

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 23 September - Sunday 1 October 17

25th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) 24th September 2017

SATURDAY 23rd 6.00pm Josie O'Neill RIP Recent. (Lechley)

SUNDAY 24th 9.00am Mary Cooney RIP Anniv (Keeling)

September 2017 11.00am The People of our Parish

There will not be a Mass or a Service in the Church this week from Monday until Saturday evening at 6.00pm. The church will be open for visits and private prayer during the day.

SATURDAY 30th 6.00pm Ints of Sylvia, Doug & Family (Murray)

TWENTYSIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SUNDAY 1st 9.00am People of our Parish

October 2017 11.00am Rodolfo Laxamaha RIP (Kelly)

**SACRAMENT of PENANCE will not be available this Saturday
DIVINE OFFICE MORNING PRAYER at 8.45am before weekday Mass in Church
BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration after 9am Mass on weekdays.**

PARISH MASS BOOK: TWENTYFIFTH SUNDAY of Year A 24th September 2017

Page 7 The Beginning of Mass Page 67 Preface 4 The History of Salvation

Page 131 Collect & Readings Page 27 Eucharistic Prayer 3

Page 11 The Nicene Creed Page 56 The Communion Rite

Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 134 Post Communion Prayer

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 £205.30, Loose £286.37, Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £10.34. Thank you for your generosity.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: The Brentwood Diocesan Youth Centre is transferring from Canvey Island to Abbotswick near Stock near Brentwood. Funding is required for the alterations and there will be a retiring collection next weekend to support this important new initiative in the diocese. Please take a leaflet from the ushers after Mass.

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)

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

24th September 2017

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus gives us the parable of the workers in the vineyard. Our initial reaction is that the workers who were hired first have a just grievance for they worked hard all day long, but received the same wages as those who were hired at the end of the day. It might seem that an injustice has been done.

This parable is about the kingdom of heaven not labour relations. God, the Divine Master, calls people into his vineyard. The workers hired at daybreak represent the Jewish people, the first to be called by God to be his people; and the workers hired at the end of the day signifies the Gentiles, our predecessors in faith, who were called much later, to be part of the new people of God, in the Church. Those who were *first* to receive the call have no grounds for complaining when God rewards them *last* and gives those who had laboured least the same reward. The first called and the last called are equally recipients of a divine gift, grace or vocation, in which God treats all in his vineyard or kingdom, equally.

The call to follow Christ with its reward of eternal life, is gift of God or grace. We have no right to it in human terms, for we have not earned it. It is given through Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. So whether you are called to follow Christ as a youth, or adult or in the final moments of life, the reward of eternal life is the same for all. What is paramount in this parable is God's generosity. In his love he desires people to enter his vineyard and receive the reward of eternal life. Isaiah 55:6-9 is the foundation of this teaching for God says "As the heavens are high above the earth, so are my ways above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts".

Most of us are very private about our health - I am especially so! Last week I spent four days in the Princess Alexandra Hospital being treated for cellulitis. Having come home on Sunday evening I am obliged to keep my feet up for about two weeks. Our thanks to Deacon Duncan for celebrating Services during the week and to Fr Boguslav and especially Fr Kieran Dodd, for celebrating last weekend's and the weekday Masses. Thank you Fr Stewart Foster for celebrating this Sunday's Masses. I very much regret that we cannot have Mass in church during this week as there is no priest available to celebrate for us. ***May God bless you. Fr John***

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

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) and NEW PARISH COUNCIL

CONSTITUTION: All parishioners are warmly invited to the Parish AGM (formerly known as the Parish Assembly), at 8pm in the Hall on Tuesday 3rd October. We will review the past parish year and help to plan the coming year. If you would like to be considered as a member of the Pastoral Parish Council, please speak to Fr John or Deacon Duncan. There is to be a new Constitution for the Parish Council for which approval will be sought at the Parish AGM. There are copies of the draft Constitution in the porch. Please take one and send any comments to parishcouncil@eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk, or leave a message in the porch 'letterbox' for Melanie Hollinshead, the outgoing Chairman.

Group representatives please send your reports to the Parish Secretary no later than 22nd September.

YOUR ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) NEEDS YOU!

SVP in our Parish needs more members. SVP does a wide variety of charitable work internationally and nationally but in our Parish it is mainly concerned with visiting people, in their homes, residential homes or hospital, in or around Epping, often just for friendship, companionship and sometimes to lend a helping hand. We are thinly spread and need more members to cope properly with our work and especially to be able to do more. If you have an hour or two a week to spare then please talk to Fr John, Paul Ives or another SVP member.

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 and will start shortly 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.

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 Mass of Enrolment will be next **Sunday 4th October at 11am** when prayers of blessing will be offered for the children, their parents and catechists. The children will be presented with their books and the first session for the children will be on **Wednesday 4th October 2017.**

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.

NEWS FROM OUR TWINNED DIOCESE OF DUNDEE, SOUTH AFRICA:

On **Friday 29th September at 1.30pm** at Brentwood Cathedral Hall Fr Gerry Gostling invites you to come and enjoy tea and cakes whilst hearing the latest news from our twinned parish. Please see notice in church porch for details.

Visitation of the World Apostolate of Fatima National Statue and Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco to Harlow on 14/15 October:

The visitation begins with Mass celebrated by the Bishop in the parish church of Our Lady of Fatima, Harlow at 2p.m. on Saturday 14 October. The Statue and Relics are being taken to all dioceses as part of the celebration of the centenary of the appearances of Our Lady at Fatima. Parishioners are encouraged to join in this special occasion.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY: The Harvest Family Fast collection will be taken at all Masses on 7th/8th October. Envelopes will be distributed next weekend.

STUDY DAY AT CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST GIDEA PARK:

The next study day at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, will be led by Mgr David Manson, former Vicar General of the Diocese of Brentwood and expert in Liturgy. He will take as his topic 'The Significance of Sunday', and will explain the contents of Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini* (The Day of the Lord). The study day will take place on **Saturday 28th October**, with coffee available from 10.30 and ending at 3 p.m. Please make your booking in the usual way by email to gpstudydays@gmail.com There is no charge for the days. You are invited to bring a packed lunch.

QUIZ NIGHT DIARY DATE: A Parish fundraising Quiz Night will be held in our Parish Hall next **Saturday 30th September 2017.** Doors open at 7.30pm. Quiz starts at 8pm. £5 per person; under 18's free. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

CHURCH CLEANING: On Wednesday 13th September a very useful meeting was held to discuss the future cleaning of the church and establish a rota of volunteers. If you volunteered but were unable to attend the meeting then please do not worry as our parish secretary will be in touch with you. If you have not volunteered you are welcome to do so by contacting the Parish Office.

JUMBLE SALE: We will have parish Jumble Sale in our Hall on Saturday 28th October. If you have a large number of items please contact Janet on 01992 571128 so that they can be stored in the shed.

VACANCIES: Please see church porch noticeboard for various advertised available vacancies.