

<b>Masses &amp; Services Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>		
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>		
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Graeme Hollinshead RIP Recently (Holland)</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>People of our Parish</b>
<b>CROWNING OF THE STATUE OF OUR LADY</b>		
<b>May 2024</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Alice Drew RIP (Sainsbury)</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Douglas Bere RIP (FM)
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Mary Michael Morgan RIP (Holland)
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	12 Noon	Intentions of Margaret Goode (Protheroe)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	12 Noon	Danny McCarthy RIP Recently
<b>EIGHTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>		
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Cleonagh Jolly RIP Anniv (Jolly)</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Intentions of Michael Paul &amp; Family (Sainsbury)</b>
<b>May 2024</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>People of our Parish</b>

**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 £221.50 in Envelopes, £386.21 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//////////](http://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.

**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.

**'REVIVE; DISCOVER; EMPOWER' A YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT:** Walsingham House are hosting a young adults retreat on the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The retreat is open to those who are 19+. It will be a weekend of prayer and friendship and a wonderful opportunity to take a break from work or university. The cost of the retreat is £45 and more information, including how to book, can be found at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events)

**EPPING 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.

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



**11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA**  
**Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516**  
**Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173**  
**Parish Administrator : Mrs Margaret Lechley**  
**Email: [epping@brcdt.org](mailto:epping@brcdt.org)**  
**Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)**  
**Registered Charity Number: 234092**  
**Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

On this Sunday, which comes between the Ascension and Pentecost, we continue to follow the development of the infant Church and return to St John's theme of God's love for us.

In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1: 15–17.20–26), the disciples come together to discern and pray, so as to choose an apostle to replace Judas. The lot falls to Matthias.

The Psalm (103) is a hymn of praise and describes the love of God that covers the whole universe.

The Second Reading (1 John 4: 11–16) emphasises that God's love for us is the reason and example for our love for each other. As long as we do this, God will live in us, and will share his Spirit with us.

In the Gospel (John 17: 11–19), taken from Jesus's priestly prayer to the Father, Jesus prays that the disciples will remain true to his name. As the Father sent Jesus into the world, so he now sends his followers. May they be united in faith and love.

The readings lead us to contemplate the love and unity within the Trinity, a fitting preparation this week as we look towards Pentecost.



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** JANET ABBOTT, a longstanding parishioner who died on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 4pm** followed by a Requiem Mass, here, the following day, **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, at 10.30am**.

*Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she 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.*

**THANK YOU:** The family of Graeme Hollinshead would like to thank fellow parishioners for their love and support following Graeme's death.

**HOLY YEAR OF HOPE:** Pope Francis has declared that the theme for this Jubilee year will be Hope. He proclaimed *"May hope fill our days!"*

**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:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May meeting only for the children and their parents for those making their first Holy Communion on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June only for those making their first Holy Communion on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Both sessions at the usual time of 5.30pm.

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to the family of Blossom Ivy Stockwell, baptised in our Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May. May the Lord bless them and their family and help them bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.

**RIDELONDON – ESSEX:** Due to the local road closures on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> there will be only one Mass here, at 5pm. No 9am or 11am Mass on this Sunday.**

**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:** Betty Sullivan, Fr Augustine Davidson, Fr John Boyle, Mgr John Howell, Fr Stanley Joynes (11/5), Doug Bere, Percy Flower, Kathleen King (13/5), Stephen Thornhill (14/5), Bernadine Potrykus, John Hassey (15/5). *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

**GIFT AID STATEMENTS:** End year statements are currently being prepared. Where these are being sent by email please note that the sender will be shown as **Giftwiseonline**. If you are expecting a statement and have not received one then please check your junk/spam folders.

**PARISH CELEBRATION:** On **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June** Fr Martin will celebrate his 40<sup>th</sup> 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**.

If you would like to contribute to a gift for Fr Martin then you can do so online at: <https://pay.collectiv.com/fr-martins-anniversary-collection-38656>.

Alternatively, there will be a collection after Masses on the weekends leading up to his celebration, starting from **18/19 May**. Gift Aid can be claimed on your donations. No need to use special envelopes; please just put in an envelope marked with your name and address.

**PARISH DEFIBRILLATOR:** In the next few weeks we will be installing a defibrillator, for which we have been fortunate to receive a matched funding Grant from the charity London Hearts. We are looking for a willing volunteer, who is first aid trained, to act as the parish co-ordinator. We do not envisage this to be an onerous role but just ensuring that the defibrillator is checked quarterly and any faults notified. Please let Fr Martin know if you are able to help.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN AN ELECTION YEAR:** On **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** Raymond Friel OBE, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, will lead a Study Day, reflecting on Catholic Social Teaching and what the Church says about democracy and voting. Talks will be at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH). Coffee will be available from 10.30 am and the talks begin at 11 am, and conclude by 2 pm. This is an in-person event, also available online at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) If you intend to be present please email [gideapark@brcdt.org](mailto:gideapark@brcdt.org) Please bring a packed lunch. No booking necessary for online participation. Simply go to the website. Talks will be available on the website after the event.

**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