

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 30 December - Sunday 7 January 18

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (Year B)

SATURDAY 30th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
SUNDAY 31st	9.00am	James Hayes RIP (Coyne)
December 2017	11.00am	Victoria Joseph & Joseph Sussai RIP Anniv (Patten)
Monday 1st	MARY MOTHER OF GOD (The Octave of Christmas)	
January 2018	10.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 2nd	9.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Wednesday 3rd	9.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 4th	9.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Friday 5th	9.00am	Veronica Beard RIP (Beard)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY 6th	6.00pm	Terry Nuttall RIP (Recently)
SUNDAY 7th	9.00am	Paul Harding RIP (Kelly)
	11.00am	People of our Parish
	12.15pm	Baptism of George Alfred Kavanagh

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays 11am – 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm
MORNING PRAYER of THE DIVINE OFFICE 15 minutes before weekday Mass
BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after weekday Mass

PARISH MASS BOOK: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph B 31 Dec.2017

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PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL Mark Toohey, Paula Hall, Ann Dowd, Hilda Silver, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Hannah Robinson, Rhoda Limebear, Daphne McAdam, Giovanni Borelli, Roger Minnis, Sean Clohessy, Tony Mullan, James Bullen, Buddy McGuinness, Fr Martin Knott, Fr Tom Jordan, and all who are ill at this time.

Catholics who are ill at home or in hospital need the prayerful support of our people and the Church's ministry. Please let Fr John know if a parishioner, yourself or your relative is ill so they can be visited and receive the Sacraments at home or in hospital.

OFFERINGS for 4th Sunday of Advent: 24 DECEMBER 2017 Offertories: £736.00, Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £81.25 *Thank you for your generosity.*

CRIB OFFERINGS go to the **Brentwood Catholic Children's Society** to support their work with children and families in need help. Please pray for the children and families.

THE GATE OF THE YEAR - 'God Knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

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Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 234092

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)

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (B) 31 December 2017

Dear Parishioners,

“The child, Jesus, grew to maturity and God’s favour was with him” (Luke 2:22-40). On the Sunday after celebrating at Christmas the birth of Jesus, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Life changes for a couple when their child is born and there is a new a triangle of relationship. We see this in the life of Mary and Joseph and how their life, work and thinking centred on the child Jesus. They bring their child to the Temple to present him to the Lord and they make a sacrifice to God to receive him back into their care. They flee into Egypt when the life of their child is in danger from the megalomaniac king, Herod. When it is safe, they return to their home in Nazareth, where they bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God. When he was twelve years old their child was lost and missing for three days, spending it the temple with the doctors and learned men.

Though these things happened 2.000 years ago, they are the experiences of many parents in our own time. There great joys and worries for parents who, like Mary and Joseph, love and treasure their children. Nowadays, various communications media present new and unexpected dangers for children, often robbing them of the innocence and simplicity of childhood. Yet the model for families shown by the love, care and relationships in the Holy Family is still valid today. Parents being united, even in great difficulties, and striving to do what is right and best for their children follow the example of Mary and Joseph. Parents listening to the Word of God, acting on it, praying with and for their children are following their example. Shakespeare showed a father praying a blessing on his son - which comes straight from the Bible. Mothers with a natural love for their children, reflect God’s love for every child. Each of us is made with the same humanity and divine nature that was given to Jesus. Today we see him as the centre of love in the Holy Family, and he calls us and the whole human family “to love one another as I have loved you”.

We thank everyone who helped with the celebrations for Advent and Christmas in our parish. I am especially grateful for the very generous Christmas offerings, and the many Christmas greetings, gifts, and prayerful support over the past year.

May God bless you and your families with a very happy New Year. Fr John

DECEASED: We pray for the souls of our parishioners who died recently:

BEATRICE WEBBER who died on **Monday, 11 December**. She will be received into our Church at **11am on Tuesday, 11 January**, for the celebration of her Funeral Service, to be followed by Committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May she rest in peace.**

EILEEN McNERNEY who died on **Tuesday, 19 December**. She will be received into our Church at **4.30pm on Thursday 11 January**. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 12th at 10.45am**, to be followed by committal at Bentley Crematorium, Ongar Road, Brentwood. **May she rest in peace.**

JOHN McNERNEY who died on **Tuesday, 26 December**. He will be received into our Church for the celebration of Requiem Mass at **12.30pm on Thursday, 11 January**, to be followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May he rest in peace.**

We offer our sympathy and prayers for their families and the repose of their souls. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them at this time.

