

Masses & Services Saturday 14th September 2024 to 22nd September 2024		
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 15th September		
Saturday 14th	6.00pm	Holy Souls RIP
Sunday 15th	9.00am	People of our Parish
	11.00am	Patricia Scannell RIP Anniv (Scannell)
Monday 16 th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 17 th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 18 th	12 Noon	Private Intention (SB)
Thursday 19 th		NO MASS
Friday 20 th	12 Noon	Ciaran Fitzgerald RIP Recently (Darcy)
TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 15th Sept 2024		
Saturday 21st	6.00pm	Fr John Ryan RIP Anniv (McAdam)
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	People of our Parish
Sept 2024	11.00am	Nigel Ellis RIP Recently (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. 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.

HARVEST FAST DAY FOR CAFOD on **Friday 4th October** calls us to identify with and aid people in developing nations. Envelopes will be given out at all Masses the previous weekend.

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.”

OUR PARISH HALL is available to hire at competitive rates and to parishioners at a discount. Please consider using our hall for your celebratory events and mention to your friends. Please contact the Parish Office for details and to make bookings.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) **Evangelii Gaudium Sunday** **15th September 2024**

The First Reading is taken from the third Song of the Suffering Servant in the book of Isaiah. In spite of terrible opposition and suffering, he never wavers in his trust. God will come to his help. In the same way, the Psalmist gives witness to the people assembled in the temple; he too endured untold sorrow and distress, but he called on the Lord who came to save him.

In the Gospel, Peter recognises Jesus as the Christ, the long awaited Messiah. However, he finds it difficult to accept that his friend Jesus, in the same way as the suffering Servant, will suffer grievously and be rejected by all. The way he thinks is not God's way but man's.

I cannot be a true disciple of Christ if, as James explains in the Second Reading, I do not show my love for him and for others by helping in a practical way those in need.

In my prayer this week I might want to reflect on who I say Jesus is and on how my reply reflects the love and trust I have in him. Lord, help me to show my love for you in the way I treat others.

Collect: Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ....

SUPPLY PRIESTS: On Tuesday we said a fond farewell to Fr Fiacra. He was touched by the warm welcome and generosity of our parishioners and asked to pass on his best wishes to you all.

On Thursday we welcomed back Fr John Tuohy, who will be supplying here until 16th September when Fr Martin returns.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Mary Patricia (Pat) Protheroe, a longstanding parishioner here, who died on 1st September. May she rest in peace. We offer her family our deepest sympathy. Pat's Requiem Mass will take place in our church on **Wednesday 25th September at 11.30am. *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 the hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection.***

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2025: Applications for the 2024/25 programme have now closed. There will be a meeting, on Saturday 21st September, from 5pm-5.45pm, for the parents of those children who have applied to join the programme.

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.

DATE FOR THE DIARY: On **Friday 11th October** at 7pm Fr Martin will celebrate a parish Mass for the sick, following which, there will be refreshments in our hall. All are welcome to attend. There will not be a 12 noon Mass on that day.

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 O'Halloran, Peggy Curran, David Ridge, Fr Louis Heston, Archbishop George Beck, Fr Theophilus Borer, Deacon Arthur Woods (14/9), Elaine Gaughan, Peter Coneely (15/9), Rosemary Stein (17/9), Mary Cox, John O'Halloran (18/9), Marian Ward, Canon Fredrick Gahagan (19/9), William Morgan, Douglas Wilding, Rosemarie Stein, Annie Doolan (20/9), Fr John Ryan (21/9). **Eternal rest grant to them, Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

SISTER SUSAN RECOVERY: Sister Susan thanks all kind parishioners for their Masses, cards, phone calls and enquiries, after her recent surgical procedure. She hopes to be back in circulation after the statutory rest period.

THANK YOU: Joao Purgante wishes to thank Fr Martin for his spiritual support and our parishioners for the warmth and friendship shown to him and his family since they moved to Epping 18 months ago. They are moving this week to Hartlepool to start a new life there. We wish them all the very best for the future.

USHERING AT MASS: We are fortunate to have a dedicated team who usher at the weekend Masse but really need more volunteers to join the rota. Please let Fr Martin or the Parish Office know if you are able to help.

PARISH COUNCIL: The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 24th September at 7pm.** New members are welcome. If you have an item you would like to put on the Agenda then please email our Parish Office.

DATE FOR THE DIARY – CHRISMTAS MARKET:

SUNDAY, 24th NOVEMBER – 10am – 2pm: Christmas market preparations are under way, but as always we rely on our generous parishioners for their time and donations. If you have any new or unused items that would be suitable for the gift stall or raffle please leave in the church porch or in the office for the attention of Adriana or Emma.

If you think you might be able to spare some time to help set-up the event or at the event itself, please contact Adriana on 07828 118 909.

PRO LIFE GROUP: On **Monday 7th October**, 7.15pm-8.45pm a Pro Life Group is being launched in our neighbouring parish of **St Edmund and St Thomas More**, 9 Traps Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 1SZ. All are very welcome to attend this new group. Please keep this intention in your prayers, greatly appreciated. For further details please contact Paul 07861032174

MESSAGE FROM EPPING FOODBANK: “As we approach Harvest time, the onset of colder weather brings an increased demand for our food bank services. The current situation for those in need is quite dire, with cuts to benefits, rising living costs, and escalating energy prices forcing many to make the heartbreaking choice between heating their homes and eating. We anticipate a higher number of visitors to our foodbank hubs this season, and we are reaching out to you in the spirit of community and generosity.

At Epping Forest Foodbank, we are getting busier with every passing year. In the financial year just gone we provided food parcels to over 9,100 people. In the year before, it was 6,500. 2478 of these parcels were distributed during the summer holidays. Because of this rise in demand, our stocks are now running low. Our current most needed items include: **meat, fish, juice, coffee, toiletries, sponge puddings, pasta sauce, tinned veg, jam, rice, rice pudding/custard.”**

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