



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Third Sunday of Advent

15th December 2013

Dear friends,

this weekend we light three of the Advent candles as we approach the shortest day of the year. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Having preached last Sunday about reconciliation, I would remind you once more of our Advent Penance & Reconciliation Service on Monday 16th December at 8pm. Amidst all the hectic preparations for Christmas, we cannot afford to lose sight of the spiritual preparation for the feast of Christ's birth. A reflective examination of our conscience helps us to place in proper perspective the value and purpose of life.

The bazaar last weekend raised the remarkable total of just under £3,300. Our thanks is due to the tireless efforts of Mrs Janet Abbott and her team of helpers for whose commitment and dedication we are ever grateful. However, it must be said that too much is falling on too few shoulders. The wonderful people we rely on need to be backed up by younger and physically stronger volunteers in the future. There is no shortage of generosity when it comes to contributing money but practical help is very important as well.

Please pray for me as I keep the 49th anniversary of my priestly ordination on December 19th. My ministry has given me a lifetime of fulfilment and I hope that there is a little more mileage in me yet.

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.

ECCA CHRISTMAS CONCERT: will be held on Friday 20th December at 8pm in St John's Church, Epping. Admission is free but programmes cost £2.50 to offset expenses and a retiring collection will be made for Epping Re-use Centre.

PARISH DATABASE: please can you help us to keep the database up to date by letting either Fr James know or e-mailing the Parish Office at epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you did not receive a parish Christmas card or know of anyone who did but is no longer in the parish. Many thanks.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: this group is for children between 4 and 9 years, however, younger and older siblings are very welcome. We are currently looking for more helpers for this group to continue. If you are interested please contact Norah on 01992 577932.

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

There will be a short meeting **in the Hall after the 11.00am Mass this weekend** 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 for more information.

ADVENT SERVICE OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION:
Monday 16th December at 8pm.

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

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

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)

HELP REQUIRED: to assist with caring for a lady who is undergoing treatment for a brain tumour. No experience or professional care is required. Help is needed with general household chores, reading and providing company. Hours and pay negotiable. Please contact Natalie Goldsworthy on 0787035 50708 if interested.

PROVIDENCE ROW CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT:
Tuesday 17th December at 7pm at The Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, Mayfair. Entrance is free.

LOURDES - SUMMER 2014:The 25th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage runs from 26th to 31st July from £618 by air with full board for five nights, or £418 by coach. The pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs. Please visit www.brentwoodlourdes.org for further information.

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

14th and 15th December 2013

Sat 14th 6 p.m. Georgina Fernandez RIP
Vigil Mass

Sun 15th 9 a.m. Mary Branch RIP
 11 a.m. People of the Parish

Week Commencing 16th December 2013

Mon 16th	9 a.m.	David Jolly RIP
	8 p.m.	Advent Penance Service
Tues 17th	9 a.m.	Dutton Family
Wed 18th	9 a.m.	Grace & Bernard Stevens
Thurs 19th	9 a.m.	Private Intention
Fri 20th	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Sat 21st Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Pam & Kay Magri
Sun 22nd	9 a.m.	Norah White 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.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	397.50
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	278.50
	CAFOD	54.54
	Bazaar Takings	1984.90
	Bazaar Patrons	120.00