

Masses & Services Saturday 31st August 2024 to 8th September 2024		
TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 1st September		
Saturday 31st	6.00pm	Patricia Scannell RIP Anniv (Scannell)
Sunday 1st	9.00am	People of our Parish
Sept 2024	11.00am	Patricia Scannell RIP Anniv (Scannell)
Mon 2nd	9.15am	Intentions of Javid Fatal (Joseph)
Tues 3 rd	Feast of St Gregory The Great	
	9.15am	Intentions of Raphael McNeill (Joseph)
Wed 4 th	12 Noon	Intentions of Javid Fatal (Joseph)
Thursday 5 th	NO MASS	
Friday 6 th	12 Noon	Intentions of Raphael McNeill (Joseph)
TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 8th Sept 2024		
Saturday 7th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 8th	9.00am	Intentions of Joan Holland (Scannell)
Sept 2024	11.00am	Ania Wigley RIP (Wighley)

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. 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.

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
 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

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 1st September 2024

After several weeks of reading St John's Gospel, we return once more to hearing St Mark. The focus this week is on the Law, and the tensions that can exist between the Commandments of God as fulfilled in Jesus and human traditions. Of course, in the first place the Law was a gift from God to help us show wisdom and understanding, leading to our own happiness (First Reading).

The Psalm describes the person who will live in the presence of God. As God's children we must accept and submit to his word, not just in what we say, but also in what we do (Second Reading).

However, if the Law becomes a God in itself and leads the follower to be obsessed with its human interpretations, then the focus is no longer on the Lord at the centre of our life, and a change of heart is needed (Gospel).

This week, then, we might want to pray particularly for a greater balance in our lives between the Lord and his Word and a legalistic approach to life and its man-made institutions.

Opening Prayer God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured.

FR FIACRA COTTER: On **Tuesday 20th 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.

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 8th September 2024 at the latest.**

COMMUNION CATECHISTS: We are most grateful to our team of Catechists who prepare children for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Our programme for 2024/25 will commence later this month.

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 all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. **Amen**

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Furlong, Canon John Walsh, Terence Clark (1/9), Canon Cyril Shepherd (2/9), Santos Ravulcaba, Mary Furlong (3/9), Bridget Day, Bridget Crouch, Fr Patrick Cavanagh (4/9), Veronica Beard, Mgr Michael Wilson (8/9) .

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.

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).

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.

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 **1st October**, for collation and return to Mary's Meals.

YOUTH GATHER, ESSEX OUTDOORS, EAST MERSEA: **26th - 27th 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/

BBQ AND MASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS, OUR LADY IMMACULATE, CHELMSFORD: Sunday 8th September
If you are 18+, having left school, from 1st 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!

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

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.”

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.