

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**Saturday 15 to Sunday 21 January 2018****SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE**

SATURDAY 13	12.30pm	Baptism of Maxine Igbeta
SATURDAY 13	6.00pm	Teresa Comming RIP (Toohey)
January 2018	9.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 15th	11.00am	Bartlai O'Donnell RIP recently (Darcy)
Tuesday 16th	9.00am	Des Toohey & deceased Toohey family RIP (Toohey)
Wednesday 17th	9.00am	Intentions of Etty Kelly (Darcy)
Thursday 18th	9.00am	St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot
The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18 to 25 January	9.00am	Jane & Eileen Barrett RIP (Toohey)
SATURDAY 21	9.00am	Terence Dowling RIP (Toohey)
SUNDAY 22nd	6.00pm	Intentions of Karen Toohey (Toohey)
January 2018	9.00am	People of our Parish
	11.00am	John Joseph McInerney RIP Recently (Darcy)
	4.00pm	Christian Unity Service at St John's, Epping

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays 11am – 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm**MORNING PRAYER: THE DIVINE OFFICE** 15 minutes before weekday Mass**BLESSED SACRAMENT** Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after weekday Mass**PARISH MASS BOOK: Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (B) 14th January 2018**

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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, Buddy McGuiness, Sean Clohessy, Roger Minnis, James Bullen, Tony Mullan, Fr Martin Knott, Fr Tom Jordan & all who are ill.**Catholics who are ill at home or in hospital need our prayerful support and the Church's ministry. Please let Fr John know if you or your relative or parishioner, is ill so they can be visited and receive the Sacraments at home or in hospital.****OFFERTORY LAST WEEK:** Envelopes; £272.50, Loose: £398.77 Standing Orders; £700, CAFOD £20.00 *Thank you for your generosity.***PEACE SUNDAY THIS SUNDAY** is a Day of Prayer for World Peace. We need to form a Justice & Peace Group in our Parish to develop our awareness & response to needs at home and abroad. Please contact Fr John or Deacon Duncan if you can help.**EUCARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS:** Please take a copy of the new rotas which are in the post box in the church porch.***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****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)****SECOND SUNDAY: ORDINARY TIME B DAY of PRAYER FOR PEACE****THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK****14th January 2018****Does God see us as listeners or speakers?**

In today's First Reading from Samuel, we heard the story of the Lord calling Samuel, who failed, at first, to recognise that God was speaking to him; but he listened again and then responded 'Speak Lord, your servant is listening'. What a powerful message this has for each of us. How often do we pray to the Lord, again and again, for some help or favour that we wish we or someone we know could receive from God? But on the other hand, how often do we pray silently and try to listen to the Lord speaking to us? – Not so often, I suggest. Do we realise that we might be encouraged better to follow God's ways by listening attentively to the thoughts he implants in our conscience during periods of 'silent prayer'. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 39: 'I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me and I said '**Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will**'. Our fervent message to God should always be '**Speak, Lord; your servant is listening**'.

As we reflect upon today's Gospel Reading and the growth of Christianity to 1.5 billion souls since the time of Jesus, we surely cannot fail to be amazed, at the power of Jesus in encouraging his Kingdom on earth to grow. Each of us has been allocated a specific task by God to encourage the growth of his Kingdom by the way in which we lead our lives. It is upon each of us that Jesus depends to uphold good and proper values in life and to encourage others to do the same. We might ask 'what more could I do' or 'am I doing everything the Lord requires of me in the way in which he wants me to spread the word'? A good starting point for such a review would be to go for a few minutes each day to a quiet place and address God with the words: '**Here I am, Lord, Please speak to me, I am listening. What do you wish me to do?**' And then to listen for God's reply.

God bless.

Deacon Duncan

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2018: The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 17th January at 5.45pm** in Church. It is noticeable that some parents were not at the Parents' evening last Tuesday and without apology! There we introduced the second part of the course to prepare the children for their first Holy Communion. It is essential that the children attend all the sessions, and also that Catholic parents bring the children to Sunday Mass every weekend.

