

Masses & Services Saturday 15th March to 23rd March 2025		
Saturday 15th	10.00am	Private Intention <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & opportunity for Confession until 11am</i>
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 16th March 2025		
Saturday 15th	6.00pm	Vera Doherty RIP Anniv (Doherty)
Sunday 16th	9.00am	People of our Parish
March	11.00am	Intentions of Joan Holland (Scannell)
Monday 17th		St Patrick Patron Saint of Ireland
	9.15am	John Dawson RIP
Tuesday 18th	9.15am	Fr Frank Mawn RIP Recently
Wed 19th		St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
NOTE TIME	9.30am	Joseph Kerr RIP Recently (McAdam)
Thurs 20th		NO MASS
Friday 21st	12 Noon	Intentions of Aiden Hughes (Nalan)
Saturday 22nd	10.00am	Holy Souls RIP <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & opportunity for Confession until 11am</i>
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 23rd March 2025		
Saturday 22nd	6.00pm	Elizabeth Rodgers RIP Anniv (Rodgers)
Sunday 23rd	9.00am	People of Our Parish
March 2025	11.00am	Our Confirmation Candidates, their Sponsors & Families

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 £148 in Envelopes and £457.70 in Loose Plate. You can give donations to the Priest's House and online for our parish or charities our parish supports at:

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.”

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA
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Deacon: Rev Duncan Whitehouse Tel: 01992 577173
Parish Administrator : Mrs Margaret Lechley
Safeguarding Officer : Jonathan Goldsworthy
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Registered Charity Number: 234092
Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

15th March 2025

Today's readings are full of hope, encouraging us to reflect on faith and transformation, and to trust in God's promises. As Lent continues, we try to spend extra time in prayer, giving ourselves more opportunity to recognize the presence and action of God in our lives.

In Luke's **Gospel** (Luke 9: 28–36) of the Transfiguration, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain to pray. In the presence of Moses and Elijah, they see a glimpse of Jesus's true identity: his divinity is revealed. A voice from the cloud confirms Jesus as God's Son, and commands us: 'Listen to him!'

Faithful Abram also hears God's voice, promising him offspring and land to him and his descendants. (**First Reading** Genesis 15: 5–12,17–18)

St Paul (**Second Reading** Phil. 3: 17–4:1) tells the Philippians to model themselves on those who already live as Christians. He encourages us to hold fast to Christ rather than focusing on worldly distractions ('earthly things'). Those who are faithful will have their true home in heaven, where Jesus will transform our bodies to be like his.

The **Psalms** (27) is full of trust and hope. We are encouraged to seek God's face and strength always: he is the light in our darkness, and our salvation.

As Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, we pray that, like Peter, James and John, we may have a deeper trust and faith in Jesus, as we focus on listening to him. We remember especially this week those who are victims of natural disasters and the climate crisis.



PASTORAL VISIT: **NEXT Sunday, 23rd 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 23rd 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)

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: The rehearsal for the candidates will be **NEXT Tuesday, 18th March** at 7pm in our church.

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING: Many thanks to our parishioner, Jonathan Goldsworthy, who has volunteered to take on this very important role in our parish. He can be contacted via our Parish Office.

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.

LENTEN REFLECTION: You are warmly invited to a one hour Lenten Reflection on the life of Jesus, with readings and songs, presented by Michael Wigley, on **Tuesday 25th March at 7.30pm**, in our church. No admission charge. All welcome.

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 was on **Friday 14th March**. CAFOD envelopes will be collected at all Masses THIS weekend.

LENT LUNCHESES: Many thanks to all those who helped in any way with our Lent Lunch, last Saturday. To those who made soups, co-ordinated the event or helped on the day. A special word of thanks to our Confirmation Group who volunteered at the lunch. It was wonderful to see our young parishioners support this community event. **The next lunch will take place on Saturday 22nd March at Epping Restore Community Church, The Box.**

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.**

MUSIC NIGHT PARISH FUNDRAISER: Many thanks to the organisers, both bands, the Elevators and Rusty Spoonz and to all who attended this enjoyable evening of music whilst at the same time raising £390 for our parish.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS: As this financial year draws to a close we have made donations from our parish funds to the following: SVP Epping, Foodbank, St Clare's Hospice, Norway House, Sick & Retired Clergy Fund, Kenyan & Uganda Orphan's Fund, Brentwood Children's Society, The Passage, CAFOD, Marriage Care, Cardinal Hume Centre and Aid to the Church in Need.

DONATIONS: In the absence of the collection box at the back of the church, please put donations for Holy Souls, Poor and Needy or any other charities in a clearly marked envelope and post through the letterbox to the priest's house. Many thanks.

dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=epping//////////

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen Lennon (15/3), Vera Doherty, Muriel Mulligan, Brenda O'Connor (16/3). Edward Palmer, Hannah Smith (17/3), June Fitzpatrick (19/3), Fredrick Fenton, Patricia Scull, Fr Jim Jones, Fr Sidney Williams (20/3), Maurice O'Brien, Paul Gallagher, Peter Eard (21/3), Maurice O'Regan (22/3), Richard Tanti, Canon Arthur Holmes (23/3). **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**

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE invite applications for the post of Bookkeeper. (Relevant skills and experience required). 20 hours a week. Office based in Colchester CO4 3XD. For further details please look at our website – www.canonesses.co.uk **Closing date for applications May 9th and interviews on May 23rd.**

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Bishop Alan is seeking to appoint a Director of Education to promote and implement his vision for Catholic education within the Diocese. More information here:

www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/

Closing date for applications: **Monday 7 April at 12 Noon**

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