

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 25<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**

**FOURTH (Laetare or Rejoicing ) SUNDAY OF LENT A 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

<b>SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Tony O'Loughlin RIP (Collier)	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Peggy Hayes RIP (Crehan)	
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	People of our Parish	
<b>26<sup>th</sup> March 2017</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>	
<b>MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30 am</b>	Frederick Roberts RIP	<b>REQUIEM MASS</b>
<b>TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Desmond Antony's intentions (Joseph)	
<b>WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Alex Henery's intentions (Joseph)	
<b>THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Rose Levine's intentions (Collier)	
<b>FRIDAY 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Private Intention	
<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	The Mass will be offered for our Musicians & Choir	
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - Year A</b>			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017</b>

<b>SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Fr James Hawes RIP
<b>SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Helen Cummins RIP (Lavin)
<b>April 2017</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	People of our Parish
	<b>12.15pm</b>	Baptism of Amelia Crighton
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>

**SACRAMENT of PENANCE Saturdays 11am to 12 noon & 5.15pm and on request MORNING PRAYER is offered before weekday Masses at 8.45am in Church DIVINE OFFICE PSALMS for Lent Week 4 are from Week 4 of The Breviary ADORATION & PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT MONDAY to FRIDAY after 9am weekday Mass for one hour**

**PARISH MASS BOOK: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A**

<b>Page 7 The Beginning of Mass</b>	<b>Page 72 Preface: The man born blind</b>
<b>Page 165 Collect &amp; Readings</b>	<b>Page 25 Eucharistic Prayer 2</b>
<b>Page 12 The Apostles' Creed</b>	<b>Page 56 The Communion Rite</b>
<b>Page 14 Preparation of Gifts</b>	<b>Page 169 Post Communion Prayer</b>

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AT HOME & IN HOSPITAL** James Bullen, Mark Toohey, Hilda Silver, Brenda Sebire, Tony Mullan, Hannah Robinson, Sean Clohessy, Paula Hall, Ann Dowd, Daphne McAdam, Marcheta Swift-Daley, Roger Minnis.

**LENT MASSES:** On the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm we have Mass with Stations of the Cross to which **ALL parishioners are welcome**. At these Masses we pray for various groups in our parish that God may bless, sustain and enrich their work and vocation.

**EASTER LILIES:** Donate a lily for our church at Easter in memory of a loved one. Please make an offering of £2 per bloom and mark the envelope "Easter Lily".

**OFFERINGS:** Offertory Envelopes £205.50, Offertory Loose Plate £356.75, CAFOD £50.00, Standing Orders £700. *Thank you for your generous offerings.*  
**COUNTERS NEEDED** We need more people to help count our Offertory Collections on a rota with our existing team of counters. It does not take very long but we need to augment the existing team, especially as we are about to introduce Offertory collection bags, which will give greater security and help protect people's offerings.

**The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping**



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**Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)**

**Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**  
**Hall Bookings: e-mail: [arnold\\_verrall@email.com](mailto:arnold_verrall@email.com)**  
**Telephone Arnold Verrall: 07764404813 or 01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping area)**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT A Mothering Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

*Dear Friends,*

The blind man said, "I don't know if he (Jesus) is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see" (John 9:1-41). The sight of our eyes is one of the most precious and wonderful gifts given to us by God. We are blessed to have the sight of our eyes and be able to see the beauty of creation in the world around us.

The blind man who received sight in his eyes through Jesus' touch was filled with joy. Whilst he received sight in his eyes, he also had the ability to see God present in and working through Jesus. Those around him, who had the sight of their eyes suffered from spiritual blindness, and were unable to see Jesus as the chosen one of God, who had come to save people from sin and bring them healing and peace.

People who have faith in God or Christ as Saviour have an inner sight that enables them to see God present and working in the world and in their lives. People who do not have faith suffer from spiritual blindness, and are unable to recognise the presence of God or believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour of the world. The teachings Jesus gives and the miracles he works bear witness to his power as the Chosen one of God, and confirms the faith of all who believe in him.

We sometimes say "I can't see where he or she is coming from", in other words we are blind and incapable of seeing what leads or drives a person. Faith is a precious gift given by God, and we must never take it for granted, since people can and do lose their faith. Faith enables us to relate to God in prayer and time of need and by faith we see his presence in terrible situations and tragedies, as well as in what is beautiful or normal. We grow in faith by reading and listening to God's Word in the Bible, by communicating with him in private prayer, and in the prayer of the community at Mass. We ask Jesus to strengthen our faith, so that we may have eyes of faith to see his presence in our lives and our world

We pray for, honour thank and God our mothers, on this Mothering Sunday. We ask God to bless them as we give thanks for the gift of motherhood – a gift and calling which they share with Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church.

