

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 17th March to Sunday 25th March '18

FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT B - 18th MARCH 2018

FEAST OF ST PATRICK, BISHOP & PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND 17th March 2018

SATURDAY 17th 10.00am Edward Palmer RIP Anniv (Palmer)

SATURDAY 17th 6.00pm Eileen Lennon RIP Anniv (Lechley)

SUNDAY 18th 9.00am John Clohessy RIP Anniv (Clohessy)

March 2018 11.00am People of our Parish

12.30pm Baptism – Siena Concadero

6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Monday 19th 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Tuesday 20th 9.00am Intentions of Aideen Mooney (Darcy)

Wednesday 21st 9.00am Private Intention

Thursday 22nd 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Friday 23rd 9.00am Private Intention

Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Mass for Church Flower Arrangers

Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord Year B – 25th March 2018

Saturday 24th March 6.00pm Intentions of Jyoti Arruda (Murray)

Sunday 25th March 9.00am Paddy Dear RIP Anniv

11.00am People of our Parish

6.00pm Stations of the Cross in the Church

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays 11am to 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm

MORNING PRAYER of DIVINE OFFICE: 15 minutes before weekday Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after weekday Mass

PARISH MASS BOOK: Fifth Sunday of Lent (B) 18th March 2018

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WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL Hannah Robinson,

Marcheta Swift-Daley, Ann Dowd, Hilda Silver, Daphne McAdam, Paula Hall, Mark Toohey, Giovanni Borelli, Sean Clohessy, Roger Minnis, Tony Mullan, James Bullen, Fr Martin Knott, Fr Tom Jordan & all in our parish who are ill. **Catholics who are ill at home or in hospital need prayer, 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.**

OFFERTORY LAST WEEK: Thank you for: Offertory Envelopes: £346.50

Loose: £352.26, Standing Orders: £700, CAFOD: £70.61, Lent Fast Day: £35

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

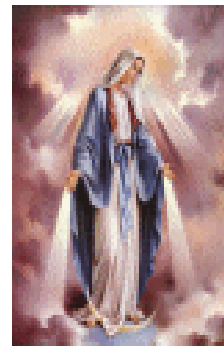
Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Sundays 18th & 25th March at 6pm.

Please join us in prayer and reflection on the Passion & Death of Jesus.

On Good Friday we will have *Stations of the Cross for children* at 10am.

ALTAR SERVERS: Please collect a form from the sacristy regarding the Holy Week Services, and return to Fr John asap so that a practice can be arranged.

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)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

18th March 2018

Dear Parishioners,

“When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself”. By these words, Jesus indicated the death he would die (John 12:20-33). We journey with Jesus in the desert in Lent, and on Good Friday go into his sufferings and death. On Palm Sunday, we celebrate his triumphant entry to Jerusalem, and in Holy Week see how worldly acclaim can quickly change into rejection, suffering and death. We should make a real effort, whether at home or away, to journey with our Lord in his sufferings and death, so that we share in his resurrection.

We Christians have the sufferings and death of Jesus before us all the time, on the Cross or Crucifix. Christ's Cross is the sign of God's sacrificial love for us, since it is through it Christ, saves us from sin and death. We receive the sign of Christ's Cross in the first moments of Christian life at Baptism, and we make that sign to bless ourselves and invoke God's protection. We receive God's blessing with the sign of the Cross, and as we look up to Christ on the Cross we pray that he will draw us and all people to himself. Whilst the Cross symbolises Christ's terrible sufferings and death, but it is the sign of hope and promise eternal life.

Some years ago in Holy Week the film, “The Passion of the Christ” had a serious impact on many people. It sought to depict the sufferings Jesus went through out of faithfulness to his mission and love for people. He did not choose easy ways but faced the realities of sin and evil and by faithfulness transformed them with love. He asks us too to transform the world, our own lives and relationships by living with sacrificial love. Love draws people to one another and to God. We need to live in divine love to grow close to God and draw people to him.

We have had some excellent Lent talks this year. Michael Duthie, of the Santa Martha Group, spoke on human trafficking and modern day slavery, which we know so little about. Last Tuesday, Chris Driscoll, the CAFOD co-ordinator in Brentwood Diocese spoke on and demonstrated our CAFOD project in Sebeya in Ethiopia. He also showed that in the last three years our parish has given £8,500 to CAFOD for aid and development projects, and emergency disaster appeals.

