

<b>Masses &amp; Services Saturday 8th March to 16th March 2025</b>		
Saturday 8th	10.00am	Private Intention <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; opportunity for Confession until 11am</i>
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 9th March 2025</b>		
Saturday 8th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 9th	9.00am	Fr Dermot Healy RIP
March	11.00am	Patricia Scannell RIP (Scannell)
Monday 10th	9.15am	Yvonne Marie Stevenage RIP (Stevenage)
Tuesday 11th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 12th	12 Noon	Eamonn Armstrong RIP (Nalan)
Thurs 13th	NO MASS	
Friday 14th	12 Noon	Intentions of Marie McGeady (Wood)
Saturday 15th	10.00am	Holy Souls RIP <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; opportunity for Confession until 11am</i>
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 16th March 2025</b>		
Saturday 15th	6.00pm	Vera Doherty RIP Anniv (Doherty)
Sunday 16th	9.00am	People of our Parish
March 2025	11.00am	Intentions of Joan Holland (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 £156 in Envelopes and £450.58 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, if Fr Martin is unavailable, please call one of the local parishes, 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.”

**SCRIPTURE MASS READINGS:** For text and commentary on all the Scripture Mass readings for Lent go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)  
Click on Scripture Readings and then on Lent Readings.

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang  
Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

8th March 2025

As Lent begins, I might want to organise my favourite place of prayer with a few reminders of the season: a crucifix, a candle; perhaps a little sand or soil to remind me of the wilderness. I may add some twigs to help me remember that I need to brush away everything in my life that prevents me from coming close to the Lord.

All of the readings this week encourage me to keep my gaze fixed on God, wherever I am. The Lord will always hear my cry of distress. He will lead me to a land of peace, just as he did for the Jewish people when they were enslaved in Egypt. (**First Reading** Deuteronomy 26: 4–10)

If I believe in my heart that Jesus is Lord, and tell others that he was raised from the dead by God, then I will be saved. (**Second Reading** Romans 10: 8–13)

As the devil tempted Jesus, I too may be tempted. Perhaps I sometimes rely on myself rather than on God, or even find myself lusting for power. But like Jesus, I will be able to overcome these temptations if I am open to the Spirit and place my whole trust in God. (**Gospel** Luke 4: 1–13)

As Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, we pray especially for all those who find it difficult to resist temptation, including those who exploit others for their own profit. We remember particularly this week all those who are victims of modern slavery.



**PASTORAL VISIT:** On **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** Bishop Alan will visit our parish. At the 11am Mass 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.

**CALLING ALL SINGERS!** If you are thinking of attending the Confirmation Mass on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, 11am and would like to sing in the choir, please get in touch. There will be a run through of the music one evening the week before. Look forward to hearing from you! Belinda (07800 902910)

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** **JOSEPHINE KENNY RIP**, who died recently. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family. Funeral arrangements pending. May she rest in peace.

**LENT SERVICES:**

**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.

**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.

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY** will be on **Friday 14th March**. CAFOD envelopes will be distributed at all Masses THIS weekend.

**LENT LUNCHES:** A chance to meet friends and support a range of charities on Saturdays of Lent as one of the Churches in Epping offers a light lunch (soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee) **from 12.30pm to 2pm. The next lunch will take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March at Epping Green Chapel.**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Frances Arrow (9/3), Timothy White, William Simmons, Maria Watson, Peter Ryan, Maura Butler, Dianne Harrington (10/3), Frederick Roberts (11/3), Brian Conlan, Margaret Cannon (12/3), Millicent Wood, David Marlin (12/3), Eileen Lennon (15/3), Vera Doherty, Muriel Mulligan, Brenda O'Connor (16/3). **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**

**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!**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME:** The rehearsal for the candidates will be on **Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March** at 7pm in our church.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The next session for the children will take place on **Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the usual time of 4.30pm.**

**BAKE SALE RESULTS:** Thank you all for your support on the day, which raised a total of **£468.50**. Adriana and Emma would like to extend a special to thank you to all the bakers that took the time to make some delicious treats. Also, thank you to those who do not eat cakes/sweets but still made a lovely donation towards the fundraiser.

*On behalf of the parish, Fr Martin would like to express his gratitude to Adriana, Emma and their team for their effort and hard work organising this fundraiser.*

**ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL:** There will be a talk, by Katherine Hampton, SPUC, on the Assisted Suicide Bill, on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, St Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton. Refreshments available. All welcome.

**INTER FAITH DIALOGUE:** An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths, and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND:** Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme will be held on **4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> April** at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884315, or email [BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com](mailto:BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com).

**JOIN CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR:** You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

**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