



Newsletter

The Immaculate Conception Epping

First Sunday of Advent

1st December 2013

Dear friends,

with the beginning of Advent the Church starts a new liturgical year. The prophet Isaiah, whose writings feature prominently in the coming days, invites us to “walk in the light of the Lord”. Responding to this invitation we light the first of our four Advent candles in the count down to Christmas. As the days grow ever shorter and the nights ever longer, the light of Christ is meant to grow ever stronger in our hearts and minds. All around us the commercial exploitation of Christ’s birth becomes more and more rampant so that by the time Christmas actually comes many people are totally exhausted. Advent urges us to slow down and put things into proper perspective. To help us to do so I recommend the booklet “Walk with me” which provides with a brief day by day reflection between now and the Epiphany. Please take a complimentary copy (one per household) and use it as a means of helping to concentrate on what Christmas is all about.

Our annual bazaar takes place next Saturday. It is always an enjoyable parish community event but help is still needed. If you can assist please ring Mrs Janet Abbott (571128). This year our patronal feast of the Immaculate Conception, normally held on 8th December, will be transferred to Monday 9th December.

God bless you always
Fr James

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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Date December 7th. **OUR CHRISTMAS**

BAZAAR IS NEXT SATURDAY! This is a special time of the year when the whole parish community gets together to make new friends and meet old ones. The Bazaar is in the Church Hall from 10.30am to 2.30pm. Please spend the latter part of the week baking for the Cake Stall - even cold cakes go like hot cakes and so do pies, tarts, puddings and flans. Setting up is on Friday afternoon, 3pm onwards. Young muscle is urgently needed before and after the bazaar. Last goods for the stalls may be left in the porch of the Church during the week. **Raffle Tickets** : draw tickets and cash must be returned well before the Bazaar. Many thanks to those who have already done so.

PIETY STALL: there is a selection of religious Christmas cards at a reasonable price. Also other Christmas bits and pieces. Please come and have a look.

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: This is a very important and special occasion for **EVERYONE IN THE PARISH** and **ALL** our young children are encouraged to take part. Keep this date free: **Sunday 22nd December at 6pm.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION : The next class for the children will be on Monday 2nd December at 6pm.

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.

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

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for Mrs Gladys Parello who died on November 27th. We offer her husband Jim and her family our prayerful condolences. RIP

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.

“HE’S BEHIND YOU!” Woodford Panto “Sleeping Beauty”: I have 25 tickets on Saturday 11th January 2014 at 4.30pm for this excellent production starring one of our very own parishioners (but will you be able to recognise who?!) All tickets are £12.50. If you have reserved tickets, I now have them - payment asap would be appreciated. If not, please form an orderly queue - I expect them to go quickly. Contact Maggie Keeling at maggie@keelingphysio.com or telephone 07718858879.

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.

THE BOX HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS CHARITY

COLLECTIONS: The Box has been given permission to run two street collections in Epping **on Saturday 30th November and Saturday 7th December.** Would anyone be available to spare an hour or two on either Saturday or both? Buckets, badges, leaflets to give out and hi-viz jackets will be provided. It is hoped that the collectors will be paired up in twos if there are enough volunteers. Anyone aged 16 or over is authorised to collect - young people will be paired with adults. With youth services being cut further, across the country, the Box is still up, running and thriving after more than 8 years, thanks to the faithful support of local Christians and the Churches Together in Epping. If you can help then please contact Marjorie Austin on mjt.austin30@gmail.com.

BAPTISM: Congratulations to Ted Hanifin.

HELP REQUIRED: an elderly gentleman parishioner in a North Weald bungalow needs someone to do cleaning and washing - £10 per hour. 2 - 4 hours per week negotiable. If anyone knows of a suitable person please contact Paul on 577104.

CAFOD ADVENT CALENDAR: with daily reflections and prayers. Available from www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-Calendar.

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
30th November & 1st December 2013

Sat 30th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Holy Souls
Sun 1st	9 a.m.	Maura Clohessy RIP
	11 a.m.	People of the Parish

Week Commencing 2nd December 2013

Mon 2nd	9 a.m.	Michael Foster RIP
Tues 3rd	9 a.m.	Mary Furlong RIP
Wed 4th	9 a.m.	William O'Donaghue RIP
Thurs 5th	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Fri 6th	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
Sat 7th Vigil Mass	6 p.m.	Holy Souls
Sun 8th Dec	9 a.m.	Holy Souls
	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	394.05
(£)	Offertory Loose Plate	333.05
	CAFOD	23.00