

Masses & Services Saturday 4th May to Sunday 12th May 2024		
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 5th May 2024		
Saturday 4 th	6.00pm	Patsy Fernandes RIP (Murray)
Sunday 5 th	9.00am	Intentions of Grace Kelly's Family (SB)
May 2024	11.00am	People of our Parish
Monday 6 th	10.00am	Grace Kelly RIP Anniv (Bond)
Tues 7 th	9.15am	Private Intention (SP)
Wed 8 th	7.30pm	NO 12 NOON MASS TODAY VIGIL MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
Thursday 9 th	FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD	
	9.15am	Fr David Stanley RIP
	11.00am	Michael Morgan RIP REQUIEM MASS
Friday 10 th	12 Noon	Michael Morgan RIP Recently (Palmer)
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 12th May 2024		
Saturday 11 th	6.00pm	Graeme Hollinshead RIP Recently (Holland)
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	People of our Parish
	CROWNING OF THE STATUE OF OUR LADY	
May 2024	11.00am	Alice Drew RIP (Sainsbury)

HOSPITAL: If you are going into hospital this week for surgery Fr Martin will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick after all weekend Masses.

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD WEBSITE:
<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/>

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generous weekly Offerings of £62 in Envelopes, £420.29 in loose cash, £800 Standing Orders. You can give donations to the Priest's House and online for our parish or charities our parish supports at:
www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping//////////

IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: Father Martin will usually have his day off on Thursdays. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either St Edmund's, Loughton – Tel: 0208 5089438, Holy Cross, Harlow – Tel 01279 425776 or The Assumption, Harlow – Tel 01279 429388. This would also apply if Fr Martin is on holiday.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED: If anyone would like to be an altar server, please see Fr Martin or contact the Parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: Masses can be booked through our parish office.

HALL HIRE: Our Hall is available to hire at very competitive rates and a discount for parishioners. Please contact our Parish Office for further details and to book.

The next **"ENQUIRERS' EVENING"** for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 7 May** at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Patrick Daly. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@brcdt.org

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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Website: www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 234092
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B 5th May 2024

Today's readings centre on the theme of love: the totally faithful, unconditional love of God for us.

The First Reading (Acts 10: 25–26.34–35.44–48) describes a turning point in the growth of the Early Church. Peter visits the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion and Gentile, announcing that 'God does not have favourites'. God reaches out to those who listen to him through his Holy Spirit. He creates a community of love that embraces all humanity.

St John (Second Reading 1 John 4: 7–10) reminds us that God loved us first. God's nature is love. The great depth of that love is revealed in God sending Jesus, whose self-sacrifice redeems our sins and draws us into the life of God.

The Gospel (John 15: 9–17) shows us Jesus teaching his disciples about his loving relationship with his Father. Jesus chooses and invites us into that same intimate relationship. He tells us how to follow him: that we should love one another.

As we approach the end of the Easter season, we pray for the grace that we ourselves might reflect the gift of God's love, through our actions to our brothers and sisters, and to all creation. We also give thanks for the love of our friends, and for the joy that they bring to our lives.

Love one
 ANOTHER
 as I have
 LOVED
 you
 -JOHN 15:12

RECENTLY DECEASED:

MICHAEL MORGAN, one of our longstanding parishioners, who died on Monday 15th April. May he rest in peace. His Requiem Mass will take place here on **Thursday 9th May at 11am**. Michael is now reunited with his beloved wife, Mary, who passed away on 31st January this year.

JANET ABBOTT, a longstanding parishioner who died on **Friday 26th April**. May she rest in peace. Janet was affectionately known for her commitment to the parish jumble sales held here for many years. Her tireless efforts and organisation made them a wonderful fundraiser. Janet will be received into our church on **Thursday 23rd May at 4pm** followed by a Requiem Mass, here, the following day, **Friday 24th May, at 10.30am**.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to families and all who mourn. May the Lord send his Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and give them with the hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: To celebrate the **Feast of the Ascension** we will have a Vigil Mass here on **Wednesday 8th May at 7.30pm** and then Mass at **9.15am on Thursday 9th May**, the feast day. **There will not be a Mass at 12 noon on 8th May.**

COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS: The opportunity to receive communion under both kinds began recently here. Many parishes in the diocese have already restored the opportunity to receive from the chalice.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The crowning of our Lady's statue will take place at the 11am Mass **NEXT Sunday 12th May**, during which the children of the first Holy Communion group will crown the statue of Our Lady and present flowers to her. This is truly fitting as the month of May is dedicated to Our Lady. There will be a rehearsal, in the church, for the first Holy communion children **NEXT Wednesday 8th May at 5.30pm**. **NEXT Tuesday 7th May** there will be a meeting for the parents, at **7.30pm**, in our hall. It is imperative that at least one parent from each family attends this meeting.

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of Gabriel Angelo Barnardo, baptised in our Church on Saturday 27th April. May the Lord bless them and their family and help them bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.*

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES: Lord Jesus Christ, our Most Holy Redeemer, by the grace of your Holy Spirit, grant comfort and healing to all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. **Amen**

ANNIVERSARIES: Canon Patrick Palmer, Canon Basil Booker, Thomas Clark, Albert Bazzoni, Fr John O'Callaghan, Tommy Holmes, Grace Kelly (5/5), Kathleen Johnson (6/5), Mary Geoghegan, Diane Tucker (7/5), Canon Brian Grady, Canon John Duckett, Elsie Moore (9/5), Diane Harrington, Donald Wood, Christine Gallacher (10/5), Betty Sullivan, Fr Augustine Davidson, Fr John Boyle, Mgr John Howell, Fr Stanley Joynes (11/5). *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

PARISH CELEBRATION: On **Friday 7th June** Fr Martin will celebrate his 40th anniversary to the Priesthood. Bishop Alan will visit our parish to celebrate Mass with us at 7pm. This will be followed by a parish gathering, with food and drinks, in our Hall to which **we warmly invite all parishioners to attend**.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Parish Council meeting is **NEXT Thursday 9th May at 7pm** in the Priest's House. We invite all parishioners who wish to attend. If you have any items for discussion please contact the Parish Office or speak to a Parish Council member.

ANNUAL MASS FOR MIGRANTS: "The Dioceses and Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster invite you to the annual Mass for Migrants on **Monday, 6th May 2024, at 12pm**. The Mass will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Southwark at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HR, with the Archbishop of Southwark, John Wilson, presiding and Bishop Alan Williams, as concelebrant alongside the Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster."

RIDELONDON – ESSEX: Due to the local road closures on **Sunday 26th May** there will be a change to the times of our Masses here. **Saturday evening Mass will be at the usual time of 6pm but on Sunday 26th there will be only one Mass here, at 5pm. No 9am or 11am Mass on this Sunday.**

EPHING FOREST FOODBANK: Thank you to our generous parishioners for giving for people in need through the **FOODBANK! WE CAN REFER PEOPLE WHO MAY BE IN NEED OF HELP TO THE FOODBANK.** Please contact our Parish Office.

PRAYER TO ST.MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL: "St Michael the Archangel, defend us in this day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen."

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE:

God of peace,
Whose son Jesus Christ taught us
To love our neighbour as ourselves
Give your strength to the people of Ukraine.
Give your wisdom to the leaders of the world.
Give your love to all of us who pray for peace –
Peace that will transform,
Peace that will heal,
Peace that will last.
For the sake of the same Jesus Christ.
The Prince of Peace, Amen