

<b>Masses &amp; Services Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024</b>		
<b>TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>		
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Mary Collier RIP Anniv (Collier)
August 2024	11.00am	Intentions of Joan Holland (Scannell)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Rose Potter RIP (Murray)
<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>NOTE TIME</b>	
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Feast of St Monica</b>	
	9.15am	Intentions of Javid Fatal (Joseph)
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Feast of St Augustine</b>	
	12 Noon	Stan Holder RIP Anniv (FM)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS	
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	12 Noon	Intentions of Raphael McNeill (Joseph)
<b>TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2024</b>		
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	6.00pm	Patrica Scannell RIP Anniv (Scannell)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am	People of our Parish
Sept 2024	11.00am	Patricia Scannell RIP Anniv (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. Last weekend you gave £119.50 in Envelopes and £341.90 in loose plate. 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.

**NEED OF URGENT HELP:** If you or someone you know urgently needs help, please contact the Priest's House. We will endeavour to assist through parishioners who have volunteered to help, the Church, Foodbank or local agencies. Simple things like a phone call or e-mail can be a real comfort to many.

**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)  
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**Registered Charity Number: 234092**  
 Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang  
**Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

### TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024

This Sunday, we conclude five weeks of readings and teaching from St John's Gospel on the meaning of the Eucharist. Jesus is the Bread of Life. For some of the disciples, this teaching proves too much and they stop following him. The question that Jesus puts to the Twelve is also put to us today: 'What about you, do you want to go away too?'

A similar question was addressed to the tribes of Israel gathered at Shechem (First Reading). Joshua asks the elders and leaders of the tribes which god they want to follow. They recognise that it is the Lord, the God of Israel, who was with them throughout their slavery in Egypt, and throughout the hardship of their exile in the desert. The people of Israel reject the gods of their ancestors and of the other nations and become a single people committed to the one true God.

The Psalm we pray with today compares the experience of the one who turns to the Lord with humble trust with those who turn their back on the goodness that is offered to them. The teaching from the Letter to the Ephesians (Second Reading) encourages us to see that Christian marriage is modelled on the love that Christ has for the Church. Christ feeds his Church out of love, because the Church is his body and we are its living parts.

As we come to prayer this week, may we have the grace to recognise that same love active in our lives, so that when we are asked by God, 'What about you ...?' we can respond with a willing and loving heart.

*Opening Prayer O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.*

**FR FIACRA COTTER:** On **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August** we welcomed back Fr Fiacra who will be covering in our parish while Fr Martin is away on his holidays. We wish Fr Martin a happy holiday and well-earned rest.

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS:** We congratulate Caitriona Nolan and Henry White on their wedding here last Friday and wish them a long and happy marriage.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2025 Application Forms** for parents to prepare their child for First Reconciliation this year and First Holy Communion in 2025 are available in church. Children should be in **School Year 3** or older in this school year. **Completed forms should be returned to the Priest's House by the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the latest.**

**CONFIRMATION 2024/2025:** Bishop Alan hopes to visit our parish in 2025 and will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at this time.

If your child is in Year 9 or above (from September) and they would like to make their Confirmation in 2025, please email the parish office to register your interest by **Sunday 22nd September 2024** at the latest.

**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:** Thomas Tormey, Joseph Hayes, John Gee, Ellen Witt (24/8), Mary Collier, Angela Moore (25/8), Winifred Jones (26/8), Stan Holder, Susan Perry, David Squires, Fr Bernard Collings, Margaret Drinkwater (28/8), Frank Blake, Patrick Matthews, Barbara Gaughan (29/8), Canon John Sloan (30/8), Luke O'Connor (31/8), Mary Furlong, Canon John Walsh, Terence Clark (1/9) .

**Eternal rest grant to them, Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES** to all who took exams this year and had success, and to all who are starting at or changing schools, or going to college, university or work at this time. May they be able to develop their talents for their personal fulfilment, the good of society and to the glory of God.

**PART-TIME CARETAKER:** A vacancy has arisen for a part-time **Caretaker for our Parish**. The start date for the role is October 2024 and the salary is negotiable depending on skills and experience. A full Job Description can be viewed on Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese (dioceseofbrentwood.net). If you would like to discuss the role please speak to Fr Martin or our Parish Administrator.

**PARISH HALL:** Our Parish Hall is available for bookings. Special rates for charities and parishioners. Please contact our Parish Administrator.

**JUMBLE ITEMS:** Please **do not** leave items of jumble in our church porch as we then have to dispose of them, at times having to actually pay to do so.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NATIONAL RAFFLE:**

Many thanks to all those who bought raffle tickets last weekend. The results of the draw will be published following the prize draw will be held on **26th September**, the day before St. Vincent's feast day.

**MUSIC EVENING:** Please do join us for a parish fund-raising event on **Saturday 14th September** when Rusty Spoonz, music duo, will be playing some familiar hits from the 1950's to (almost) the present day. Brian Sainsbury and Friends will sing songs from The Dubliners to Fisherman's Friends from 7pm for the first hour. Bring your own food and drink and pay at the door. £5 per person (under 21s free). Speak to Valerie Tannahill after 11am Mass or message her on 0754 531 2521 (to indicate numbers attending).

**MARY'S MEALS** invites you to collect all your foreign currency no matter how old, obscure or its value. Mary's Meals will use your unwanted foreign coins/notes to feed the next hungry child. They also take UK money that is no longer legal tender. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please return these to the Parish Office, by **1<sup>st</sup> October**, for collation and return to Mary's Meals.

**MARCH FOR LIFE:** Defend the Sanctity of Life - join this peaceful, ecumenical protest march with the theme "Healthcare doesn't Kill". There were 605,479 live births in England and Wales in 2022, a decrease of 3.1% on 2021, and 251,377 abortions, an increase of 17% on 2021. The March, on **Saturday 7th September**, starts at 1.30 pm in Marsham Street SW1P 3DW and finishes in Parliament Square. please the posters on the notice board in the church porch for more details .

**WALSINGHAM HOUSE 40<sup>th</sup> AND 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MASS, 12 NOON ON 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK, NAVESTOCKSIDE, CM14 5SH:** Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alan; please bring lunch and enjoy an afternoon at the beautiful Diocesan retreat house especially for young people, just outside Brentwood. Everyone is very welcome – if you have ever been on retreat to Walsingham House, or helped as a teacher, catechist or youth leader, then do come to this very special Anniversary celebration. **Mass will be offered for Fr Pat Sammon, RIP, who did so much to develop Walsingham House. More information at [www.bcvs.net](http://www.bcvs.net)**

**YOUTH GATHER, ESSEX OUTDOORS, EAST MERSEA:** **26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October.** For anyone in year 9 and above, join us for a weekend of speakers, workshops, prayer and more, alongside the opportunity to try high ropes, archery or climbing at the amazing Essex Outdoors in East Mersea. **Applications are now open** and you can apply and find all information at [www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/](http://www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/)

**BBQ AND MASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS, OUR LADY IMMACULATE, CHELMSFORD: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

If you are 18+, having left school, from 1<sup>st</sup> September then you are very welcome to join a group of young adults for a BBQ from 3pm with Mass at 7pm, at Our Lady Immaculate Church in Chelmsford. No need to book, simply come along to meet other young adult Catholics and find out more about upcoming events just for you!