

Masses & Services Saturday 11th to 19th January 2025		
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD		12th January 2025
Saturday 11th	6.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday 12th	9.00am	People of our Parish
January	11.00am	Intentions of Maurice Onokwai (Nalan0
Monday 13 th	9.15am	Doreen Nolan RIP
Tuesday 14 th	9.15am	Intentions of Tunde & Sokoya (Nalan)
Wed 15 th	12 Noon	Intentions of Altan Hassan & Family (Nalan)
Thursday 16 th	NO MASS	
Friday 17 th	12 Noon	Intentions of Josie Fanning & Family (Nalan)
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 19th January 2025		
Saturday 18th	6.00pm	Elizabeth Nugent RIP Recently (Sainsbury)
Sunday 19th	9.00am	People of our Parish
Jan 2025	11.00am	Leslie Banting RIP Anniv (Banting)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15pm-5.45pm.

ROSARY: Prayed after Mass Monday, Tuesday, Friday and before Mass on Wednesday.

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 offerings. Last weekend you gave ££161 in Envelopes and £298.50 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//////////

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.

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.”

CRIB OFFERINGS: A reminder that monies donated to the crib offering will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please give generously.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

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Parish Administrator : Mrs Margaret Lechley

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang

Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 12th January 2025

Today marks the end of the Christmas season, as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It heralds the beginning of Jesus's public mission: the work of teaching, preaching and healing. God's great love and mercy offer salvation to all through Jesus, by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel (Luke 3: 15–16. 21–22), God proclaims Jesus as his beloved Son at his baptism in the Jordan. St Luke draws our attention to the descent of the Holy Spirit while Jesus is at prayer.

The First Reading (Isaiah 40: 1–5. 9–11) offers hope and joy. God has seen his people repent and will bring them home across the desert. He is both their defender and their shepherd, who gathers, guides and nourishes. The Lord renews with his Spirit all who look to him. St Paul (Second Reading Titus 2: 11–14. 3: 4–7) tells us it is entirely due to God's mercy, love and compassion that we are offered salvation; not for anything we have achieved. God's loving kindness is revealed through 'the cleansing water of rebirth' and renewal with the Holy Spirit in Christ.

Today is an opportunity to reflect on the gift of baptism. We remind ourselves that the words spoken at Jesus's baptism also apply to us. We, too, are beloved daughters and sons of God, called to make known the love of God to all we meet. Let's pray this week, and in the weeks ahead, for whatever grace God feels we need to help us.



FR JOHN TUOHY: We warmly welcome Fr John Tuohy, a retired priest of our diocese, who will be covering here until **22nd January** while Fr Martin is away. Fr John has covered here before so will be known to many of you already.

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE was launched by Pope Francis on 24 December 2024 when he opened the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica. The theme for the Holy Year is Pilgrims of Hope. The origin of the custom goes back to Pope Martin V who, for the Extraordinary Jubilee of 1423, opened a Holy Door to enter the Lateran Basilica. In St. Peter's, it was first used for the Jubilee of 1450. In the Diocese of Brentwood Holy Doors will be opened in: **The Cathedral of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood; The National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Clacton; St Antony of Padua, Forest Gate.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The programme will resume NEXT **Saturday 18th January at the usual time of 4.30pm.**

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: The programme will continue on **Tuesday 14th January** at 7.30pm in our Hall. On **Saturday 18th January** the candidates will participate in their retreat day at Abbotswick.

URGENT HELP REQUIRED: We have posted previously here in the Newsletter the fact that we are currently without a Hall caretaker, despite advertising for a number of weeks both within the parish and the diocese itself. Unfortunately, we now have some remedial electrical issues that need urgent attention in the Hall and would appreciate the help of parishioners who can either carry out the work themselves or recommend a trusted tradesman. We are willing to pay a fair rate but are keen to avoid paying over the odds. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help. Many thanks.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is holding its White Flower Appeal in our Parish on the weekend of **25th/26th January.** It seeks to protect the human life and dignity of every person from conception until natural death – recognising that all life is gift from God and it is only for him to begin and end life. There will be a retiring collection as people leave the Masses. Please be generous in supporting SPUC.

ANNIVERSARIES: Giuseppe Rizzi, Clifford Boyd, Julie Eke (11/1), Eileen Tyler, Shaun Murdock (12/1). Hilda Priestley, Richard Collar (13/1), Anne Fitzgerald, Stefan Laszczak, Bridget Pettit, Fr John King (14/1) Kenneth Scott (15/1) Lois Gosnell, Fr Neville Banks, Fr Gilbert Pearson (16/1), Fr Kenneth Green (17/1), Les Black, Canon Charles Kuypers (18/1), Carole Ring, Mgr David Donnelly, Les Banting (19/1), **May they rest in peace.**

A 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. holy people. Through Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ: St Clare's Hospice, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood CM17 9JX. **Every Friday 2pm-4pm.** Bereavement Cafes aim to connect local people together to support each other throughout grief. Everyone is welcome.

THEYDON'S LIVING ROOM: **Tuesday 21st January 11am-3pm St Mary's Church, Coppice Row, Theydon Bois.** A warm space where you can meet other people, enjoy tasty treats and free light refreshments. You can receive information from the Limes Surgery on how to use the NHS app to access GP services and also get advice from the Emergency Services on how to stay safe and warm in your home. Everyone welcome.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) is looking to recruit a Communications and Fundraising Administrator to provide effective administrative and communications support to the Marketing and Fundraising Team. The post requires someone who can manage a high degree of responsibility and who is confident working independently and creatively. Candidates must have excellent organisational skills and be proficient at managing their time and priorities effectively. The role is based at their head office in Billericay High Street and ideally would be a full time position (37 hours per week) although some flexibility may be available for the right candidate. Full details can be found in the Job Description on the BCCS website: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/who-we-are/work-us/> If you think you have the skills needed for the role and would welcome an informal chat, please contact BCCS Head of Voluntary Income Julie Abbott by email jabbott@bccs.org.uk or phone 07912 277413. Otherwise, please apply directly to her with your CV and covering letter before **31st January 2025.**

EPHING FOREST FOODBANK needs the usual food and household items. **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 out Parish Office.

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