

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 8th to Sunday 16th December 2018

SOLEMNITY of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 8th December 2018

Morning Mass 10.00am Thank you to Parishioners (Pat Jolly)

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR C BIBLE SUNDAY 9th 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.

Monday 10th 9.00am John Whearty & Family

Tuesday 11th 9.00am Intentions of MB

Wednesday 12th 9.00am Georgina Fernandes RIP Anniv (Murray)

Thursday 13th St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

9.00am Holy Souls RIP

Friday 14th St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

9.00am P J Howard RIP (Canny)

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT C Gaudete / Rejoicing Sunday 16th December 2018

Saturday 15th 6.00pm Curtin Family RIP (Crouch)

Sunday 16th 9.00am Holy Souls RIP

December 2018 11.00am People of our Parish

Our Lady of Fatima Church, Harlow CM20 2NS: Advent Penance Service at 5pm

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: SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT C 9 December 2018

Page 7 The Beginning of Mass Page 65 Advent Preface: Two comings of Christ

Page 85 Collect & Readings Page 25 Eucharistic Prayer 2

Page 11 The Nicene Creed Page 43 The Communion Rite,

Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 87 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 £357, Loose £269.51, Standing Orders: £800, CAFOD £39.53. Thank you for your great generosity.

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

BRENTWOOD NEWS: This last and final edition of the Brentwood News in hard-copy is available free in the church. Future editions will be in electronic form.

MY DAY BY DAY FOR INFANTS & JUNIORS & WALK WITH ME for adults is available free in our church to use in preparation for Christmas. A **Christian Advent calendar** is also available free in the church.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT Year C 9th December 2018

Dear Friends,

“John the Baptist went through the whole of the Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”(Luke 3:1-6). John came to prepare a way for the Lord by calling people to make a straight path for God to come into their lives by repenting of their sins. Many people do not want to recognise sin as disobedience to God and failing to love. Temptations lead us into sin by centring on self and promising us happiness. Sin brings us into an unhappy and broken state of mind and leaves us feeling let down or in guilt. In choosing sin by what we do or fail to do, we turn away from God and neighbour, and centre unhappily on ourselves.

The reading from Baruch 5:1-9, fills us with joy and hope as God promises to restore the dignity of his people when they respond to him with love. God takes away the sorrow and distress and gives people “Peace through integrity and honour through devotedness”. By turning to God in a conversion of mind and heart, people find joy, and are in splendour, through living in right relationship with God and one another.

“What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad” is our response to Psalm 125. We praise and thank God for delivering us from evil and bringing us back to himself with joyful hearts. This Psalm emphasises what God has done for us, which makes us glad, for he frees us from the bondage and oppression of sin.

St Paul remembers the Philippians (1:3-11) with joy as they have taken the Gospel to heart and spread the Good News of God’s saving love. He prays that they, and we, will grow more and more in love, and knowledge of God’s will. By living pure and blameless lives, with the help of God’s grace so that we come to perfect goodness and be clothed in glory. In that context it is essential in the midst of preparations for Christmas that we do not lose sight of Jesus, “The True Light”, who is coming into our world and whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. A most important part of preparing for Christmas is to be reconciled to God and his people through the grace of forgiveness and reconciliation given to us in the Sacrament of Penance.

We express our gratitude to Bishop Thomas for coming to our Parish on Friday to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our church, which he celebrated as Bishop of our Diocese in 1993. Our thanks to everyone who helped prepare for the religious and social aspects of this important celebration of faith in our parish.

May God bless us in Advent, as we prepare for Christ’s coming to us. Fr John

WE PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS WHO DIED RECENTLY:

JOSEPHINE CATHERINE ANDREWS RIP, late of Chigwell, who died on Monday, 19th November. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated at Forest Park Crematorium at 1.30pm on Tuesday, 11th December 2018. **May she rest in peace.**

MARY PAULINE NOLAN RIP, late of Stansted Mount Fitchet, who died on Saturday, 1st December. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated in our Church at 11am on Friday, 21st December 2018, followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May she rest in peace.**

We offer our sympathy & prayers for their families and the repose of their souls. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them at this time.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION: Congratulations to the families of the children who celebrated **their First Reconciliation** in our Church in the past two weeks. In January they start preparation for First Holy Communion.

