

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 15 to Sunday 21 January 2018

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity from the 18th to 25th January 2018

SATURDAY 21	6.00pm	Karen Toohey's intentions (Toohey)
SUNDAY 22nd	9.00am	People of our Parish
January 2018	11.00am	John Joseph McInerney RIP - Recently (Darcy)
St John's Church	4.00pm	Christian Unity Service at St John's, Epping
Monday 22nd		St Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon & Martyr
	9.00am	Deacon Pdraig Kelly's intentions (Darcy)
Tuesday 23rd	9.00am	Perry Family's intentions (Whitehouse)
Wednesday 24th		St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor
	9.00am	Donald O'Neill RIP – Recently (O'Neill)
Thursday 25th		The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle of the nations
	9.00am	Bridget McGrath RIP (Anniv)
Friday 26th		St Timothy & St Titus, Bishops
	9.00am	Bishop Patrick Casey RIP (Anniv.1997)
SATURDAY 27	6.00pm	Claire Tubridy's intentions
SUNDAY 28th	9.00am	Peter Mullins RIP (Armstrong)
January 2018	11.00am	The People of our parish
	12.15pm	Baptism of Evie Mae Campion-Morley

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: Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (B) 21st January 2018

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Page 11	The Nicene Creed	Page 43	The Communion Rite
Page 14	Preparation of Gifts	Page 131	Post Communion Prayer

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

Catholics who are ill at home or in hospital need our prayer and 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; £320.50, Loose: £371.44, Standing Orders; £700, CAFOD £48.22 Thank you for your generosity.

PEACE SUNDAY last SUNDAY was 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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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

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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)

THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME B Christian Unity Octave 21 Jan 2018

Dear Friends,

“Jesus said, “The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the good news” (Mk1:14-20). In the Gospels, Jesus goes with urgency from place to place and calls people to repent of their sins and believe his message. He calls Simon and his brother Andrew, and James and his brother John to be his first disciples. They leave their families and life as fishermen to follow Jesus and share his life and work. Christ blesses all who follow him and through them offers grace to all who listen to his Word. There is always sacrifice in following Jesus, since no one can serve two masters. To follow him involves sacrifice and giving up some things or way of live that are an obstacle to growing in love of God and neighbour – this is what we call a conversion or change in our way of life.

God chose Jonah as a messenger to call the people of Nineveh (present day Mosul), to repent of their sins. Jonah did not want to do what God asked, as he was afraid of those people (Jonah 3:1-10). In 597, Pope St Gregory sent St Augustine to preach the Gospel in England. Augustine, like Jonah, was afraid of the people he was sent to convert, for he had heard of their savagery. On reaching France, Augustine was overcome by fear and decided to return to the safety of his monastery in Rome. Gregory, however, instructed him to continue the mission to England, to call people to conversion and repentance. The King and people of Kent, where Augustine landed and set up the first English diocese at Canterbury, welcomed the Gospel and call to conversion and repentance from sin addressed to them. Thus the seeds of the Christian faith were sown in people's lives in the southern part of the country.

The call to repent and turn away from our sins or convert to God is made daily to each one of us. It is a call to grow in holiness of life by living in love of God and neighbour. The Lord calls each of us to be his disciple, that is to “learn from him and to be gentle and humble of heart”. He can call us to change attitudes or ways of life, and put behind us sinful or self-centred ways. We may need to turn to the Lord for grace and forgiveness to enable us forgive others and let go of past hurts, which divide and separate us. On a purely human level it can be difficult or impossible to change our life, but Jesus tells us “that with God all things are possible”.

May God give us the grace to listen to his word and follow his call. Fr John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2018: The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 24 January at 5.45pm** in the hall. It is essential that children attend all the sessions, and that Catholic parents bring the children to Sunday Mass every weekend.

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of Maxine Olanna Igbeta who was Baptised in our Church on Saturday 13 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.

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.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE led by Fr Eamonn Power: Canvey Island Parish invites you to join a pilgrimage *in The Footsteps of Christ & the Holy Family* to the Holy Land: from **10 to 17 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.***

THE BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2018 giving information on our diocese, the parishes and schools is on sale in the Church, at **£2.75**. Please put money in the box marked "Papers & Books".

PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING: at SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, will take place this month on **Sunday 28 January 2017, 7.30pm to 9.00pm**. Everyone welcome.

FLOWER ARRANGERS: Four of our team of flower arrangers are having to retire 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 at epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org or complete and return the slip below. Many thanks.

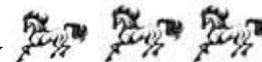
NAME:

CONTACT NUMBER:

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL We will have meetings for parishioners on **Tuesday 30 January and Wednesday 7 February** at 8pm to think about and make responses to proposals to restructure our Diocese in the Stewards of the Gospel programme. The proposals are challenging and we need to look at them to see how they will affect our parish(es) and Churches in the future. You can see the document

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/>

PARISH RACE NIGHT-SATURDAY 20th FEBRUARY



Everyone is invited to our parish **RACE NIGHT in the Church Hall**, to raise Parish Funds. **Tickets @ £5 each** will be on sale after Masses, or can be obtained from Teresa Cullen, Peter Day, Margo Flack, Norah Poole, John Ryan or Dorothy Whitehouse, or telephone Deacon Duncan on 01992 577173. An exciting evening's entertainment is planned.

Come and shout your horses home!!

MISSO VACANCY: The Catholic Church's official charity for overseas mission has a freelance vacancy to be engaged on a Casual Contract for a Proofreader to work with our supportive fundraising team. The role requires someone with good proofreading and copy-editing skills to work on a variety of Missio's publications and educational resources in MS Word and Adobe formats. Candidates should contact Richard Hopper, recruitment@missio.org.uk 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU Telephone: 020 7821 9755 for a Job Description. **Closing date 26 January 2018**. For further information please visit www.missio.org.uk or contact: recruitment@missio.org.uk

VACANCY FINANCE OFFICE BRENTWOOD: HR/Operations Officer (Payroll experience essential) required to support the Finance Office at Cathedral House, Brentwood. The role is part-time, working three days a week (21 hours). If you – or any of your family or friends – are interested in this role, please first contact finance-recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org for a copy of the job description and person specification. You should then send in your CV, with a covering letter demonstrating how your experience and skills match the essential requirements and attributes of the role as per the job description and person specification. **Closing date for CVs/applications is Friday February 2018. Interviews week commencing 12 February 2018.**

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).

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS LONDON: This year some new walks in Southwark and the West End will be explored. Please see poster in church porch for details.