

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 14 to 22 January 2017

SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME: DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

Ordinary Time Week 2: Readings: Sundays Year A; Weekdays Year 1

MONDAY 16th January 9.00 am Rev Michael O'Rourke (FM)

TUESDAY 17th St Antony, Abbot

9.00 am Des Toohey RIP (Toohey)

WEDNESDAY 18th Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity starts today

9.00 am Joseph & Josephine Murray RIP (Toohey)

THURSDAY 19th St Wulstan, Bishop

9.00 am Pamela Magri RIP (Magri)

Catholic Church Epping 7.30 pm Service and Prayer for Christian Unity

FRIDAY 20th St Fabian, Pope and Martyr

9.00 am Holy Souls RIP

THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME: Sundays Year A; Weekdays Year 1

Ordinary Time Week 3: Lectionary Readings: Sundays Year A; Weekdays Year 1

SATURDAY 21st 6.00 pm Leo Flanagan RIP (Christie)

SUNDAY 22nd 9.00 am People of Parish

11.00 am Joan Scannell RIP (Morris)

St John the Baptist 4.00pm Ecumenical Service
Epping

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

(Please note longer times on Saturdays) and on request to the priest.

DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for Week 2 of Breviary, from Week 2 of Psalter

MORNING PRAYER is prayed in Church 15 minutes before 9am Mass

ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

MONDAY to FRIDAY after 9am weekday Mass and Saturdays 11 to 12 noon

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.

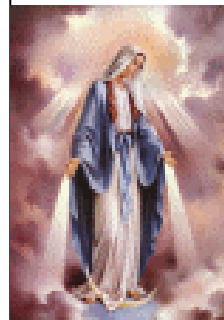
OFFERINGS: Offertory Envelopes £254.50 Offertory Loose Plate £262.99, CAFOD £20.38, Standing Orders £700

Thank you for your generous offerings.

NEW PARISHIONER OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Welcome to our parish if you moved in recently and do introduce yourself to Fr John or Deacon Duncan.

If you changed address in the parish, or did not receive a parish Christmas card from us, we may not have your correct address. Please let us our Parish Office know, by completing or updating a Parish Registration Form or e-mailing your address etc.

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

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

**Parish Hall Bookings: Arnold Verrall Tel: 07764404813
or 01992 001995 (Dial 01992 code even in Epping)**

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) 15th January 2017

My dear friends,

“When all the people had been baptised, and while Jesus, after his own Baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you’” (Luke 3:15-22). When Jesus was praying, after his Baptism by St John the Baptist he was anointed with power by the Holy Spirit. This was to strengthen him for the forty days of testing in the desert and prepare him for ministry. God the Father proclaimed, “This is my beloved Son, on whom my favour rests”. The three persons in the Holy Trinity are in perfect communion at Jesus’ Baptism and he is united with his Father and the Holy Spirit. He was anointed as the Christ, to save people and baptise them with the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is the foundation of our life of faith after birth, for it begins the life of grace in communion with God. In Baptism, God chooses us as his beloved son or daughter and gives us a personal relationship with himself. At Jesus’ Baptism, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were present in communion; when we are Baptised, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, The Holy Trinity is present to us too, and God brings us into communion with himself and his people in the Church, which is the Christian Community, the Body of Christ.

Jesus was anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit and called to mission at his Baptism. Anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit, we too are called to our special vocation or mission by God at our Baptism and in Confirmation. Today as we renew our Baptism promises at Mass, we renounce all that is not of God and choose to live in the love of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At Baptism we read from 1 John 1:1-3, which speaks of God’s love for us: “Think of the love God the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God’s children and that is what we are”. In response to God choosing and anointing us, let us commit ourselves anew to follow the example of Jesus, his beloved Son, and decide to live in his love and way, rather than following a worldly or self-centred love.

May the Lord bless and renew in us the graces of Baptism. Fr John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The next session for the children will take place this coming Tuesday 17th January at 5.45pm in the Hall.

FR JAMES MEMORIAL WINDOW: On the noticeboard in the porch is the design of the *Fr James Memorial Window*. It was designed by former parishioner, Andy Smith, and funded by parishioners who donated to Fr James' Retirement Fund. The window will be installed in the sacristy some time in the next two months.

