

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 2nd to Sunday 10th September 2017

TWENTYSECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A) 3rd September 2017

SATURDAY 2nd 6.00pm People of our Parish
SUNDAY 3rd 9.00am Doug & Bobby Dew RIP (Anniv)
11.00am In Thanksgiving (Palmer)

MONDAY 4th St Cuthbert, Bishop
9.00am Holy Souls

TUESDAY 5th to There will not be a Mass or a Service in the Church this week
SATURDAY 9th from Tuesday until Saturday evening at 6.00pm. The church
September 2017 will be open for visits and private prayer during the day.

SATURDAY 9th 6.00pm Margaret White RIP Anniv (Lechley)
TWENTYTHIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) EDUCATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY 10th 9.00am Veronica Beard RIP Anniv (Beard)
September 2017 11.00am People of our Parish
2.00pm Bernard George RIP Reception Service

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturdays 11.00am to 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm
DIVINE OFFICE MORNING PRAYER at 8.45am before weekday Mass in Church
BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration after 9am Mass on weekdays.

PARISH MASS BOOK: TWENTYSECOND SUNDAY of Year A 3 September 2017

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WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL Mark Toohey, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Ann Dowd, Rhoda Limebear, Daphne McAdam, Hannah Robinson, Paula Hall, Giovanni Borelli, Roger Minnis, Sean Clohessy, Tony Mullan, James Bullen, Annie Cambell Tweedy and all who are ill at this time.

OFFERINGS: Offertories: Envelopes £256.50, Loose £375.60, Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £30.00, *Thank you for your generosity.*

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of Phoebe Amelia & Freddie Jake Bloxham who have been Baptised in our Church recently. May the Lord bless them and help them to bring up their children in the knowledge and love of God.*

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

Hall Bookings: e-mail: arnold_verrall@email.com

Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or 01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area)

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Times (A)

3rd September 2017

Dear friends,

Jesus said, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:21-27). The first people Jesus called to be his followers were his disciples. A disciple is one who learns from their master, and Jesus chose as his disciples fishermen who had great hearts, but little by way of the formation that comes from and education. The disciples show that they are learning from him and use the words, master, teacher and rabbi in addressing Jesus. For most of their time with the Lord, the mission and work they shared with him brought its own reward and there was great joy and hope for them and for the people.

Now, nearing the end of his work and life, Jesus prepares his disciples for his sufferings and death, which they find it impossible to accept. It is said that we can all welcome rejoice in resurrection but want to ignore or reject crucifixion. Yet, our Lord shows, there is no resurrection for him without first going through his crucifixion with its sufferings and death. Peter becomes a temptation and weakness for our the Lord, instead of being a source of support and encouragement in the fulfilling of his mission and life's through his passion and death.

Jesus gives us an invitation and a challenge to be his disciples. This does involve making sacrifices and choices to follow him as his disciples. Sometime this can be along the difficult and painful way, and at other times it can joyful and hopeful. John Bunyan in his great meditation, "Pilgrim's Progress" illustrates this so well. Sometimes life can seem to be very hard, difficult and painful for some people and families. We think of refugees and exiles, those fleeing from wars and conflicts, famines and natural disasters. In today's readings we see that Jeremiah (Ch.20:7-9), like Jesus, has trodden that path before us. We do have the promise of our Saviour, "Behold I am with you always, to the end of time" (Matthew 28:20).

Thursday last was the first anniversary of my moving here to Epping. Thank you for your welcome, kindness and help during the past year. It is not easy getting to know people, who to turn to and discern what and how to do what is best for the growth of the parish. I apologise for my mistakes and ask for your prayerful support.

