

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th January 2018

Saturday, 3rd February Feast of St Blaise & Blessing of throats after 6pm Mass

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 4th February 2018

SATURDAY 3rd 6.00pm Helven Crouch RIP Anniv (Crouch)

SUNDAY 4th 9.00am People of our Parish

February 2018 11.00am Giuseppina Divizio RIP Recently (Kyrou)

Monday 5th St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Tuesday 6th St Paul Mike & Companions, Martyrs

9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Wednesday 7th 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Thursday 8th Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking & those combatting it

9.00am Terence Edward Smith RIP St Josephine Bakita

10.00am Funeral Service of Terence Smith RIP at Parndon Wood

Friday 9th 9.00am Private Intention

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

SATURDAY 10th 6.00pm Win Crouch RIP Anniversary (Crouch)

SUNDAY 11th 9.00am Private Intention

11.00am People of the Parish

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: Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B) 28th January 2018

Page 7 The Beginning of Mass Page Eucharistic Prayer (Not in Mass Book)

Page 134 Collect & Readings Page Jesus went about doing good

Page 11 The Nicene Creed Page 43 The Communion Rite

Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 137 Post Communion Prayer

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

OFFERTORY LAST WEEK Envelopes: £424.50, Loose: £334.65, Standing Orders; £700, CAFOD £30.82 Thank you for your generosity.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS: Please take a copy of the new rotas which are in the post box in the church porch.

BAPTISM: Congratulations to the family of Evie Mae Campion-Morley who was Baptised in our Church on Sunday the 28th January 2018. May the Lord bless them and help them to bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.

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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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)

FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME B 4th February 2018

Dear Friends,

“In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there” (Mk. 1:29-39). Mark’s Gospel shows Jesus busy with a mission he had to complete in a short time. In the midst of activity and his need for rest, Jesus went off before the dawn to be alone with God, in prayer. He was empowered by the “Holy Spirit to go about doing good”, through prayer, in communion with his Father. During his mission of preaching and healing, working miracles or casting out of devils, Jesus prayed constantly and told his disciples to pray that they might have the strength to resist temptation. He prayed on the night before he chose his twelve apostles, he offered up his Priestly Prayer at the Last Supper (John Ch.17), and prayed in his agony in the garden, and his last prayer was on the Cross asking his Father to forgive his enemies.

We can be busy and we can preoccupy ourselves with little things and find it hard to tear ourselves away from what we are doing to spend time with God in prayer. Sometimes, we do not feel like praying or find it holds no attraction for us. During or after our prayer we may feel no closer to God and wonder what is the point. When we give those times to God we offer our best prayer, for we sacrifice our time and go against our instinctive dispositions. We also know that God blesses all who pray and Jesus prays for us and with us to the Father (Jn.17). Paul tells us the Holy Spirit living within us offers to the Father the prayer we are incapable of making ourselves, and that his prayer is in keeping with the mind of God (Rom.8:26). We need to pray alone in private, and in public with and for people at Mass.

We should pray thanking God each morning for bringing us to a new day and ask him to protect and guide our families and ourselves throughout the day. We can pray the Rosary, pray in the car with children on a school run, or going to work. We need to pray to God in making important decisions, facing difficulties or supporting those who are vulnerable or ill. We should pray at night to thank God for the good things of the day, to beg forgiveness for our sins, and to ask him to protect us and our family during the night. We can best follow the example of Jesus himself by turning to God our Father in prayer, each day.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in his saving grace. Fr John

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS:

TERENCE EDWARD SMITH, who died on 11 January. His Funeral will be celebrated on Thursday, 8 February at 10am at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May he rest in peace.**

NORA KELLY, who died on the 25th January. She will be received into our Church for the celebration of Requiem Mass at 11.00am on Saturday, 17th February, which will be followed by interment at Theydon Bois Cemetery. **May she rest in peace.**

JOSEPHINE STREET, of Theydon Bois who died recently. **May she 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 all who mourn at this time.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2018: The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 7 February** 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.

CAFOD LENT FAST Day will be on **Friday 23 February this year**. Envelopes will be distributed at all Masses the previous weekend. Please give as generously as you can.

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.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL We had our first meeting for parishioners last **Tuesday** and the next one will be on **Wednesday 7 February at 8pm** in the Church Hall, 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 might affect our parish(es) and Church in the future. You can see the document <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/>

MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass for people with Special Needs at **3pm on Saturday 17 February** at Brentwood Cathedral. All are welcome.

COUNTERS NEEDED: We thank our team of Counters of the Offertory Collection, who do it on a rota basis. While a few parishioners who have offered to help, we urgently need some more people to assist count the Offertories on Sundays after Mass. There is a group of experienced counters, and the new counters would be paired with them on the rota. It is not a time consuming or onerous task, so do please offer to help by contacting Fr John

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.

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH FLOWER ARRANGING
COUNTING THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION

NAME:

E-MAIL ADDRESSCONTACT NUMBER



PARISH RACE NIGHT-SATURDAY 10th 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, Dorothy Whitehouse, or Deacon Duncan on 01992 577173. An exciting evening's entertainment is planned. **Come and shout your horses home!!**

LENT STARTS ON ASH WEDNESDAY 14th February. Masses will be at **10.00am and 8.00pm** in our Church. It is a day of **Fast and Abstinence.**

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPPING LENT LUNCHES: Each Saturday during Lent we have the opportunity to visit other churches in our area to enjoy a light lunch (soup, cheese and bread, tea or coffee) between **12.30 and 2pm**. Come along and bring your friends and family. The first lunch will be on **Saturday 17 February** at Life Church, The Box, St John's Road.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES: If your child was baptised in our Parish recently but you have not yet received the Baptismal Certificate these are now available from the Sacristy. Please see Fr John after Mass to collect your child's Certificate.

TALKS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH Adults wishing to find out about the Catholic faith, become Catholic or want 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.

LEGACY FROM STAN HOLDER RIP We express our gratitude for the generosity of Stan Holder RIP in leaving a bequest of £10,000 to our parish. Stan was very committed to the Church and to our parish and this bequest shows his thoughtfulness as well as his generosity. We will offer Mass in our Church for the repose of his soul, on or near the anniversary of his death on the **28 August. May he rest in peace.**

WHIST DRIVE: The Whist Drive will be held on **Tuesday 6 February** at the home of Arnold Verrall, 62A, Bower Hill, Epping. Play starts at 7.30pm and is light-hearted and tolerant. Please telephone 07764404813 if you can attend.

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).

JUMBLE SALE: Our next parish Jumble Sale will be on **Saturday 28th April at 2pm**. Please keep the date free. More details nearer the time.