



# **Newsletter**

## The Immaculate Conception Epping

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**8th December 2013**

Dear friends,

three figures are prominent in the scripture readings for Advent. Firstly there is the Old Testament prophet Isaiah who foretells from afar the Saviour upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests. Then there is John the Baptist, the voice crying in the wilderness: prepare the way for the Lord. That is our task also: in the spiritual wilderness all around us we try our best to convey to others what Christmas is all about. To do so we have to look firstly at our own lives, and our own sense of values. An important part of our own preparation for Christmas ought to be the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. When were you last at Confession? An opportunity will be given on Monday 16th December with our own Advent Penance Service. The third Advent figure is Mary our blessed Mother. Normally, the feast of her Immaculate Conception is observed on 8th December but owing to the clash with the second Sunday of Advent, it has been transferred to Monday 9th December. It is also our special Parish feast day. In addition to the morning Mass at 9am there will also be Mass at 8pm in the evening. I hope for a good attendance.

Deacon Duncan has been re-admitted to hospital owing to an infection. However, he is doing well and hopes to be back home soon. He is grateful for all your prayers. Please keep them up.

***God bless you always***  
***Fr James***

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**CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** We are pleased to invite all those who will be alone on Christmas Day to a traditional luncheon in our Hall. Couples and carers are also most welcome. If you are able to HELP in anyway or to reserve your place, please ring Mary Morgan on 01992 574719.

**PARISH NATIVITY/CAROL CONCERT on 22nd December at 6.00pm:**

There will be a short meeting **in the Hall after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 15th December** for all children and young people participating. Children taking part should be 4 years upwards and there are no challenging roles! This meeting is to confirm numbers and to have a short run through. There are reading and narrating opportunities for young people and older children. Please make every effort to be there or contact Maggie on 07718 858 879 or [maggie@keelingphysio.com](mailto:maggie@keelingphysio.com) for more information.

**CONTEMPORARY ART COMES TO BRENTWOOD**

**CATHEDRAL:** From 1-23 December, Brian Whelan's new work, the Brentwood Cross, will be on display in Brentwood Cathedral. For images of the Brentwood Cross, go to [www.cathedral-brentwood.org](http://www.cathedral-brentwood.org).

**ADVENT SERVICE OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION:**

Monday 16th December at 8pm.

**WALK WITH ME BOOKLET:** Advent recollections. Complimentary copies available. One per household please.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** the next meeting takes place on Wednesday 11th December in the presbytery. All welcome. This is our pre-Christmas meeting, so there will be food and drink! If you cannot attend but would like to raise an issue, please contact Debbie on 01992 575900 or email [dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:dr.debbie.harrison@gmail.com).

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK 2014:** now on sale at £2.75.

**MRS GLADYS PARELLO RIP:** the coffin will be brought to the Church on Thursday 12th December at 4.30pm. Requiem on Friday 13th December at 11am.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** in our Church Hall 7.30pm till late. **14 years old and over only please.** Tickets now on sale. £7.50. . Bring your own drinks and nibbles. For tickets please contact Sheila & Steve Earl on 01992 610483/07746 021830 or John & Julie Ryan on 01992 524633.

**CHURCH HALL HIRE:** as a vacancy has recently arisen in our Hall timetable, would any parishioners or their friends like to hire our Hall, ideally on a regular weekly basis, on a Wednesday after 3.25pm? A children's dance and/or drama class, for example, would be particularly welcome. Please ring Arnold Verrall on 573633 or 0776 4404813 for all Hall hire enquiries. We continue to be a regular venue for children's weekend birthday parties. Reduced rate applies to parishioners.

**NO ROOM AT THE INN?** Many mothers nowadays find themselves under pressure to have an abortion. The Good Counsel Network and Helpers of God's Precious Infants offer practical help when they decide to keep their baby. This year, thanks to the 40 Days For Life prayer vigils in London and at our "local" clinic in Buckhurst Hill, many have decided to keep their babies - **but** this means funds are short! So, if you can help this Christmas **please** send a cheque payable to The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel, P.O. Box 46679, NW9 8ZT (see info@goodcounselnetwork.com)

**CATHOLIC BIBLE SUNDAY:** This weekend in many different Christian communities we celebrate Bible Sunday. Since the Second Vatican Council Catholics have been taught to treasure the presence of Christ in the Mass, not only in the Eucharist, but also in the Word. You will find weekly reflections on the Sunday gospel on the diocesan website or at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org).

**NEW PARISHIONERS:-** please make yourselves known to Father James or Deacon Duncan, so we may welcome and inform you about our parish life.

## **MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

### **7th and 8th December 2013**

Sat 7th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Holy Souls
Sun 8th	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

### **Week Commencing 9th December 2013**

Mon 9th	Immaculate Conception	9 a.m.	Mary Furlong RIP
		8 p.m.	People of the Parish
Tues 10th		9 a.m.	Ted Shaw RIP
Wed 11th		9 a.m.	Bill Collier RIP
Thurs 12th		9 a.m.	Special Intention (M.C)
Fri 13th		11 a.m.	Requiem Mass for Gladys Parello
Sat 14th Vigil Mass		6 p.m.	Georgina Fernandez RIP
Sun 15th		9 a.m.	Mary Branch RIP
		11 a.m.	People of the Parish

**Morning Prayer** will be held in the week 15 minutes before 9 am Liturgy

**Confessions:** 11.30am -12 noon and after 6pm Mass.

### **Please pray for the sick:**

Yvonne Morrall, Doris Scott, John Hannis, Amy O'Day, Mike Collett, Gina Pelosi, Marie Verrall, Paula Hall, Tullia Borrelli, Fr Bill Nix, David Sebire, Sean Garwood, Gus Broks, Sean Clohessy, Tom Clark and Deacon Duncan.

<b><u>OFFERINGS:</u></b>	Offertory Envelopes	309.60
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	234.67
	CAFOD	20.00