May God bless us and draw us closer to himself in this holy season. Fr John

FINAL LENT TALK IN OUR PARISH HALL on Tuesday 20 March at 8 pm.

Deacon Duncan will speak on **St Paul's Missionary journeys**, especially in some countries where the Christian Church is now in great difficulties.

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

EASTER CARDS: Parish Easter cards, giving the Holy Week & Easter services in our church, starting Palm Sunday, can be collected after all Masses this weekend. We ask parishioners to deliver cards to parishioners in their road or nearby. This shows families who may have lost contact with the church that we are thinking of them.

LENT PENANCE SERVICE with Confessions in our Church on Wednesday 21st at 8.00pm with a visiting priest from Our Lady of Fatima, Harlow for Confession.

LENT MASSES: On the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm we offer Mass for people in groups & activities in our parish that God will bless them in their work for our community. On Friday, 23 March, it will be for our Church Flower arrangers.

EASTER LILIES IN OUR CHURCH: Donate a lily in memory of a loved one to our church at Easter. Make an offering of £2 per bloom & mark the envelope "Easter Lily". If you are a tax payer you can Gift Aid your donation by using the red Special Donations envelope in the Church, or use one of the special envelopes in your box.

BAPTISMS: *Congratulations to the family of Luke Robert Hargitt who was Baptised in our Church on Saturday 10th March 2018. May the Lord bless them and help them to bring up their children in the knowledge and love of God.*

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

GIFT FROM PARISHIONERS: We express our gratitude to a family in our parish, who have very generously donated a projector to our parish, which can be used for catechetical and evangelising purposes, and also for social events in our community.

St VINCENT De PAUL SOCIETY RAFFLE: Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets last weekend. We hope that there will be a winner from Epping!

READERS AT MASS: There will be a training session for new Readers at Mass, on Saturday 7 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 queries, please contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) to notify your interest

LENT LUNCHESES - 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 24th March – the lunch will be at Epping Green Chapel.

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. Please see Fr John after Mass to collect your child's Baptism Certificate.

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Boxes of offertory envelopes for 2018/19 are now available, personally addressed, in the church porch. Please collect your box. If you would like to join our Gift Aid Scheme please contact Michele Murphy, our Gift Aid Organiser, via the Parish Office. Similarly, please contact Michele if you are in the Scheme but no longer a tax payer.

MISSIO RED BOXES: All the money from the Missio boxes has now been remitted to the Diocesan Director. The total collected was **£1137.21**. Another very good effort. Many thanks to all our contributors. Your mission boxes, showing your name, can be collected from the church porch. We especially thank Brendan Carden for all his work as parish organiser, as he has now handed over this responsibility.

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK LENT APPEAL asks us give 40 pence for 40 days and to take part in #40for40 challenge Epping Foodbank. Send to Lent Appeal, c/o St Mary's Church, 201 High Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1BB. See leaflet & Gift Aid Forms in Church.

ECCA will sing "Requiem" by Malcolm Archer on Good Friday evening at 8pm in St. John's church. Admission is free but a programme charge of £2.50 (that will contain the words of the congregational hymns) will be made to offset expenses. A retiring collection will be taken for Epping Forest Foodbank, the charity our church is supporting. Please come for a fitting way to end Good Friday. See poster in porch

Bishop Alan goes #SiLent! On Tuesday 27 March for 12 hours, from 8am to 8pm, the Tuesday of Holy Week, Bishop Alan will be completely silent (except for occasional communication with his cat, Delia). This is part of a national, "Million Minutes," initiative adopted by BCYS. Every minute of silence can be sponsored, raising money for projects led by young people in our Diocese. Details and resources are at www.millionminutes.org/Brentwood. To sponsor Bishop Alan go to <https://be.wonderful.org/bishop.alan/2018/staysilent>. To find out more about all our opportunities for young people go to www.bcys.net

PARISHIONER SPONSORSHIP: James Ryan will run in the London Marathon 2018 to raise money for Barnados Children's Charity, helping young children who are poorest in society. Can you help James raise £1000. His Just Giving Page is in the link attached www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jimmyryan88. Many thanks.

NEWSLETTER: If you signed up to receive the weekly newsletter by email but recently have not been receiving it, please let Margaret Lechley, Parish Secretary know, so this can be sorted out.

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

ROSARY PRAYER VIGIL IN LENT: Please support efforts to help women & 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. For information see poster in church porch or phone Rose on 07960 650517 or Paul on 01992 577104.