, to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, on **Saturday 22nd July**. He asks each parish to have at least one coach and he will preside at the Centenary Pilgrimage Mass at Walsingham on that day. There will be no Masses in parishes in the Diocese on that Saturday evening. Details of our coach travel arrangements will be announced.

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.

COUNTERS NEEDED We urgently 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 introducing collection bags, which will give greater security and safety in protecting people's offerings.

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.

PARISH REPRESENTATIVE Churches Together Epping & District We need a parish representative(s) to Churches Together in Epping & District. The commitment is to participate in up to 4 meetings per year and report to Parish Council on what is planned and happening with and between churches in the town and district. You need to be a practising Catholic, a regular Mass attender in our parish and have a positive ecumenical outlook. If you are interested, please contact Fr John, Deacon Duncan or Parish Council Chairman Melanie Hollinshead at our Parish Office.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Next Sunday, 23rd of April, is Divine Mercy Sunday. There will be a Day of Devotion at the House of Prayer, at Abbotswick, Wheelers Lane, Navestock Side, CM14 5SH, starting at 10.30am. Mass will be celebrated at 3.30pm and Confession will be available. Refreshments will be provided, but bring a packed lunch. For details, contact Claire Wallis on 01277 658783. All welcome.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES led by Bishop Alan Williams from the 23rd to 28th July. Details and application forms are in the church.

AN OPPORTUNITY IN LENT TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR: On Saturday morning come to Calvary and spend some time at a 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 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

THE LIFE OF CHRIST: WE MUST NOW PURCHASE TICKETS FROM WINTERSHALL: 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**. If have not seen this incredible portrayal of The Life of Christ, it is a performed at a number of settings in a large country estate near Guildford, with live animals and realistic props, by the company that performs the Good Friday Passion Play in Trafalgar Square. We want to run a **16-seater coach on Thursday 22nd June 2017** at an inclusive cost of £25 per adult (£2 reduction for seniors. £10 for under 18's). Tickets sold on first-come-first-served basis. **Contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) for details or if you wish to book**

Sainsbury's Active Children Schools Vouchers: Parishioners with vouchers, who wish to donate them to St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, please put them in an envelope, in the parish mail system in the church addressed to Peter Pleydell.

QUEEN OF HEAVEN (Prayed instead of the Angelus during Easter)

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.