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of George Alfred Kavanagh who was Baptised in our Church on Sunday the 7th January 2018. May the Lord bless them and help them to bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.*

MISSIO RED BOXES: It is time to return the proceeds of our collections during the past six months for the Missions. Please hand them in to the sacristy (please do not leave them in the church porch) ensuring that your name is shown clearly on the label.

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.

FLOWER ARRANGERS: We express our gratitude to our excellent Flower Arrangers team led by Suzanne Newbury, Teresa Cullen, Norah Poole, Ann Conroy and Mary Murray for their dedication and imaginative arrangements over many years. Four of the team feel they have to hang up their secateurs after many years' service to our church. We invite all would be flower arrangers who may be interested in forming a new group to contact Fr John at the parish office.

UNDERSTANDING THE CREED On Wednesdays 24 & 31 January, 7 pm to 8.30 pm Fr Adrian Graffy will explore the Nicene Creed recited at Sunday Mass. These talks are held in the Catholic Church Hall, 410 Brentwood Rd, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission is free.

MASS FOR TRAVELLERS at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 24 February at 2.30pm. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate a Mass at Westminster Cathedral for members of the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Communities. For details contact Fr Dan Mason, National Catholic Chaplain for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers on 01277 624891.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – led by Fr Eamonn Power. The Parish of Canvey Island invites you to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land: *In The Footsteps of Christ & the Holy Family from Thursday 10th to 17th May 2018.* It is organised by Anam Cara Travel and costs £1,370, which includes half board in 4* hotels, flights, excursions & gratuities. If interested Contact Cathy on 07885 577 342 **by 31st March*** Last places remaining.*

Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society): the next meeting will be held at the The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood CM14 4EY on **Saturday 27 January at 2.30pm**, when Rev. Dr Ken Carleton will speak on 'Cardinal Pole and the Progress of the Catholic Reformation.' All are welcome.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL: The first formal proposal for the restructuring of our Diocese in the Stewards of the Gospel programme was published in Advent. It is now up for discussion in and amongst parishes. The proposals are challenging and for reaching and parishioners need to look at them to see how they will affect our parishes and Churches for future in our diocese. The full document can be seen at: <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/>

Mass for Deceased Altar Servers at St Vincent de Paul Church, Becontree: **Saturday 10 March 2018 at 11am** (please arrive by 10.30am). Vesting and entrance procession will be from St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Burnside Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2JN). Please bring your alb /cassocks and cottas. Light lunch and refreshments will be provided after Mass. Great opportunity to meet your fellow altar servers in the Diocese. Everyone is welcome. Please reply by 28th February if you wish to attend and if your Parish Priest would like to concelebrate.

PARISH CONCERT/SOCIAL NIGHT with the ELEVATORS BAND with very talented parishioners, Sheila & Steve Earl, next **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. All proceeds go to the parish. Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend or see details on the poster in the church porch.



IT'S STILL GALLOPING TOWARDS YOU!! Everyone is invited to our exciting parish **RACE NIGHT in our Church Hall on Saturday 10 February 2018.** All in aid of our Parish Funds. Tickets @ £5 each will be on sale after all Masses next weekend.

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.

BCCS ANNUAL CHARITY BALL: The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Annual Charity Ball takes place this year at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge on **Saturday 10 March.** Tickets cost £55 per person, which includes a drinks reception and three course dinner along with a full evening of entertainment. Guests will be seated on tables of 12, making it the perfect opportunity to get together with friends, family or colleagues. Please contact Julie on telephone: 01268 784544/07912277413/jabbott@bccs.org.uk.

FOR SALE: Two full size table tennis tables complete with nets & bats. We will sell singularly. No reasonable offer refused, but buyer must collect. Proceeds go to parish funds. Please contact Arnold Verrall for details – 07764404813 or 01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area).