TALKS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH Adults wishing to find out about the Catholic faith, become Catholic or wanting to understand our faith or support the faith of family members are invited to a series of talks in the Priest's House. These are suitable for adults who may not have been Confirmed or not been practising their faith but wish to renew and rethink it. There is no commitment involved in attending any or all sessions and we will welcome anyone interested. Please contact Fr John at The Priest's House.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE at ABBOTSWICK - Open afternoon. Come on **Saturday 13 January** between **12noon and 4pm** to see the newly refurbished house and new chapel. There will be refreshments in the dining room, tours of the house and peaceful prayer in the chapel, with Adoration from **2.30 – 3.30pm**. Everyone is welcome. Information on the project: to donate, visit www.bcys.net/abbotswick The address is Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Nr Brentwood CM14 5SH. It is less than 40 minutes from most of East London and Essex. Come and see!

UNDERSTANDING THE CREED On **Wednesdays 24 & 31 January from 7 pm to 8.30 pm**. Fr Adrian Graffy will explore the Nicene Creed recited at Sunday Mass. These 'Gidea Park Faith Evenings' will take place in the hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church 1. (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission is free.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT about RELIGIOUS LIFE? The Congregation of Jesus will host a discernment weekend, from **9 -11 February 2018**, at the Bar Convent, York, for women considering religious life. It will offers guidance on discerning a vocation and congregations to suit. It is open to women of any age - there is no charge - but you can make a donation. If you are interested, contact us via vocations@congregatiojesu.org.uk, so we can make sure the weekend is appropriate for you, and ensure a room is available.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH Churches Together in Epping & District wish to thank Fr. John for welcoming all our guests on Christmas Day & the Catholic Community for their amazing generosity. The wonderful drivers, gifts, flower arrangements, Christmas puddings & huge delicious cake, were deeply appreciated, contributing to such a very peaceful and happy day. *Many thanks to you all. I wish you a Peaceful and Happy New Year. Mary Morgan.*

PARISH CONCERT/SOCIAL NIGHT with the ELEVATORS BAND with very talented parishioners, Sheila & Steve Earl, on **Saturday 20 January**. Doors open **7.15pm for 8pm** start. Tickets £7 & £3 for under 16s. Dance the night away to classics by Bowie, Blondie, the Beatles, Bryan Adams & many more. Please bring your own food & drinks. Details of tickets later. **All proceeds go to the parish.**

IT'S GALLOPING TOWARDS YOU!!  Everyone is invited to our exciting parish **RACE NIGHT on Saturday 10 February 2018**. More details in the New Year, but **KEEP THE DATE FREE**. Why not **become a Horse Owner @ £5 each**, (there's a prize for the winning horse owner in each race). **Contact Teresa Cullen, Peter Day, Margo Flack, Norah Poole, John Ryan, or Dorothy Whitehouse, or phone 01992 577173** to lasso your horse and give it a name.

ECCA CONCERT: at **St John's Church, Epping, on Saturday 20 January, at 7.30pm**. They will sing: "Mozart's Coronation Mass & Charpentier's "Messe de Minuit" -two lovely Masses There will be some short seasonal pieces. Admission is free but programmes at £2.50 help offset expenses. Interval refreshments are available. Your support would be great. Please see poster for details.

HELP NEEDED AT EPPING FOODBANK If your New Year resolutions include volunteering, Epping Foodbank is looking for additional help. Foodbank sessions are 3pm to 5.30pm on Mondays at The Box in St John's Road, and volunteers can do as many, or as few, sessions as they wish. Full training will be given, and volunteers work in teams, so there is the opportunity to 'ease into' the role. Please contact Melanie Hollinshead 07768 090 345 for more details.

JOB VACANCIES (Full details on noticeboard in Church porch)

BOOKKEEPER (Sage Accounts experience essential) to support Finance Office at Cathedral House, Brentwood. Job description & person specification from: finance-recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org This is part-time job, 14 hours for 2 days, a week. Applications close on 12th January 2018.

THE MEDAILLE TRUST: "Vacancy for Representatives to carry out Medaille Trust work in Brentwood Diocese. Do you want to be part of the Church's fight against Modern Slavery and help raise awareness of Human Trafficking? We are looking for those with good people skills, an ability to make presentations in schools and churches, and sympathy with the charity's aims. It is enjoyable and flexible and people-facing fundraising role. Application packs on website www.medaille-trust.org.uk, or e-mail recruitment@medaille-trust.org.uk."

HE'S BEHIND YOU! Our very own Panto Dame will star again this year in the Woodford Pantomime's Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Sir James Hawkey Hall in Woodford Green. All youngsters and the young at heart who wish to join a fantastic evening on **Saturday 13 January 2018 at 4.30pm**, please contact Maggie Keeling ASAP to reserve seats: maggie@keelingphysio.com or telephone 07718858879. All tickets are £13.50p (+ a small booking fee). Many thanks.