



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22nd December 2013

Dear friends,

we have reached the winter solstice and now all four Advent candles are alight to proclaim that the Light of the World shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overpower it. For us as believers the celebration of our Saviour's birth is the reason for all this mid winter festivity. We begin with the 6pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. If you want a seat come early. The main Mass begins at 10pm although it is generally referred to as Midnight Mass. On Christmas morning itself there are the usual two Masses at 9 and 11am. I am pleased to say that our Advent Penance Service last Monday was the best attended ever. For those who have yet to make a confession there will be a further opportunity between 11 and 12 noon on Christmas Eve. Tonight at 6pm we are having the Parish Nativity/Carol Concert and again we are hoping for a packed church.

As we prepare to enjoy our own Christmas we should be mindful of our Christian brothers and sisters in the land of our Lord's birth and throughout the Middle East. They are practising their faith in the most difficult circumstances. They, and all the victims of the ongoing conflict in Syria need our prayers and our material support.

It remains for me to wish you and all those who are dear to you much peace and joy in this sacred season.

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.

Volunteer drivers are needed to bring elderly people to the parish hall for 1pm. Please ring Mary Morgan if you can help.

Gifts and food items promised for the luncheon can be taken to the Hall on Christmas Eve between 10-12 noon. Alternatively please phone Mary to arrange collection. Monetary donations can be given to Fr James. Many thanks for your help and support.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is discontinued over Christmas and New Year and will recommence on Monday 6th January.

CONFESSIONS: Christmas Eve 11-12 noon.

CRIB OFFERINGS will be donated to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please be generous.

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:

Our annual nativity and carol concert is this Sunday at 6.00pm. All parents, grandparents, friends, parishioners - in other words - everyone is warmly welcomed at this wonderful parish community event. There will be mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall afterwards. Please join us.

Can all children participating please gather in the Hall at 5.00pm to get dressed and prepare. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gus Broks who is 95 on December 27th.

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.

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.

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.

MASS & ROSARY PROCESSION: The monthly Helpers of God's Precious Infants procession, led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will be on Saturday 28th December 2013 FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, at St Charles Borromeo Church, 8 Ogle Street, London W1W 6HS. Mass is at 9am followed by the Rosary Procession at 9.50am to Marie Stopes Abortion Centre, Whitfield Street, London W1T 5BE, where 15 decades of the Rosary will be said. Return will be at approximately 11.30am to St Charles Borromeo Church where there will be refreshments in the Church Hall at 12.00 noon.

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

21st and 22nd December 2013

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

Week Commencing 23rd December 2013

Mon 23rd	9 a.m.	Patrick Norton RIP
Christmas Eve		No morning Mass
	11 -12	Confessions
	6 p.m.	Children's Vigil Mass
	10 p.m.	<u>Solemn Sung Mass</u>
Christmas Day		Mass at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Thurs 26th	10 a.m.	Norton Family
Fri 27th	9 a.m.	Ruth Robinson RIP
Sat 28th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Hugh McMillan RIP
Sun 29th	9 a.m.	Pitera Family
	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, David Sebire, Sean Garwood, Gus Broks, Sean Clohessy, Tom Clark and Deacon Duncan.

<u>OFFERINGS:</u>	Offertory Envelopes	244.50
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	373.84
	CAFOD	90.23
Standing Orders November/December		2965.32