CONFIRMATION: We congratulate Vanessa Laxamana who receives Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation at Mass this Saturday. May Lord greatly bless her

ON BIBLE SUNDAY the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible is on sale in the church porch for **£10**. This Bible has good size print and a fine theme index, references for readings at Sunday and weekday Masses and a section of Catholic prayers. This is an excellent edition of the Bible that we can use in practical ways.

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS from Aid to the Church in Need, to help Christians suffering persecution, oppression or poverty, are in sale in the church.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD: Our Parish Christmas Cards are being distributed to all parishioners in the Hall after Masses this weekend. This is an opportunity to reach out to parishioners in their home, especially those who may be semi-detached or detached from church. It tells them that we are thinking of them and they matter to us as members of our parish family. It helps update our database. Please let Peter Day know if cannot find a card addressed to you or you have changed your address.

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 **25 December, 12.30pm for 1pm**. Couples & carers may apply and transport can be provided. Places are limited, so please telephone Mary Morgan on 01992 574719 or contact Fr John or Deacon Duncan. We 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 are welcome. The Hall will be open in the morning, on Christmas Eve, to receive your donations. Yours help is always deeply appreciated.

EPPING FOODBANK: Epping Foodbank will be very busy and much needed for all December. Tinned & packed items are the most useful. Toiletries and household cleaning & hygiene items are welcome, as are Christmas food treats. Please leave your donations in the box in our church porch. Thank you for your generosity.

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE on **Sunday 23 December at 4 pm** with Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral. A service of readings, carols & beautiful choral music from the Cathedral choir to prepare for Christmas. All are welcome.

CHRISTINGLE Children will have a Christingle Service and make Christingles in our church hall during 11am Mass on Sunday, 23rd December.

OUR PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be at 6pm on Sunday 23rd December with the preparation starting in our church hall at 4pm.

We need lots of children to take part in both services, and 4 teenagers to read and someone to sing a solo at the Carol Service – which is always a lovely service. Please contact Nora Nolan through our Parish Office by phone or e-mail.

WE'VE GOT CHRISTMAS WRAPPED UP! Please see poster & flyers advertising a Christmas wrapping service being offered by a group of parishioners as a fund-raiser.



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

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

- 🔥 Attend with 10,000 other young people. World-known speakers and singers.
- 🔥 Special 16-seater coach to and from Wembley Centre. Your total cost is £10
- 🔥 Details on line: cymfed.org.uk/flame2019 or on our church noticeboard

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

APF RED MISSIO BOXES: Please hand in boxes to the Sacristy or Priest's House ASAP. **Please do NOT** leave boxes with money in Church Porch. When emptied and counted, boxes are labelled and left in the Porch to be collected by the owners. **Your money helps Mill Hill Missionaries support poor communities overseas.** If you wish to have a Red Missio Box to give small change to this charity, please contact Elaine Garwood, our Missio Organiser, on egarwood@live.co.uk. Every little helps! There are additional boxes in the Church porch - please take one if you would like to help the missions in poor countries - don't forget to put your name on your box.

PARISH WEBSITE: We need a volunteer with Content Management System (CMS) experience to manage our parish website, to 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 great skill and commitment over the past few years.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2019 is on sale in the church at £2.75. It has information on the parishes, schools and organisations in our Diocese.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE: The CAFOD Christmas catalogue is available in church. This catalogue has lots of ideas of life-giving gifts we can give to benefit the poor in developing nations, in the name of our family or friends.

FOR HALL BOOKINGS contact Arnold Verrall, preferably by telephone, on 01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping) or mobile 07764404813 or by email arnold_verrall@email.com. **Preferential rates are for parishioners & charities.**

USED POSTAGE STAMPS Please save used postage stamps and place them in the Used Stamps box in our Church porch, which is on the bottom shelf under the post tray. The stamps will be given to St Clare Hospice, and can be exchanged for money.