

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
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

Masses & Services Saturday 18th May to Sunday 26th May 2024		
PENTECOST SUNDAY (B) 19th May 2024		
Saturday 18^h	6.00pm	Cleonagh Jolly RIP Anniv Jolly)
Sunday 19th	9.00am	People of our Parish
May 2024	11.00am	Intentions of Michael Paul & Family (Sainsbury)
Monday 20th	9.15am	Intentions of Margaret Goode (Durkan)
Tues 21st	9.15am	Fr Austin McCormack RIP
Wed 22nd	12 Noon	Janet Abbott RIP Recently (Jolly)
Thursday 23rd	NO MASS	
	4.00pm	JANET ABBOTT RECEIVED INTO CHURCH
FRIDAY 24th	10.30am	JANET ABBOTT REQUIEM MASS
HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY (B) 26th May 2024		
Saturday 25th	6.00pm	Mark & Maggie Keane RIP (Clohessy)
Sunday 26th	9.00am	NO MASS
May 2024	11.00am	NO MASS
	5.00pm	Intentions of Elaine Hudgell (Scannell)

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 158.50 in Envelopes, £507.18 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.

PARISH OFFICE: Our Parish Office is open on Tues, Wed and Fri 9.30am-2pm. The Parish Administrator can be contacted by email on epping@brcdt.org or telephone 01992 572516.

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.

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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY YEAR B 19th May 2024

Pentecost Sunday brings the season of Easter to a close. What began, on the first day of the week, with Jesus breathing his Spirit on the disciples, now ends with the disciples having trust in all that the Spirit has done, and hope in all that the Spirit will do in them.

The ancient Pentecost commemoration of the revelation of God (through the giving of the Torah and the making of the covenant) was now celebrated by the early Christians as the revelation of God through the outpouring of the Spirit (First Reading Acts 2: 1–11).

In the Gospel, St John (John 15: 26–27; 16: 12–15) returns us to Jesus's words of farewell to his disciples. The 'Spirit of truth' is promised to us as it was to them. So today, we can say, this is our season in the Spirit.

The Second Reading (Galatians 5: 16–25) shows St Paul's condemnation of self-indulgence amongst those belonging to the Church at Galatia. He tells them that only the consolations of the Spirit – 'love, joy, peace ... gentleness and self control' – can unite their hearts to the freedom of the Gospel.

As we are called to witness to the fire of God (by bringing the light of the Son and the heat of the Spirit to all we meet), let's pray this line of St Paul every day this coming week: 'Since the Spirit is my life, let me be directed by the Spirit.'



RECENTLY DECEASED:

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**.

ANN MCNAMARA, who died on **Saturday 4th May**. May she rest in peace. Funeral arrangements pending.

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.

RIDELONDON – ESSEX: Due to the local road closures **NEXT 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 **NEXT Sunday**.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lucas Wood who received Holy Communion for the first time on **Sunday 12th May**.

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

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 your servants who suffer in mind, body or spirit. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES: John de Vos, Patricia O’Grady, Mgr William O’Grady (21/5), Kieran McClean, Fr Henry Peace, Beatrice Cox (23/5), Fr Charles Carless, Fr Austin Thorburn (24/5), Rosemary Batten, Joyce Ryan, Daniel Willmore (25/5), *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 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**.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY is pleased to host their first Charity Tribute Night featuring ABBA Chique at the Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre in Rayleigh on **Friday 12th July** from 7.30 to 11pm. Please spread the word among friends and family, join them at this special anniversary event and get ready to dance and sing along to your favourite ABBA hits! Tickets cost £20 plus a small booking fee and can be purchased via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/abba-tribute-night-tickets-849314000037> Please keep your e-ticket to show on entry to the venue. All details can be found on the BCCS website: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ If you have any questions about the event, please email Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk.

Catholic maritime charity **STELLA MARIS** (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is very grateful for this parish’s prayer and financial support of its work on Sea Sunday last year. To report back on the use of those funds, it invites parishioners to join an **online update and thank you webinar on Tuesday 28th May from 7:30pm to 9:00pm**. You will hear about the impact of your generosity on the lives of seafarers, fishers, and their families over the last year. Its CEO and chaplains will share inspiring stories of how they have helped seafarers and fishers through your support. To register for this virtual event, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/thankyou2024

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