

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Year B 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018

SATURDAY 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	11.00am	Nora Kelly RIP	Requiem Mass
	6.00pm	Joe & Carmel Canny's intentions (Canny)	
SUNDAY 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Harry Pilgrim RIP - Recently (Heughan)	
	11.00am	People of our Parish	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.00am	Reg Clements RIP Anniv (Clements)	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.00am	Carole Mary Ring RIP	
	11.00am	Carole Mary Ring RIP	Funeral Service
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	10.00am	Josephine Mary Street RIP	Requiem Mass
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	The Chair	of St Peter the Apostle	
	9.00am	Matthias McGrath RIP (Anniv)	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb.	9.00am	Jean Swann RIP Anniv (Sr Susan)	Cafod Lent Fast Day
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm	Mass for Ministers of the Eucharist	
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Year B 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>			
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	6.00pm	Rev Michael O'Rourke RIP (FM)	
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	9.00am	People of our Parish	
	11.00am	Sperry De Zilwa RIP (Anniv) (Sr Susan)	

**SACRAMENT of PENANCE:** Saturday 5.15pm to 5.40pm (Not next Saturday am)  
**MORNING PRAYER of THE DIVINE OFFICE** 15 minutes before weekday Mass  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration** for 1 hour after weekday Mass

### PARISH MASS BOOK: First Sunday of Lent (B) 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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**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 & all who are ill. **Catholics who are ill at home or in hospital need our prayers and support, and the Church's ministry. Please let Fr John know if you, your relative or a parishioner is ill so they can be visited and receive the Sacraments and especially Holy Communion.**

**OFFERTORY LAST WEEK** Envelopes: £399.42, Loose: £288.37, Donation: £100, Standing Orders; £700, CAFOD £32.10 *Thank you for your generosity.*

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY is next Friday 23 February.** This weekend, we welcome Mike Evans, who will speak at the end of Masses on behalf of CAFOD. Please take a CAFOD Envelope as you leave the Church. Next weekend our retiring collection at all Masses will be for CAFOD'S aid work overseas. Please give as generously as you can.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** Our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in the Presbytery. If you have any items for discussion please contact the parish office or speak to a member of our Parish Council.

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping



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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](mailto:arnold_verrall@email.com)  
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### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018

*Dear friends,*

“The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts and the angels looked after him” (Mark 1:12-15). Mark gives a forceful account of Jesus going out into the desert and being confronted and tempted by Satan. Many people naïvely deny the existence of Satan or real temptations, saying they belong to the time of Jesus and the past, and have no relevance for us today.

When of the revised Rite of Exorcism was presented in 1999, Cardinal Estavez said “the existence of the devil is not an opinion, for it belongs to Catholic faith and doctrine; the strategy of the devil is to convince people he does not exist. The devil manages to trap people and fools them by leading them to believe happiness can be found in money, power and sexual lust. He deceives men and women by persuading them they do not need God and are self-sufficient”.

When Jesus was at his weakest, the devil tempted him in three ways. With the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus rejected those temptations, and ordered the devil to go away; “but he was to return again to Christ at the appointed time”. The devil tempts people in numerous ways, especially when we are weak or vulnerable, like Jesus was. He wants us to be in a state of perpetual discontent by increasing our expectations with false promises and then disappointing them. He draws people to dabble in the occult and sinful ways, eg. Tarot cards, ouija boards or spiritualism, and when they are trapped in his power or sinful ways, he seeks to run and ruin their lives. The devil seeks to destroy good relationships and people's lives, just as he sought to destroy Jesus life at the start of his public ministry.

God's power of love and good always triumphs over evil and the devil. God's purpose is to save people through Christ, who gives us the commandment to love God and love one another. Jesus was tempted and tested in the first Lent. Lent is an opportunity for us to journey with Jesus in his time of testing, so that by going through our own testing we may celebrate his victory of love at Easter.

*May God bless and strengthen us in times of testing and temptation. Fr John*

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MASS on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30 pm.**

**WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS:**

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

**CAROLE MARY RING**, of Waltham Abbey who died on 19 January 2018. She will be received into our church for the celebration of her Funeral Service at **11am on Tuesday 20 February**, followed by burial at Epping Cemetery. **May she rest in peace.**

**JOSEPHINE STREET**, of Theydon Bois who died on 27 January. She will be received into our church **at 10.00am on Wednesday 21 February** for the celebration of **Requiem Mass**, followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **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.*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2018:** The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 21 February at 5.45pm** in the hall. It is essential that children attend all sessions, and that Catholic parents bring the children to Sunday Mass every weekend.

**BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES:** If your child was baptised in our Parish recently but you have not yet received the Baptismal Certificate it is available from the Sacristy, after Mass. Please see Fr John after Mass to collect your child’s Baptism Certificate.

**EASTER LILIES:** Donate a lily for our church at Easter in memory of a loved one. Please make an offering of £2 per bloom & mark the envelope “Easter Lily”.

**MISSIO RED BOXES** We should have submitted our total parish donation by 31.12.17 please could any outstanding Red Mission boxes be handed in to the sacristy asap.

**STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL** Next Bishop Alan will meet with the Stewards of the Gospel and the priests of the Diocese to consider the proposals to restructure our Diocese. These proposals affect our parish and Church in the future. You can see the document at **http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/** Responses can be sent to Bishop Alan or Steven Webb at Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AD

**PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK:** On **Wednesday 7 March from 7 p.m. to 8.30 pm** Fr David Manson will speak on ‘Preparing for Holy Week’. This ‘Gidea Park Faith Evening’ will be in Gidea Park Catholic Church Hall, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Book by email: [GPstudydays@gmail.com](mailto:GPstudydays@gmail.com) Admission & Refreshments free.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY January 16<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 2019.** Go with Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to Costa Rica and Panama; meet with over a million young people from across the world, with Pope Francis. School Year 12, 17 to 27 when we travel. Cost £1,750. Details of this “once in a lifetime” trip from [frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or visit [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net) or come to an information evening this **Sunday 18 February 5.00-8.00pm**, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Brentwood, CM14 5SH.

**LENT LUNCHEES - CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPPING** On the Saturdays of Lent we have the opportunity to visit other local churches to enjoy a light lunch of soup, cheese & bread, tea or coffee, from **12.30 to 2pm**. Come with your family & friends. Next **Saturday 24 February – the lunch will be at St John’s Church, Epping**

**LENT BOOKLETS Please take one and use it daily in Lent – they are free!**

**THE LENT CALENDER** with a thought for each day of Lent

**MY DAY BY DAY** for infants and children in Reception Classes

**MY DAY BY DAY** for junior school children

**WALK WITH ME** for adults has a page a day with a variety of themes

**LENT MASSES:** On the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm we will offer Mass for people in various groups and activities in our parish that God will bless them in their good work for the community. The dates and intentions are as follows:

**FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> February** Ministers of the Eucharist

**FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> March** Readers, Ushers and Counters

**FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> March** Musicians and Choirs and Stewards of the Gospel

**FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> March** Catechists and Childrens Liturgy

**FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> March** Flower arrangers

**PARISH RACE NIGHT RESULT** Thanks to everyone who helped make our Parish Race Night such a success – those who brought their feverish enthusiasm to the event and all who so generously supported it financially. A great evening was enjoyed by all present and the total amount made for Parish funds was **£1555**. Thank you, everyone!! **Deacon Duncan**

**PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** will meet in the Sacristy on Wednesday, 21 February at 8pm. Following three successful events recently, we are eager for more ideas. Please come to the meeting or send a message to Paul Harwood, the Chairman, Deacon Duncan, Arnold Verrall, or the Parish Office.

**WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE** will be held in our Church on Friday, 2 March at 10.00am. The theme is “All God’s Creation is very good and Prayerful Action”. **All are welcome to the service and refreshments afterwards.**

**EPPING FOREST FOODBANK - LENT APPEAL** asks people to take part in its #40for40 challenge. With local people struggling to afford food, it is important we support families in crisis at this time. The Foodbank asks people to give up 40 pence for 40 days. With Gift Aid this comes to £20 for Epping Foodbank. Send to Lent Appeal, c/o St Mary’s Church, 201 High Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 1BB. See leaflet and Gift Aid Form in the Church for the Foodbank Charity

**COUNTERS NEEDED:** Some parishioners have offered to count the Offertories on Sundays after Mass, but we need still more. New counters would be paired with the experienced counters on the rota. Please contact Fr John. If you can help.

**FLOWER ARRANGERS:** Four of our team of flower arrangers are retiring, so we need new flower arrangers to continue the good work. Please contact Fr John at the Parish Office at [epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or complete and return this slip.

**I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH FLOWER ARRANGING**

**COUNTING THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

**NAME:**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS .....**

**CONTACT NUMBER**