

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 24th to Sunday 4th March 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Year B 25th February 2018

SATURDAY 24th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
SUNDAY 25th	9.00am	John & Anita McArthur RIP Anniv
	11.00am	Sperry De Zilwa RIP (Anniv) (Sr Susan)
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross in the Church
Monday 26th Feb	9.00am	Roger Allardyce RIP Anniv (Allardyce)
Tuesday 27th Feb	9.00am	Dan McEvoy RIP (FM)
Wednesday 28th Feb	9.00am	Elizabeth McEvoy RIP (FM)
Thursday 1st March	St David, Bishop & Patron Saint of Wales	
	9.00am	Nellie McHale RIP (G Kelly)
Friday 2nd March	9.00am	Friend of Kitty Bowles RIP (Whitehouse)
	10.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer in our church
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm	Mass for Readers, Ushers & Counters
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Year B		4th March 2018
Saturday 3rd March	12.30pm	Baptism Jack Henry Day
Third Sunday Lent	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 4th	9.00am	Toni Taggart RIP Recently (Rimmer)
March 2018	11.00am	Colm O'Rourke RIP Recently (Darcy)
	12.30pm	Baptism Patrick Finley Gallagher
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross in the Church

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays 11.00am to 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: Second Sunday of Lent (B) 25th February 2018

Page 7 The Beginning of Mass	Page 58 Preface of Transfiguration of the Lord
Page 151 Collect & Readings	Page 28 Eucharistic Prayer 3
Page 12 The Apostles Creed	Page 43 The Communion Rite
Page 14 Preparation of Gifts	Page 153 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 & 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: £417.00, Loose: £351.33,
Standing Orders: £700, CAFOD: £30.00 *Thank you for your generosity.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MASS on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30 pm. Stations of the Cross will also be prayed at 6pm on Sundays 25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March 2018. Please join us in reflection on the gift to us of Jesus' Passion & Death. On Good Friday at 10am, we will have *Stations of the Cross* adapted for children.

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 OF LENT 25th February 2018

Dear friends,

“A voice came from the cloud saying, ‘This is my son, the Beloved. Listen to him’ (Mark 9:2-10). Jesus led Peter, James and John to the mountain top, where he was transfigured before them. Moses the lawgiver, and Elijah the prophet, appeared and spoke with him. Jesus Transfiguration on the mountain strengthened him to climb another mountain, Calvary, where he would be glorified on the cross. There he would sacrifice his life and give himself up in love on a Cross to save sinful people. This experience and vision of God's glory was to strengthen his apostles too, and help them prepare for the his terrible suffering and death.

Lent is a holy season in which we journey to Easter, by sharing with Christ in his temptations and fasting in the desert, and his sufferings and death on the Cross. Then, we come to share in the glory of his resurrection and new life at Easter. What we intended to do for Lent and are actually doing may already be different. Though we may have slipped up, we should not give up, but start anew each day. Let not our failures, big or small, determine how we live.

A part of our Lent devotions let us try to attend at least one weekday Mass as well as our Sunday Mass in Lent. It is important in Lent to pray daily at home and make some sacrifices to show our love of God and identify with the needs of our neighbour. Reading just a few verses of the Bible and using the little Lent booklets helps to deepen our understanding of faith in small ways. I also hope that many people will make a special effort to attend our Lent Talks.

May Jesus bless and sustain us in our Lent journey with him. Fr John

LENT MASSES: On the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm we 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 2nd March	Readers, Ushers and Counters
FRIDAY 9th March	Musicians and Choirs and Stewards of the Gospel
FRIDAY 16th March	Catechists and Childrens Liturgy
FRIDAY 23rd March	Flower arrangers

LENT TALKS IN OUR PARISH HALL on Tuesdays of Lent at 8.00 pm.

Tuesday 6 March, Mick Duthie, Deputy Director of The Santa Marta Group will speak on Human Trafficking and Slavery in our country and society.

Tuesday 13th March, Chris Driscoll, CAFOD's Community Participation Co-ordinator will speak on CAFOD's development projects especially our Sebya project in Ethiopia.

Tuesday, 20th March, Deacon Duncan, will speak on the Missionary journeys of St Paul, especially in countries where the Christian Church is in great difficulties.

All are welcome to our Lent talks and please invite anyone who may be interested.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2018: The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 28 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 recently in our Parish but you have not received the Baptismal Certificate it is available after Mass in the Sacristy. Please see Fr John after Mass to collect your child's Baptism Certificate.

READERS AT MASS: There will be a training session for new Readers at Mass, on **Saturday 7th April 2018 (10am-12.30pm)**, with the possibility of joining the Reading Rota in May 2018. If you might be interested in joining our team of 30 Readers, or have any queries, please contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) to notify your interest.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Our next Parish Council meeting is this **Wednesday 28th 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.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE will be hosted by our church on **Friday, 2 March at 10.00am (NEXT FRIDAY)**. The theme is "All God's Creation is very good". It would be nice if there was a big turn-out of parishioners to welcome our guests. Young mums with children and older ladies who are free in the morning could come along (and socialise at the refreshments afterwards).

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.

ROSARY PRAYER VIGIL IN LENT: Please support efforts to help women and babies by joining a peaceful vigil (NOT a protest) on Saturday mornings in Lent between 7.45am and 11.30am at the Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic, Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill. Every day 50 babies or more are attended to there without anaesthetic, without ceremony, without funeral. You could be there to pray for them. For information please see poster in church porch or phone Rose on 07960 650517 or Paul on 01992 577104.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL met with Bishop Alan and priests of the Diocese on Saturday to consider proposals for restructuring our Diocese You can see them at:

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/> Responses can be sent to Steven Webb at Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AD

LENT LUNCHES - 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 3rd March – the lunch will be at Epping URC**. Our lunch takes place on **Saturday 17th March**. We will need donations of home-made soup and help as waiters and waitresses. A selection of deserts will be available together with a beans on toast option for children. We need your support to welcome our guests and enjoy lunch together. Please try to come along. If you can help in any way then please contact Mary on 574719.

Easter Triduum Retreat for 19-27 year olds: Experience Holy Week liturgies in the tranquil and beautiful setting of Walsingham House at Abbotswick, with a programme to weave reflection and prayer with a deep understanding of the liturgy, with other young adults. From the stillness of Adoration on Holy Thursday evening to an Easter Vigil finishing with champagne & chocolates. We hope this Triduum celebration will live in hearts and minds for the year ahead. £30 covers meals and accommodation 7.30pm Thursday 29 March – 9.00am Easter Sunday morning. Maximum 35 places: apply soon. Full details & online application at www.bcys.net

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

FAITH-BASED ADMISSION CAP on NEW FREE SCHOOLS Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They acknowledge this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for "Catholic Education" in your search engine to write to your MP and the Government urging them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has several charity places for The Vitality London 10K run on **Monday 28th May 2018**. If you have your own place in the race, we would love to have you on our team; we won't set a sponsorship target, but any funds you can raise for us would be hugely appreciated. For further information, please contact Julie at jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912 277413.

Sheltered Housing St Scholastica's Retreat: Vacant flats & sheltered accommodation at The Retreat for practising Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 flats. £459pcm Details from The Warden: Deacon Seán Duffy, 27 The Retreat, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0JG or 01844 344437. Email: info@stscholasticas.co.uk www.stscholasticas.co.uk