

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 22nd February to Sunday 1st March 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 23rd February 2020

Day of Prayer for the Unemployed, those made redundant and seeking employment

Saturday 22 nd	6.00pm	Geraldine & John Trinder RIP (Knight)
Sunday 23 rd	9.00am	Maggie Walsh RIP (Clohessy)
February 2020	11.00am	The People of our Parish
	3.00pm	LATIN MASS in the Tridentine Rite
Monday 24 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 25 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 26 th	ASH WEDNESDAY: We should fast & abstain from meat products	
Ash Wednesday	10.00am	Matthias McGrath RIP (Anniv)
Lent begins today	8.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Thursday 27 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Friday 28 th	9.00am	Holy Souls RIP
Stations of the Cross	7.30pm	Mass for Epping Pastoral Parish Council

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A 1st March 2020

Saturday 29 Feb.	6.00pm	Mary Canny RIP (Canny)
Sunday 1 st	9.00am	Roly Meagher RIP (Hayes & Coyne)
March 2020	11.00am	The People of our Parish
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturdays: 11.00am to 12 noon & 5.15pm to 5.40pm

MORNING PRAYER of DIVINE OFFICE 15 minutes before 9am weekday Masses.

BLESSED SACRAMENT Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after 9am weekday Mass.

UNIVERSALIS Website & App gives the readings of the daily Mass, Lectio Divina, The Prayer of the Church in The Divine Office and a daily Spiritual Reading.

PARISH MASS BOOK: SEVENTH SUNDAY of Ordinary Time 23 February 2020

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WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME: Please contact a Priest or Hospital Chaplain if you, your relative, or a parishioner, is ill at home or in hospital so that they can have pastoral visits.

OFFERTORIES: Offertory Envelopes: £353.00; Loose: £341.47; Standing Orders: £800; CAFOD: £11.15. Thank you for your generous offerings.

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS will be offered in our Church today, **Sunday 23rd February, at 3pm** in the Tridentine Rite. Texts in English & Latin will be provided.

HALL BOOKINGS: Contact Arnold Verrall, preferably telephone 01992 001995 and dial 01992 even in Epping or mobile 07764404813 or by email arnold_verrall@email.com. **Preferential rates for parishioners & for charities**

MIRACLE HOUR: a prayer book with 12 different forms of prayer, of five minutes. Can be used for an hour or a couple of sections each day. In the church at £3.50 each.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Parish Priest: Father John McGrath Tel: 01992 572516

Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173

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*

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 23 February 2020

Dear Friends,

“The Lord is compassion and love; slow the anger and rich in mercy” (Ps.102). Many times people think and ask questions about the nature of God, but the Psalmist in the Old Testament tells us how close God is to his people, especially when they are going through difficult times or suffering. St John too gives us the succinct but powerful statement, “God is love, and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him”(1John 4:16). When we see people suffering, especially virtuous, innocent and holy people we may ask “why does God allow this happen to this good person?”. This week on Ash Wednesday, we begin Lent and reflect of Jesus going out into the wilderness and being tempted there when he was weak and alone with the wild beasts. God, though Jesus, identifies with suffering humanity, and in weakness he shows us the strength and power that comes from God which enables us to overcome temptations and weakness.

Many people have an image of God, that they mistakenly attribute to the Old Testament, saying God is angry or vengeful. Moses told the people that they must be holy, as God is, and forgiving, loving (Leviticus 19:1-18). Jesus in The Beatitudes (Matthew Ch.5) developed that teaching, telling us to be generous and unstinting in the care, support and love we show to others. Some people have a great ability to never forget what they have done for one, and may long after bring it up – as if one then owes them.

We have a morning and evening Mass on Ash Wednesday and evening Mass on the Fridays of Lent. In Lent we make special efforts to nurture our spiritual life in relationship with God and people, within the Christian community. The three things the Lord asks us to do, through the Church, in Lent are:

- To give alms and share for the good of our neighbour and the needy
- To pray for the good our soul and to strengthen our relationship with God
- To fast or make sacrifices for the good of our soul and self-discipline.

This weekend we give out various Lent booklets and a Lent Planner for use daily by adults and children. Please take and use them, and if we fail or break our resolutions for Lent, then we must start all over again, just as our Lord did on the Way of the Cross. *May God bless you. Fr John*

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr John Garrett**, of Stansted Parish in our diocese, who died on 12th February 2020. **Fr John will be received into St Therese of Lisieux Church, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8LQ, on Wednesday, 26th February at 8.30pm and Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at 11am. We offer our sympathy to his family, friends and parishioners. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them.**

BAKE SALE TODAY SUNDAY 23 February after 9 & 11am Masses: Donations of cakes & baked goods welcome. Please contact Adriana on 07828 118 909. If you would like to pre-order your favourite or make a contribution. Proceeds to our parish.

A JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP: On Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm we will have a meeting, in the Priest's House to discuss Justice & Peace, Pax Christi CAFOD, and our parish Dundee link. We urgently need people to join this group.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: Our next First Communion session for the children will be in the Hall on **Wednesday, 26 February at 5.45pm. As it's Ash Wednesday, Ashes will be given out at the end of the Session.**

SAFEGUARDING children & vulnerable adults in our Parish: Information is displayed on the church noticeboard. Thanks to all who completed slips updating their address & contact details etc. We ask **ALL in a parish role**, who are in contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults, to up-date their details on a the Safeguarding slip at the back church, and return it to our Parish Office.

ST JOHN'S GOSPEL IN LENT: *The Year of the God who Speaks* has a Lent focus on St John's Gospel, that is used in this year's liturgies. Fr Victor Darlington, professor at St John's Seminary, Womersley, will lead a study day on 'John among the Gospels' at Christ the High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park RM2 6DH on **Saturday 29th February** from 10.30 to 3 pm, On the **11th, 18th & 25th March** starting at 7 pm Fr Adrian Graffy will speak about 'The Great Johannine Gospels'. at the same venue. Evenings will include a reading of the relevant gospel in parts. Please book a place for any of these events by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com or phone to 01708 449914. For further information www.whatgoodnews.org

LENT LUNCHESES: Meet friends & support Christian Aid on the Saturdays in Lent, when one of the Churches in Epping will offer a light lunch (soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee) between 12.30pm and 2pm. A suggested donation is £3 for Christian Aid. Please bring your friends. Everyone is welcome! The first lunch will be on **Saturday 29th February** at St John's Church, Epping. Our Lent Lunch will be **Saturday 28th March**. Details of each venue will be published a week in advance.

OPEN MIC NIGHT: **Saturday 14 March 2020 in our Hall.** All ages, talents & abilities will be welcome to perform. Singers with own accompaniment, dancers, poets, spoon players etc. £3 on the door. **To put your name down please contact Sheila Earl by e-mail: earls36@msn.com or phone or text on 07746021838** or Details on poster in church porch. You are welcome to bring your own refreshments.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY will be on **Friday 6th March**. We will distribute the CAFOD envelopes at all Masses next weekend for collection on **7th/8th March**.

LENT BIBLE COURSE: We will hold a Lent Bible course on Wednesdays, starting 4 March, at 8pm in our Hall, following "The Big Picture": a book & DVD by CaFE & the Bible Society to understand the Bible & God's plan for you and me. Books will be supplied and the course will also run at Loughton & Harlow parishes.

RED MISSION BOXES are used by many parishioners to support the Church's missionary work & aid people in poor countries. Please take one from church porch.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR TRAVELLERS: Following Racial Justice Sunday, which focused on the members of the Traveller Community, there will be a meeting on Tuesday, 10 March at 7.30pm at the Pastoral Centre, The Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay CM12 9LL, for anyone interested in helping with Sacramental Preparation of Traveller children for First Holy Communion & Confirmation. Training will be led by Sister Philomena Purcell. If you are interested in helping please contact Father Dan Mason, the National Catholic Chaplain for Gypsies, Roma & Travellers on 01277 624891. All prospective Catechists will need to have a DBS certificate issued by the diocese.

THE PASSAGE: a Christian Charity to help homeless people St David's Day concert at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on **Friday 28 February at 7pm** The concert with the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloists Claire Jones (harp) & Aled Wyn Davies (tenor) & Compère Guto Harri. Details to book are on website www.passage.org.uk or telephone 020 75921856 or email info@passage.org.uk. Book online with Eventbrite stdavidsday.eventbrite.co.uk

PARISH CONCERT/SOCIAL NIGHT with the ELEVATORS: We express our gratitude to everyone who organised, came and contributed to the Parish Concert/Social last Saturday. We are most grateful to Sheila and Steve Earl and their Band members who together with Chris Day, Tracey Quill and Joe Whitbread gave their time and talents. A wonderful evening was had by all. **It was also a successful fund raising occasion and raised around £400 for our parish.**

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK gives emergency food packs to those in urgent need. If you, or anyone you know is in financial difficulty or serious need, vouchers for the Foodbank are available from our Parish Office and other places locally.

A HEALING SERVICE on Saturday 29 February from 6-8pm at English Martyrs Church, 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch RM11 6BJ. For anyone in need of self-reflection, there will be guided opportunities for psychological and spiritual growth. Contact Mandy by email healingservice@english-martyrs.com on 07801470 516 or so that we have an idea of attendee numbers.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES: See notices in the Church porch for the following:

1. Director of Youth Ministry in Brentwood Diocese
2. Assistant Manager at Walsingham House Youth Centre, Abbotswick
3. Examinations invigilators at Trinity High School, Woodford Green
4. Teacher in charge of Spanish at Trinity High School, Woodford Green
5. IT Technician and Administrator at Trinity High School, Woodford Green
6. Temporary:SEN for 2 TA's: 31 & 19 hours weekly at Trinity High School