

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 1st to Sunday 9 December 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C 2nd December 2018

Saturday 1 st	6.00pm	Intentions of Catherine & Peter Kelly (Kelly)	
Sunday 2 nd	9.00am	Andrew Rowe RIP (Coyne/Hayes)	
December 2018	11.00am	People of the Parish	
Monday 3 rd		St Francis Xavier, Priest & Missionary	Migrants Day
	9.00am	Bridget McGrath RIP	
Tuesday 4 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP	
Wednesday 5 th	9.00am	Intentions of MB	
Thursday 6 th	9.00am	Mary & Francis Fletcher (FM)	
Friday 7 th		St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor	
	9.00am	Yeung Shui Kee RIP (Palmer)	

SOLEMNITY of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Vigil Mass

Mass in Church 7.30pm Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of our Church's Dedication

Saturday 8th 10.00am Thank you to Parishioners (Pat Jolly)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year C BIBLE SUNDAY 9 December 2018

Saturday 8th 6.00pm Martin Curtin RIP (Crouch)

Sunday 9th 9.00am Kieran Jolly RIP (Moss)

December 2018 11.00am People of our Parish.

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturday 11am to 12 noon & 5.15 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: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year C 2 December 2018

Page 7 The Beginning of Mass Page 65 Preface in Advent: The coming of Christ

Page 82 Collect & Readings Page 28 Eucharistic Prayer 3

Page 11 The Nicene Creed Page 43 The Communion Rite,

Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 64 Post Communion Prayer

PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME: Please inform a Priest or hospital Chaplain if you, your relative or a parishioner is ill at home or in hospital so they can have visits from a priest and receive the Sacraments.

OFFERINGS: Offertories last weekend: Envelopes £195.50, Loose £292.62,
Standing Orders: £800, CAFOD £40.00. Thank you for your great generosity.

THE VISION DOCUMENT: "Shaping our future in our Diocese" that comes from the Stewards of the Gospel consultation programme in our Diocese. It is available free at the back of the Church this weekend. You can see how it may affect us locally.

BRENTWOOD NEWS: The latest edition of the Brentwood News is available free at the back of the church this weekend. This is the final edition in this format and future editions will be published in electronic form due to the expenses involved.

MY DAY BY DAY FOR INFANTS & JUNIORS, & DAY BY DAY for adults in preparation for Christmas is available free to take home from church this weekend.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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*Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa*

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT Year C 2nd December 2018

Dear Friends,

"To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul", we say in response to Psalm 24 today. As we begin the Church's New Year, we go into winter darkness and long nights. Nature goes to sleep and some people may be affected by the SAD syndrome (Seasonal Adjustment Disorder) due to lack of sunlight. At this time we Christians are called to wake from sleep and prepare for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. His birth brings light and hope to people of goodwill at the darkest time of the year. Hence, we should lift up our soul to God to thank him for his great love for mankind.

Today's readings speak to us about the importance of changing our life to be ready for God's coming as man, in Christ. People need to "practise honesty and integrity" so that they will be ready to receive the "Lord, who is our integrity" (Jer.33:14-16). St Paul prayed that people would grow in love for one another and their hearts be confirmed in holiness, so that they will be blameless in the sight of God. He tells us to make progress in living the kind of lives that God wants us to live, so that we will be worthy of our calling as Christians in this present age" (1 Thess.3:12-4:2).

Jesus speaks about the end of the world and how he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. This will be preceded by menacing and terrible events in nature, and between peoples and nations. He tells us that those who are watching prayerfully will see his coming as a "liberation that is near at hand", for God will be coming amongst his people again, in glory (Lk.21:25-36).

Our thanks to the organisers and everyone who worked so hard and contributed in many ways to our very successful Christmas Bazaar. Many people gave generously of their initiatives, time, talents and gifts to make an enjoyable community day for our parish. Once again, thank you so much to everyone for all you gave and did.

On Friday, at the vigil Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we celebrate the Jubilee of the Dedication or Consecration of our Church, by Bishop Thomas twenty five years ago. We welcome him back for this celebration and give thanks to God for all who have gone before us in the way of faith, and for our church and the faith which has been handed down to us. In our church, this holy place, Emmanuel, God is with us and we are at home with him. Our church is open all day every day. You can come and visit, to offer prayer or light a candle. Here we thank God for the graces and blessing he gives us and we ask him to help us as our healer and Saviour.

May the Lord give us a greater love for his Word during Advent. Fr John

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: We express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to this wonderful parish event. The total raised was £3810 which is excellent.

MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS: Thank you to all who attended last Saturday evening's Mass which was offered for our Altar Servers and their families. Mass was followed by a very enjoyable party in our Hall. Thank you to the parents who helped to make this possible.