**May the Lord bless us with the vision of his presence in our world. Fr John**

**FREDRICK ARTHUR JOSEPH ROBERTS RIP:** We pray for Fred who died on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March. He will be received into our Church on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am for the celebration of Requiem Mass, followed by burial at Manor Park Cemetery. **May he rest in peace. May the Lord grant eternal rest and lasting peace to all who have died, and send His Holy Spirit, The Comforter, to all who mourn.**

**EASTERN AFRICAN FAMINE CRISIS** We see on television the devastation caused by the famine in East Africa, where **13 million people, including 2 million children are suffering from a critical shortage of food, leading to many deaths.** The pictures are horrifying!! The Disaster Emergency Committee is now seeking to raise funds and it was agreed by Parish Council that we take a second collection **this** weekend, the proceeds of which will be doubled from our Charity Fund and be sent to CAFOD. Please be generous, (as we usually are in these devastating circumstances)

**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. The next session will be on Tuesday 28th March at 8.00pm.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:** The next preparation session for the children will be in our Parish Hall on Tuesday next, 28th March, at 5.45pm.

**CENTENARY MASS:** The Centenary of the foundation of our Diocese of Brentwood in 1917 was marked with a Mass with the Bishops of England & Wales, the priests, deacons, religious and people of our Diocese at Brentwood Cathedral on Wednesday last, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. We will put up in our Church this weekend our Diocesan Centenary Banner, with a representation of the patron saints of our Diocese.

**AN OPPORTUNITY IN LENT TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR:** On Saturday morning why not come to Calvary ..... spend some time at the peaceful, prayerful vigil at Marie Stopes clinic at the top of Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill, where every week hundreds of innocent lives are snuffed out without ceremony or anaesthetic. The Helpers of God's Precious Infants are there to pray for all concerned, the mothers, fathers, doctors, nurses and other staff, and to offer practical help and counselling. Practical help for mothers to have their babies and counselling and healing retreats after abortion. 8.30am to 11.30am just quietly join the vigil for as short or long a time as you wish. For information please call Rose on 079606 50517 or Paul 0808 252 9459

**ECCA CHOIR CONCERT:** Eccia will be singing Handel's Messiah part 2 on Good Friday at 7.30pm in St. John's Church Epping. Admission is free but a programme costs £2.50 to offset expenses. A retiring collection will be made for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. We have professional soloists/musicians, and we would really appreciate your support. A very appropriate way to end Good Friday.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** The boxes of offertory envelopes for 2017/18 are now available, personally addressed, in the church porch. Please collect your box. If you would like to join our Gift Aid Scheme contact Margaret Lechley in the parish office.

**LENT LECTURES** A big thank you to everyone who attended our Lent Lectures over the past three Mondays. We are most grateful to our speakers: Dr Colin Harte who spoke on "The Privilege of Suffering". Fr Alban McCoy who spoke on Pope Francis' reflection on the Synod on the Family in "Amoris Laetitia – the Joy of Love". Last Monday Dr Charlie O'Donnell spoke on the challenges of "Being a Catholic Doctor in 21<sup>st</sup> Century England and staying true to the Catholic Faith".

**LENT LUNCHES 2017 Every Saturday in Lent from 12.30 to 2.00pm,** one of the Epping churches will offer light lunch of soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee. **A £3.00 donation is suggested for Christian Aid.** Everyone is welcome and please bring your friends. **Every Tuesday in Lent.** St Mary's Church, Theydon Bois.

**OUR LENT LUNCH will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April:** We need volunteers to wait on tables and donations of soup and homemade bread will be much appreciated. If you can help in any way please telephone Mary on 574719. Please come and join us for the lunch with your family and friends. Your support is always welcome.

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST:** For those who attended the very moving and inspiring **Wintershall** years ago, we are organising another **not-to-be-missed parish outing.** For those who have not yet seen this incredible production of The Life of Christ, it is a play performed at a number of settings in a large country estate near Guildford, with live animals and very realistic props, by the same company that performs the Passion Play in Trafalgar Square on Good Fridays. We propose to run a **35-seater coach on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017** at an inclusive cost of £25 per adult (£2 reduction for senior citizens. £10 for under 18's). Tickets sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Please **contact Deacon Duncan (01992 577173) for more details.**

**CLASSICAL MUSIC EVENING:** The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is hosting an evening of classical music in the beautiful surroundings of Ingatestone Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy an exciting and varied programme with three professional musicians performing a selection of classical favourites. Tickets at £25 include prosecco and nibbles. For information or tickets please call Libby Phillips on 01268 784544 or email [lphillips@bccs.org.uk](mailto:lphillips@bccs.org.uk)

**CLARE PRIORY PILGRIMAGE** in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Please see poster in church porch for further details.

**BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL MUSIC** presents **Hermitage Ensemble from St Petersburg, Russia** on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm. Please see poster in church porch for further details.

**THE JOY OF LOVE (AMORIS LAETITIA):** Pope Francis has spoken of the exultation of love in the family. This was the subject of Fr Alban McCoy's Lent lecture last Tuesday. This publication is on sale at the back of the church.

**CARDBOARD BOXES** Fr John wants to get rid of the very good cardboard boxes he has had for moving here. It would be helpful if people could take and use them rather than putting them into the recycle, which would be a waste.