May God bless and protect you and your families. Fr John

DECEASED: We pray for all who died recently, especially:

THOMAS HENRY STAUNTON RIP of Theydon Bois, who died on Tuesday, August 8th, at St Francis Hospice, Havering. His Funeral Service was celebrated at The Forest Park Crematorium on at 11.15am on Friday, 1st September. **May he rest in peace.**

BERNARD GEORGE RIP of Buckhurst Hill, who died on Friday, 4th August, at Whipps Cross Hospital. He will be received into our Church on Sunday, 10th September at 2.00pm. The Funeral Service will be celebrated on Monday, 11th, at 12 noon followed by Committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium at 1pm. **May he rest in peace.**

STANLEY HOLDER RIP of Epping, who died on Monday, 28th August, at Queen's Hospital, Romford. He will be received into our Church on Wednesday 14th September, at 4.30pm. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday at 2.00pm, followed by burial at Epping Cemetery. **May he rest in peace.**

RICHARD THORNHILL RIP of Epping, who died at home, on Friday, 18th August. His Funeral Service will be celebrated at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Thursday, 14th September at 12.15am. **May he rest in peace.**

ANGELA MOORE RIP of Waltham Abbey, who died on Friday, 25th August, at Paternoster House, Waltham Abbey. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated in our Church on Thursday, 21st September, at 12 noon, followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May she rest in peace.**

GEORGE ZICHA RIP of Epping, who died on Saturday, 5th August, at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow. Funeral arrangements pending. **May he rest in peace.**

RICHARD HOLLISTER RIP of Theydon Bois who died recently. **May he rest in peace.**

QUIZ NIGHT DIARY DATE: A Parish social event and fundraising Quiz Night will be held in our Parish Hall on **Saturday 30th September 2017**. Please keep the date free in your diaries.

TALKS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH: We will have a series of talks on the Catholic faith for adults who are interested in finding out about our faith, becoming Catholic or who wish to understand our faith and support the practice of their family members. These talks will also be suitable for Catholic adults who may not have been Confirmed or who have not been practising their faith or who wish to renew and rethink their faith. The talks will be held in the Priest's House on Tuesday evenings from 8pm to 9.15pm starting on Tuesday 19th September and will continue until Easter. There is no commitment involved in attending any or all the sessions. We would also welcome some Catholic parishioners who may wish to be involved in the presentations at these talks.

CHURCH CLEANING: On **Wednesday 13th September at 8pm** there will be a meeting to plan the way forward with the parishioners who have very kindly volunteered to carry out the church cleaning on a rota basis. If you have not volunteered you are still welcome to do so by contacting the Parish Office or coming along to the meeting.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: We will have a meeting to discuss this year's Christmas Bazaar in the parish on **Wednesday 4th October at 8pm** in the Priest's House. We hope that all who have been running the Bazaar so successfully over the years will be able to attend the meeting and we also welcome people with new ideas.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2017-18

Parents wishing to prepare their child for First Reconciliation & Holy Communion in 2018 should have completed and submitted an Application Form to the Priest's House. Catholic parents must attend all the parents' sessions, and constantly attend Sunday Mass with their children. Children must attend all the preparation sessions, which will be held on Wednesday evenings at 5.45pm, and Sunday Mass every weekend. **The first session for the parents will be held in our Parish Hall on Tuesday, 12 September at 8.00pm.**

CATECHISTS NEEDED: We need some additional catechists to assist with the preparation of First Holy Communion as we now have a larger number of children. Catechists do not need to be teachers and will be supported and guided in working with children in small groups. Please contact Fr John or Clare Platais on telephone 576552.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - World Youth Day in Panama, January 2019 If you will be in year 12, or aged 17-27, in January 2019, then join the BCYS group going to Costa Rica & Panama with 2 million young people from all over the world, to be with the Pope. This is a "once in a lifetime" experience and an amazing opportunity to discover and celebrate faith in Latin America. Details at www.bcys.net or email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org by 15 September 2017.

ANNUAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2017: This year's Festival will be a very special occasion celebrating the Centenary of our Diocese. It will be in Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday, 21st October, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. with the Festival Thanksgiving Service at 4 p.m. We invite all singers to join us for a memorable and enjoyable day of singing finishing with our Thanksgiving Service. The music this year has been specially chosen and is included in a booklet which has been printed for us by the Royal School of Church Music. Copies of the booklet £5 and information from shirleytimmins@btinternet.com.

BRIGHT & LIGHT PARTY: Louise Want will be coordinating this year's Bright and Light Party (the churches' alternative to Halloween for children up to 11 years old). She is now looking to put together a team to organise it: **The team will meet on Monday 11th Sept @ 7.30pm**. Venue to be confirmed. Please ask members of your congregations to prayerfully consider being a part of this team, and to get in touch with Louise if they can make the meeting (louise.want@outlook.com).