SILVER JUBILEE OF DEDICATION OF OUR CHURCH: On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1993, Bishop Thomas celebrated the Dedication of our Church. We celebrate the 25th anniversary of the dedication with Bishop Thomas at Mass on **Friday, 7 December, at 7.30pm**. We need musicians and singers for the Mass. After Mass, **at 8.30pm** we will have a celebration in the Hall and people can meet Bishop Thomas, who served the Mass when our church was opened in 1954. **Please, make a special effort to attend. Dr Davnet Barker's very interesting history of our parish, "Towards a Dream", is available free in the church.**

HELP NEEDED FOR OUR SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION: Following Mass for the Silver Jubilee of the Dedication of our Church, we have a celebration in the Parish Hall. There will be wine, beer and soft drinks provided, but we would like everybody to **'BRING & SHARE'** something to eat. If you are able to bring something to share, please let us know what it will be by filling in the sheet on the **noticeboard** in the Church porch. We'll need a mixture of sweet and savoury finger foods, as well as nibbles like crisps, crackers and nuts. We also need help to set up the Hall before Mass, from 6.30pm, to lay out tables etc. Please contact **Emma on 07791 235929** if you can help with this. Many thanks in advance.

FIRST RECONCILIATION for children in our church on Wednesday at 5.45pm.

MISSIO: Missio Calendars will be available at our Jubilee Mass. There will also be an opportunity for parishioners to sign up for a Misso box.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD: Our Parish Christmas Cards will be distributed to all parishioners in the Hall after this weekend's Masses. It would be good to use this as an opportunity to reach out to parishioners in their homes and especially to people who may have become semi-detached or detached from the church. It lets them know we are thinking of them and they matter very much to us as members of our parish family. It helps update our parish database. Please let Peter Day know if are unable to find a card addressed to you or if your address has changed.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE: The CAFOD Christmas catalogue is being distributed as you leave Mass this weekend. It has lots of ideas of gifts we can give for the poor in developing nations, in the name of our family or friends who may have everything ? and we don't know what to give them as a Christmas present. The gifts proposed in the catalogue are life giving and helpful for the poor.

HARLOW SINGERS FROM ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT: This **Sunday, 2nd December 4pm** at St Mary's Church, Old Harlow, Churchgate CM17 0JT. Free admission. There will be a retiring collection. All welcome.

KIERAN JOLLY RIP: Kieran's mother, Pat, would like to thank parishioners for their kind condolences and help arranging Kieran's funeral. Mass will be offered on **Saturday 8th December at 10am** for your intentions.

CTED CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: We invite anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to join us for a traditional lunch & celebration in our Church Hall on **25th December, 12.30pm for 1pm**. Couples & carers may also apply. Transport can be provided. Places are limited, so please telephone Mary Morgan on 01992 574719 or contact Fr John or Deacon Duncan. We will need to help bring our guests to the Hall and take them home around 3.30pm. Also donations of small gifts, desserts and Christmas goodies welcome. The Hall will be open, in the morning on Christmas Eve, to receive your donations. Yours help is always deeply appreciated.




EPPING FOODBANK: The Epping Foodbank will be especially busy for all of December. Tinned and packed items are the most useful, but toiletries, and household cleaning and hygiene items are also very welcome, as are Christmas food treats. Please leave your donations in the box provided in the porch. Thank you for your generosity.



'FLAME 2' YOUTH EVENT AT WEMBLEY – 2ND MARCH 2019



About 14-21 years old? If so this Youth Event is **especially for you.**

-  Attend with 10,000 other young people. World-known speakers and singers.
-  Special 16-seater coach to and from Wembley Centre. Total cost to you just £10 each
-  Details on line: cymfed.org.uk/flame2019

Names & cheques to James Ryan, Fr John or Deacon Duncan. Tickets in short supply, so be quick!

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2018 The 2018 edition of the Directory of our diocese is on sale at the back of the church. It has detailed information on our Diocese, parishes, schools, organisations and the Liturgical Calendar. Cost is £2.75.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS Please could you save used postage stamps and place them in the Used Stamps box in the Church entrance porch, which can be found on the bottom shelf beneath the post tray. The stamps will then be delivered to St Clare Hospice, where they can be exchanged for money.

PARISH WEBSITE: We are looking for a volunteer with Content Management System (CMS) experience to manage our parish website. They will update content, manage components & extensions, and apply system updates as necessary. Graphic design skills would be advantageous. Please speak to Fr John if you think yourself or someone you know can help. We express our gratitude to Nick Duggan who has performed this role with skill and commitment over the past few years.

THANK YOU TO GEOFFREY: We express our gratitude to Geoffrey Hooper for his dedicated service to Christian & Church music, and to our church in particular, as one of our organists for many years. Geoffrey has been very loyal to the church and we thank him and his wife Jean for their commitment and devotion. We wish them good health and happiness as they move away to their new home in Suffolk.