

Masses & Services Saturday 15th February to 23rd February 2025		
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 16th February 2025		
Racial Justice Sunday		
Saturday 15th	6.00pm	Pat Protheroe RIP (FJ)
Sunday 16th	9.00am	People of our Parish
February	11.00am	Sean McHale RIP Recently (Scannell)
	1.00pm	Baptism of Radhya Clark
Monday 17th	9.15am	William Bray RIP Recently
Tuesday 18th	9.15am	Christine Quinn RIP Anniv (Quinn)
Wed 19th	12 Noon	Fr Sean Carroll RIP Recently
Thurs 20th		NO MASS
Friday 21st	12 Noon	Holy Souls RIP
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 23rd February 2025		
Saturday 22nd	6.00pm	Michael Connolly RIP Recently (Fahy)
Sunday 23rd	9.00am	People of our Parish
Feb 2025	11.00am	Christie Scannell RIP (Scannell)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15pm-5.45pm.

ROSARY: After Mass Monday, Tuesday, Friday and before 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 £130.50 in Envelopes and £368.95 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.”

CAFOD LENT FAST this year will be on **Friday 14th March**. Donation envelopes will be distributed the weekend before.

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

16th February 2025

Luke's 'Sermon on the Plain' is often perceived to be more challenging than Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. His more 'edgy' Beatitudes and Woes (**Gospel** Luke 6: 17, 20–26) show a Jesus truly in touch with the plight of the downtrodden, the poor, the forgotten. Not only that, but Jesus is determined that such people don't see society's judgment of them as saying something about the judgement of God.

Despite even the direst circumstances of their lives, they are not outside God's grace. Jesus knew, as we do today, that not everyone who places their trust in God prospers in all that they do.

But Jesus did want to challenge the commonly held perception of Jeremiah (**First Reading** Jeremiah 17: 5–8), who preached that the cursed are those who have turned from God, whilst those who trust in God are always blessed and fruitful. St Paul (**Second Reading** 1 Cor. 15: 12, 16–20) says that the scandalous image of Christ crucified, cursed and parched, never ceased to be the image of the fulness of God's grace. Christ was vindicated in his resurrection, by which the fruitfulness of redemption is made accessible for all.

As Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee year, let's pray during the coming week that, like our Saviour, we might also be bearers of hope for those who feel lost through poverty, through grief, or because of rejection in its many forms.



PASTORAL VISIT: On **Sunday 23rd March** Bishop Alan will visit our parish. He will celebrate the 9am Mass and then the 11am Mass, at which he will Confirm our young candidates. After the 11am Mass there will be refreshments in our parish hall to which all parishioners are invited and have an opportunity to meet the Bishop.

MARY'S MEALS RECYCLING BOX: There is a **Mary's Meals Recycling Box** in our church for you to put the following unwanted items into.

JEWELLERY & WATCHES: In any material even if damaged or broken.

ELECTRONICS: Mobile phones/iPads/Tablets/Sat-Navs/MP3 players/Games consoles.

Please remove all sim cards/data from mobiles/ipads. All recycled items will be picked up by a third party, 'Recycling for Good Causes' who will ensure all data is wiped.

CAMERAS: Old film/Digital/Video.

FOREIGN CURRENCY: From any country, the currency can be old/recent.

LENT SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY: **Wednesday 5th March.** We will have Masses here, with the distribution of Ashes, at **12 noon and 7.30pm.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held here during **Lent on Friday evenings at 7.30pm.**

SATURDAY MASS DURING LENT: During Lent we will have Mass at 10am on Saturday mornings, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11am and the opportunity for Confession.

FEAST BEFORE YOU FAST: Please join us on **Sunday, 2nd March from 9am to 12.30pm** for some delicious treats. If you are a keen baker and would like to make a tasty donation, please contact Adriana Ruvalcaba on 07828 118 909.

LENT LUNCH: This year our parish will host the first of the Lent lunches in the Epping and district area. This will be on **Saturday 8th March** from 12.30pm to 2pm in our parish hall. If you can donate a soup or help on the day then please let our Parish Administrator know. The dates of the other Lent lunches in our area will be published shortly.

EASTER LILIES: As in previous years, we offer parishioners the opportunity to remember deceased relatives and friends at Easter by displaying lilies in the flower arrangements in church. It is suggested a donation of £3 is made for each lily. Please put your donation into an envelope, clearly marked 'Easter Lily in memory of "name"' and either put it in the Offertory collection or through the Presbytery letter box. If you are a taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation by using the red Special Donations envelope in the Church or use one of the special envelopes in your box.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The next session for the children will take place on **Saturday 1st March at the usual time of 4.30pm.**

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: The next session for the candidates will be **Tuesday 4th March** at 7pm in our Hall.

ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION: The 'Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life)' Bill continues through the Committee stage. It is important that we make our views known to our MPs. A leaflet explaining how each of us can do this is available at Masses this weekend, or from the Parish Office.

CHURCH REDECORATION: We are planning on redecorating the church and are looking to form a committee to represent the parish on this. We invite parishioners who would like to join this Committee to let Fr Martin or our Parish Administrator know.

PARISH FUNDRAISER - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

On **Saturday 8th March** the Rusty Spoonz will support the Elevators Band at an evening of music, here in our parish hall, to raise parish funds. Previous events here by both Bands have proved very successful. More details to follow next week.

CAFOD FUNDRAISER: "On the **27th April 2025** I will be taking on the daunting challenge of the London Marathon to raise awareness for CAFOD and the great work that they do. If anyone is able to support me in raising well needed funds for CAFOD through and a small donation that would be really appreciated. You can donate through my Just Giving page link (https://www.justgiving.com/page/hannah-kilden-1724790248007?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL) or by scanning the QR code with your phone. Thank you in advance Hannah Kilden."

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Rawbottom, Daisy Goulder, Kathleen Pomeroy (15/2), Kathleen Stanford, Anastasia Holtham, Clare Lafford (16/2), Dennis Verrall, Caroline Kirwan, Douglas Barker, Alison Hoyes (17/2), Gerard Pines, Andy Codling, Bridget Rose (18/2), Reg Clements, John Bloomfield (19/2), Antoinette Bonito, Kathleen Schofield, Connie Charlton, Charles Ward, Robert Luker, Tom Ryan (20/2), Agnes Butcher, Ronald Floor, Deacon Sidney Lewis (21/2), Deacon Dwight Hayter, Gemma Upton Jean Swan, Beatrice Cox (23/2).
May they rest in peace.

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**

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK needs the usual food and household items. **Thank you to our generous parishioners for giving for people in need through the FOODBANK!**

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