

<b>Masses &amp; Services Saturday 22nd February to Sunday 2nd March 2025</b>		
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 23rd February 2025</b>		
Saturday 22nd	6.00pm	Michael Connolly RIP Recently (Fahy)
Sunday 23rd	9.00am	People of our Parish
February	11.00am	Christy Scannell RIP (Scannell)
Monday 24th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 25th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 26th	12 Noon	Holy Souls RIP
Thurs 27th	NO MASS	
Friday 28th	12 Noon	Holy Souls RIP
<b>EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 2nd March 2025</b>		
Saturday 1st	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 2nd	9.00am	Private Intention
March 2025	11.00am	Sean McHale RIP Recently (Holland)

**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 £195.50 in Envelopes and £386.49 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:** 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.

**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.”

**MARY'S MEALS RECYCLING BOX:** Mary's Meals Recycling Box in our church for you to put the following unwanted items: *Jewellery & watches, Electronics, Cameras, Foreign currency.*

**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!**

**PARISHIONER SEEKING WORK:** A member of our parish community is seeking paid work. Please let Fr Martin know if you can help. Many thanks.

## 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)  
 Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)  
 Registered Charity Number: 234092  
 Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang  
 Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

### SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 23rd February 2025

The readings this week encourage us to be compassionate, towards ourselves, towards others, and in all that we do.

In the **First Reading** (1 Sam. 26: 2.7–9.12–13.22–23), we see how David does not give way to revenge when he finds Saul asleep, vulnerable and under his power. David has a choice, and acts with loyalty and restraint. Saul has persecuted him, but David now spares his life because Saul is the Lord's anointed one.

St Paul teaches us that although we are earthly by nature, by modelling ourselves on Christ, the second Adam, we receive his life-giving spirit. (**Second Reading** 1 Cor. 15: 45–49)

All of the readings prepare us for Jesus's challenging teaching in the **Gospel** (Luke 6: 27–38). Jesus encourages us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hurt us, to lend without expecting a reward, to love without counting the cost. This is the way Jesus and his Father love us.

As we ponder these texts as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, we may wish to pray particularly for a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness in our own lives, our communities, our country, and in all the situations of war, strife, injustice and suffering in our world.



**PASTORAL VISIT:** On **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**FR FRANK WESCOTT:** On Monday **24<sup>th</sup> February** we welcome Fr Frank Wescott, a recently ordained priest of our diocese, who will be covering the weekday Masses here next week.

### **LENT SERVICES**

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

**EASTER LILIES:** 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 **NEXT Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March at the usual time of 4.30pm.**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME:** The next session for the candidates will be on **Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March** at 7pm in our Hall.

**BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS** to *Sienna Rose South* and *Radhya Iris Mahendra Clark*, baptised in our church last weekend. ***May the Lord bless them and their families and help them bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.***

**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 to let Fr Martin know.

**PARISH FUNDRAISER - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:** On **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March** The Elevators will be providing an evening of music, supported by Rusty Spoon, here in our parish hall to raise funds. Please bring your own food and drink. Tickets will be available at £10 pp to purchase on the day, or in advance after the **9am and 11am Mass Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**, or by emailing: [ValerieTannahill@gmail.com](mailto:ValerieTannahill@gmail.com)

**MISSIO (RED MISSION) BOXES:** **MISSIO** is the Pope's charity for World Mission. It is a charity helping local missionaries work alongside global communities that are poor or in need regardless of their background or belief. At the end of the weekend you will find these red collecting boxes. Please take one home and donate any loose change you may have throughout the year. Once full please return to our Parish Administrator who will transfer the funds to Missio to aid them in their wonderful work.

**CAFOD FUNDRAISER:** "On the **27<sup>th</sup> 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. You can donate through my Just Giving page link ([https://www.justgiving.com/page/hannah-kilden-1724790248007?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](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:** Gemma Upton Jean Swan, Beatrice Cox (23/2), Robert Richardson, Patrick Watson, Sidney Field, John Turner (24/2), Kevin Nugent, Christopher Carroll(26/2), Connie Charlton, Edna Gooding, Fr David Chapman (27/2), Elizabeth Farrell, John Turner, Teresa Negri (28/2), Victor Blunt, Genevive Richardson, (1/3), Theresa Walsh, Robert Wood (2/3). **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**

### **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

**RECORD FAIR:** **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 10am-3pm** in our hall. Free entry. This is not affiliated to our parish but may interest parishioners. For details contact Slab Records on 0208 508 2726 or [www.slabrecords.co.uk](http://www.slabrecords.co.uk).