NEW AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM: As the amplification system has been very unsatisfactory for quite some time we have now decided to replace it, and install a completely new system to the church. This will cost approximately £3000.

MISSIO (RED BOX) COLLECTION: The collections for the second half of 2016 have now been counted and amount to £679.17. The total for 2016 amounts to £1037.93 – a wonderful contribution!!. Thanks to all the 18 parishioners who use this means of supporting the Overseas Missions. Red boxes for parishioners who handed them in for counting are now in the church porch for collection with the collector's name. If any parishioner would like to help support this very worthwhile charity, please contact Brendan Carden, our Mission Organiser, on 07983 947505, and he will be pleased to issue a new box to you and explain what is involved.

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 17th January at 8.00pm.

ECCA NEW YEAR CONCERT next Saturday 21st January at 7.30pm in St. John's church Epping. We will be singing Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' accompanied by harp, and 'Messiah, part 1' with organ. Free admission and programme £2.50. Retiring collection for choir funds. Interval refreshments. Please support us.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Wednesday 18th January to Wednesday 25th January. A service involving the Epping churches will be held at St John the Baptist Church, Epping at 4pm on Sunday 25th January. Please try to attend. We will have a Service for Christian Unity in our Church on Thursday 19th January at 8pm to which local churches are invited. Please support it.

Flame Congress, SSE Wembley Arena, Saturday March 11th 2017: Travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to the largest Catholic youth event in the country! Open to all aged 15-23, It includes music by Grammy Award winner Matt Redman, talks by the Cardinal Archbishop of Myanmar (Burma), experiences shared by young people who worked in Jordan's refugee camps, conversation with Fr Augusto Zampini, once a parish priest in the slums of Buenos Aires and now working with Pope Francis, and input from Sarah Teather, once an MP and now head of the Jesuit Refugee Service. The day includes music, dance & drama, times of reflection and prayer, and lots of activities in the break times. It is an amazing day that happens only once every two years. Tickets are limited. Travel on your own or with friends, and we will meet you at

Liverpool St or Fenchurch St station. Cost just £15, plus your train fare. Book now by emailing gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org or calling Gabby on 01268 515970.

MASS FOR THE SICK Our Lady of Lourdes is patroness of our diocese and the sick. Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass in her honour at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead, at 3 pm on Sunday 5 February. All are invited to this celebration; During Mass, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are unwell.

STUDY DAY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH, will be held on Saturday 18th March from 11am to 3pm. The theme will be: 'The Journey of Faith in the Gospel of John', to be led by Fr Victor Darlington, professor of Scripture at St John's Seminary, Womersley. We will explore the Lent Sunday Gospels of John. Coffee & tea are provided, but bring packed lunch. Admission free & Parking free at church (3 minutes' walk from Gidea Park Station). Essential to book a place, this can be done by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com

INAUGURATION OF THE CENTENARY OF OUR DIOCESE On Saturday 11 February 2017, we celebrate the Inauguration of the Centenary of our Diocese. To mark this, Bishop Alan asks that all parishes hold a Day of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in their churches, so that we will be united in prayer across the Diocese.

CENTENARY MASS: will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 with Apostolic Nuncio and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and representatives of parishes in our Diocese.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Saturday 22nd July 2017 in which all parishes are to participate. There will be no evening Mass on that Saturday in any parish in our diocese so that all can be involved in the pilgrimage.

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is hosting a Charity Quiz Night on **Saturday 25th February** at the Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School. Teams will be of 8 people at a cost of £7.50 per person, with all funds raised going to [bccc](http://bccc.org.uk). The evening will start promptly at 7pm, with a short break halfway through and finish around 10pm; you are invited to bring your own drinks and nibbles. Contact Julie Abbot – jabbott@bccc.org.uk 01268 784544 / 07912277413 to book your places (all teams must be pre-booked) or to request a Fundraising Quiz Pack for running your own quiz night in your parish for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC): 2017 will be a special year for SPUC. They will be marking the 50th Anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act 1967 and will be commemorating over 8.7 million lives lost through abortion. Next weekend we will have a speaker from SPUC and there will be an opportunity for parishioners to support their work in protecting human life from conception until natural death.