

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th September 2017

23rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) 10th September 2017 EDUCATION SUNDAY

SATURDAY 9th September 2017
6.00pm Margaret White RIP Anniv. (Lechley)
SUNDAY 10th September 2017
9.00am Veronica Beard RIP Anniv. (Beard)
11.00am The People of our Parish
2.00pm Bernard George RIP Reception into Church

Monday 11th
The Most Holy Name of Mary, Mother of Jesus
9.15am Chapter of Canons Mass at Brentwood Cathedral
9.00am Service of the Word and Holy Communion
12 noon Bernard George RIP - Funeral Service

Tuesday 12th
9.00am Denis Murrhy RIP Recent. (Flanagan)

Wednesday, 13th
St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor
9.00am Raphaeline McEwan RIP (Sr Susan)
4.30pm Reception of Stanley Holder RIP into Church

Thursday, 14th
The Exaltation (Triumph) of the Holy Cross of Christ
2.00pm Stanley Holder RIP Requiem Mass

Friday, 15th
Our Lady of Sorrows
9.00am John Juliffe RIP Recent. (Rimmer)

SATURDAY 16th September 2017
6.00pm People of the Parish
TWENTYFOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Home Mission Sunday
SUNDAY 17th September 2017
9.00am James Hayes RIP Anniv. (Coyne)
11.00am Frances Sheehy RIP Recent. (Clohessy)

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: TWENTYTHIRD SUNDAY of Year A 10 September 2017

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

OFFERINGS: Offertories: Envelopes £170.00, Loose £320.99, Standing Orders £700
Thank you for your generosity.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

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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)

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 10th September 2017

Dear friends,

Jesus said, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone" Matthew 18:15-20). Relationships between people involve not only a human but divine dimension, for they involve God who is father of all. We are all one people under God, sharing a common humanity, which unites us to one another and makes us accountable to Him. God is a good parent who wants his children to have a sense of responsibility for one another, and be united in love. Cain, a self-centred jealous man who killed his brother, Abel was the first person to question this. He denied his crime and asked God: "Am I my brother's keeper"(Genesis 4:9).

In this section of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus focuses on the difficulties people have in relationships, and gives a method for sorting problems. First, people should ask for God's help and meet face to face and try to sort out their problems together. If they do not succeed in resolving the issues they should then take one or two others along to mediate reconciliation, and if that does not succeed then get community support so that good relationships and harmony in the family in society is restored.

This process for making peace and restoring good relationships, given to us by Christ, is full of hope and contrary to the thinking of our time. Today many see the breakdown of relationships, personal failings and sins with a kind of hopelessness. People lacking in hope, instead of trying with the help of God and others to effect reconciliation and restore relationships, give up. Jesus teaches us to seek out the lost and wounded, bring back the strayed, reconcile with those with whom we have a forgiveness problem, pray for those who hurt us, forgive countless times and love one another. This is central to the mission Christ gives to his Church and one of the reasons the Gospel should be preached in every time and place. God wants us to make this a key to the way we deal with problems and difficulties in relationships - within and outside our families. By choosing to invoke God's help and follow his Way, we should be able to transform our own life and the lives of others. People will be able to forgive and reconcile, hurts will be taken away, ruptures in families will be healed, and relationships will be renewed and preserved.

May the Lord bless us with the grace to offer and receive forgiveness. Fr John

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

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.**

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 12.15pm. **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, 13th September, at 4.30pm. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, 14th, at 2.00pm, followed by interment at Epping Cemetery. **May he rest in peace.**

ANGELA MOORE RIP who died on Friday, 25th August, at Paternoster House, Waltham Abbey. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated in our Church at 12 noon, on Thursday, 21st September, 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.**

PARISH AGM (formerly PARISH ASSEMBLY): All parishioners are warmly invited to the Parish AGM (formerly known as the Parish Assembly), **at 8pm in our Hall on Tuesday 3rd October.** We will review the past parish year and help to plan the coming year. Group representatives please send your reports to the Parish Secretary no later than 22nd September please. If you would like to be considered as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, please speak to Fr John.

LINK WITH OUR TWINNED PARISH: If you would like to be the representative of our parish with our twinned parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa, then please see Fr John.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY: The SVP need new members. Anyone interested should please speak to Fr John, Paul Ives or any of our other parish SVP members.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE - World Youth Day, Panama, January 2019 If you will be in year 12, or aged 17-27, in January 2019, then join the BCYS group travelling to Costa Rica and Panama with 2 million young people from all over the world, with the Pope. This is truly 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 15th September 2017.

QUIZ NIGHT DIARY DATE: A Parish fundraising Quiz Night will be held in our Parish Hall on **Saturday 30th September 2017.** Please see the enclosed flyer and notice in the church porch.

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Open Evening Wednesday 20th September 2017. Please see details on noticeboard in church porch.

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 parents' sessions, and attend Sunday Mass constantly with their children. Children must attend all the preparation sessions, on Wednesday evenings at 5.45pm and Sunday Mass every weekend. **The first parents meeting will be in our Parish Hall at 8pm on Tuesday, 12 September.**

CATECHISTS NEEDED: We need additional catechists to assist with First Holy Communion preparation 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 small groups of children. Please contact Fr John or Clare Platais on telephone 576552.

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. The talks will be suitable for Catholic adults who may not have been Confirmed or who have not been practising their faith or wish to renew and rethink their faith. **The talks will be held in the Priest's House on Tuesdays from 8pm to 9.15pm starting on Tuesday 19th September,** and continue until Easter. There is no commitment involved in attending any or all sessions. We would welcome Catholic parishioners who may wish to be involved in the presentations.

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

MISSIO VACANCY: three months' contract working for Missio, the Catholic Church's official charity for overseas mission. The role is as a Fundraising Administrator, based at Missio's offices in Victoria in London. Closing date is Friday 15th September. For a job description and further information please contact recruitment@missio.org.uk, or visit www.missio.org.uk.

ANNUAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2017: This year's Festival will celebrate the Centenary of our Diocese, at Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday, 21 October, 10 am to 5pm, with a Festival Thanksgiving Service at 4 pm. We invite all singers to join us for a memorable day of singing and a Thanksgiving Service. Details from shirleytimmins@btinternet.com

CALLING MARRIED COUPLES! Could you give 2 hours once to change the lives of 20 students? The Explore project brings together married couples with young people to have an open conversation about the realities of both marriage and family life. This exciting project is running in Catholic schools in your area and this is an invaluable and also fun way for you and your spouse to give back to your local community. Please e-mail anna.mccormick@dioceseofbrentwood.org or call 07972438179 if you would like to get involved or hear more.