

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SATURDAY	6.00 pm	Holy Souls (Borelli/Mansell)	Vigil Mass
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT		Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday	
11 December 2016	9.00 am	Intentions of Hilda Silver (Silver)	
	11.00 am	People of the Parish	
MONDAY	12 noon	Mrs Pamela Magri RIP	Requiem Mass
TUESDAY		St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	
	9.00 am	Georgina Fernandes RIP (Murray)	
TUESDAY	8.00 pm	Advent Service of Penance & Reconciliation	
WEDNESDAY		St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	
	9.00 am	David Jolly RIP (Jolly)	
THURSDAY	9.00 am	Holy Souls (Cullen)	
FRIDAY	9.00 am	Mrs Pamela Magri RIP	
SATURDAY	6.00 pm	Mrs Margaret Aitken (RIP)	Vigil Mass
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)			
18 December 2016	9.00 am	People of Parish	
	11.00 am	Holy Souls (Keeling)	

SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturday 11am to 12 noon and 5.15pm
(Please note new and longer times on Saturday) and on request to the priest.
DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for Advent Week 2 from Week 2 of Psalter
MORNING PRAYER is said in Church, 15 minutes before 9am Mass
ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
MONDAY to FRIDAY: 9.30am to 10.30am, and Saturday 11 to 12 noon

PARISH MASS BOOK: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)


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“LOOK” FOR CHILDREN a weekly activity sheet for children. It presents the Sunday Mass theme for Primary School children with word searches, games and colouring. Children please take one home & enjoy it!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AT HOME AND IN HOSPITAL: Paula Hall, Tony Mullan, James Bullen, Sean Clohessy, Ann Dowd, Hannah Robinson, Mark Toohey, Daphne McAdam, Roger Minnis.

OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £230.50, Offertory Loose Plate £371.32
 Standing Orders £700, CAFOD £20.00 *Thank you for your generosity*





The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping
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Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173
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Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa
Parish Hall Booking: Arnold Verrall Tel: 07764404813
or 01992 001995 (Dial 01992 code even in Epping)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A) 11th December 2016

Dear Friends,

The joyful opening sentence of Mass this Sunday is:
‘Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice’.

What a marvellous thought to take with us as we go about our daily lives!

On the first two Sundays of Advent, our liturgy has directed towards the promised second coming of Christ and its consequences for us and for the whole of humanity. We have been asked urgently to reflect on how ready we are to meet God, our loving maker, and what account we would give to him for the way in which we have shown our love for him and our neighbour in the hustle and bustle of ‘normal’ life. Have we proved ourselves worthy to join God in heaven for eternity, or do we fall short and have much to do to make God content with how we lead our lives?

On this third Sunday in Advent, we are encouraged to rejoice in the coming anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, who was to give his life to save us from the powers of evil. Does our way of life make us fit to benefit from his act of unselfish love? What could we do to show greater love for God and for our neighbour, having regard particularly to our involvement in the headlong rush which has come to characterise the build up to Christmas.

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!

On Tuesday at 8pm we have our Penitential Service, at which we have the opportunity to reflect on our love for God and our neighbour and upon what we could do to love both God and our neighbour with more commitment. As always, when we ‘make a good confession’, it will improve our outlook on life and we will be truly able to **Rejoice in the Lord!**

My God bless us all as we improve our efforts to love him more during the last two weeks of Advent, over Christmastide and throughout the New Year.

Deacon Duncan

MRS PAMELA MAGRI, wife of Ray, who died on Monday, 28th November. She will be received into our Church at 12 noon on Monday, 12th December, for the celebration of Requiem Mass, which will be followed by burial at All Saints Churchyard, Theydon Garnon. **May she rest in peace.**

MRS MARY HANLEY, formerly of Harlow Parish, who died at Weald Hall Care Home on 21st October 2016. Her funeral will be celebrated with Requiem Mass here in our church on Wednesday 21st December at 3.15pm and will be followed by committal at Parndon Wood Crematorium. **May she rest in peace.**

May the Lord grant eternal rest and lasting peace to those who have died, and send His Holy Spirit, The Comforter, to all who mourn at this time.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Christmas Eve Mass at 6pm & 9pm. Christmas Carols at 8.30pm. Christmas Day Mass at 9am & 11am. Boxing Day Mass at 10am.

CHURCH READING Could you **read the Word of God at Mass?** We are looking for some **additional Readers for each Mass** to help to carry out this vital ministry. A **training session took place on Saturday, 10th December.** You would join the reading rota from 30th December and read at your chosen Mass about once every 4-6 weeks. Please phone Deacon Duncan 01992 577173 to confirm your interest in helping with this important ministry...if you did not manage the 10th December training session, you can book-in for a later session.

JOURNEY IN FAITH We invite anyone who wishes to understand our faith, wants to support the faith of a family member or become Catholic, to a course of talks on the Catholic Faith in the Priest's House on Tuesdays at 8pm. It is suitable for anyone wishing to return to the practice of their faith or who is not Catholic but come to Mass. The next session will be on Tuesday the 3rd of January at 8.00pm.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY for 2017 giving information about the church and parishes in our Diocese. On sale in the church for £2.75

OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. What an incredible event!! It was undoubtedly the most successful social event of 2016. So many people gave generous donations as patrons, gave gifts, helped with the preparation, attended on the day, the manning of the stalls on the day and clearing away afterwards...including a good number of young parishioners, which is a good sign for the future. There was a real buzz about the place, with lots of co-operation and support. Fr John was most impressed with all this zeal and particularly grateful for the £2700 raised (details are posted on the church notice board).**Well done to Janet Abbott and each member of her team of enthusiastic Bazaarists !!**

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON 12.30pm for 1pm: All who may be alone on Christmas Day are invited to join us for Lunch in our hall; Couples & carers who would like company are most welcome. We need drivers to bring and take our guests home. We need small gifts and donations. Your help and generosity is always deeply appreciated. Please give your name & contact number to Fr. John, Deacon Duncan or Mary Morgan on 01992 574719.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS can be collected from the Hall after all Masses this weekend. We need parishioners to help distribute the cards in your area, where people are unable to get to church or may have lost contact with the church. This is an important way of showing that the Church is still cares about them.

Parish Nativity & Carol Service Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm.

Please bring children at 4.30pm for casting, costume fitting and a brief rehearsal before the carol service at 6.00pm. Older children/young adults are required to be narrators / readers and will need to collect their readings to practise the previous weekend ideally.

We look forward to welcoming EVERYONE, young and old to this beautiful parish community event.

Adults PLEASE NOTE ** Mulled wine and nibbles in the hall afterwards!
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APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 - DIOCESAN GUIDANCE TO PARENTS/CARERS:

Parents and carers who are **practising Catholics** and wish to apply for a place for their child in a Catholic school for September 2017 should hand in their form to the Priest's House, where it will be attended to by Fr John & Deacon Duncan. Some may be contacted to discuss the reference for their child. Families where parents and children are not practising their faith and do not attend Sunday Mass consistently, should make their application directly to the school but not request a priest's reference unless there are extraordinary circumstances in their situation. It is essential that integrity and truth are fully respected in in this process.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

SUNDAY 28 MAY – SATURDAY 3 JUNE 2017 led by Fr Francis Coveney:
£829 per person– based on a group of 40 pilgrims. 4 nights half board + 2 nights full board. Full services of a Tangney Tours courier.

Further details including booking form can be obtained from the back of the Church or from Tangney Tours. Please send completed booking forms to Gill Didino, Tangney Tours, Pilgrim House, Station Court, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 8AF. Telephone 01732 88 66 66