

Masses & Services Saturday 29th March to 6th April 2025		
Saturday 29th	10.00am	Mary Judge RIP <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & opportunity for Confession until 11am</i>
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 30th March 2025		
Saturday 29th	6.00pm	Danny White RIP First Anniv (Lechley)
Sunday 30th	9.00am	People of our Parish
March	11.00am	Intentions of Ian Fleming (Scannell)
Monday 31st	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 1st	9.15am	John Cleary RIP
Wed 2nd	12 Noon	Intentions of Ben Coles (Wood)
Thurs 3rd	NO MASS	
Friday 4th	12 Noon	Canon Charles Loughran RIP Anniv (McAdam)
Saturday 5th April	10.00am	Holy Souls RIP <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & opportunity for Confession until 11am</i>
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 6th April 2025		
Saturday 5th April	6.00pm	People of our Parish Going Forth Mass for Confirmation Candidates
Sunday 6th	9.00am	Daniel Keating RIP (Graves)
April 2025	11.00am	Intentions of Elaine Hudgell (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 £89 in Envelopes, £748.91 in Loose Plate & CAFOD £10. 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//////////

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.

IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: In cases of emergency, if Fr Martin is unavailable, please call 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



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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 30th March 2025

On this Laetare ('Rejoice!') Sunday at the mid-point of Lent, our liturgy centres on the boundless forgiveness of our loving God. We may choose to turn away from his love, but God forever turns towards us, longing to embrace us with compassion and rejoicing when we come back to him.

In the **First Reading** (Joshua 5: 9a.10–12) God tells Joshua that he has taken away the shame of the people of Israel: their years in exile eating manna in the desert are over. From now on, they eat from the bounty of the land.

The generosity of God's goodness and forgiveness is proclaimed throughout the **Psalm** (34). God comes to us in our need and distress, desiring us to put aside our shame and be radiant with his transforming love.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians continues this feast of forgiveness. We are reconciled to God through Christ and in him we are a new creation, liberated from our sins. (**Second Reading** - 2 Cor. 5: 17–21)

Finally, the beautiful parable that Jesus shares in today's **Gospel** (Luke 15: 1–3.11–32) sums up the whole message of the Good News and the promise of reconciliation. This reconciliation is made complete through the events of Holy Week and Easter that we will soon celebrate.

In this Jubilee Year, we pray as Pilgrims of Hope, made new in Christ. This week, we pray for all those in the world who are unable to secure enough food to eat from their land as a result of a changing climate. May we be moved with compassion to take whatever practical steps we can to alleviate their food poverty.



MOTHERING SUNDAY: We wish all mothers a blessed and happy Mothering Sunday. May they find great joy in the love, growth and holiness of their children. All mothers in our parish will be presented with flowers after Mass this weekend.

PASTORAL VISIT: We congratulate our young parishioners who, last Sunday, received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Their Going Forth Mass will be at 6pm on **Saturday 5th April**, followed by a celebration in our hall, to which all parishioners are invited to attend. We express our thanks to their Catechists for their time and dedication in preparing the candidates and to all those who helped in any way to make the occasion such a wonderful success.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

EUAN CARTER RIP, who died on Monday 10th March. His Requiem Mass will take place in our church on **Monday 7th April** at 1pm. We offer his family our prayerful condolences.

FRANK MULLIGAN RIP, who died on Thursday 27th March. Funeral arrangements pending. *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We offer our sympathy and prayerful support to families and all who mourn. May the Lord send his Spirit, the Comforter, to console them and give them with the hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection.*

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.

LENT LUNCHESES: The next lunch will take place on **Saturday 5th April at the United Reformed Church**. 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**.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS: 10.45am for an 11am start at the Epping former Methodist church. Join local Christians for the walk down Epping High Street as a witness to what Jesus achieved on the cross for us.

GOOD FRIDAY CAR PARKING: People are reminded that **parking on Church Hill is restricted to permit holders, even on Good Friday**. Parking enforcement officers will probably be around during our Good Friday services.

THE EASTER OFFERINGS: Just a reminder that the Offertory collection, taken at the Easter Masses, is our personal gift to the priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Christmas this provides a major part of his income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

INVITATION: To all Readers & Ministers. You are invited to attend the service on **Holy Thursday 17th April at 7.30pm**, for a renewal of commitment to the services of Ministering and Reading, which will take place during the service.

USHERS/WELCOMERS: We have a very small, dedicated team of ushers who, on a rota basis, welcome parishioners to our weekend Masses. We are in desperate need of more parishioners to join this team. **We especially need more ushers to assist at the Easter Services.** Please speak to Fr Martin if you can help.

PARISH EASTER CARDS: are available for collection and distribution this weekend. They give details of our Easter Masses and greetings from our Church to people at home. Please take yours and near neighbours to help reduce our postage costs. Our thanks go to Peter and Sarah Day for preparing them.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The next session for the children will take place on **Saturday, 26th April at the usual time of 4.30pm**.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN is holding a meeting which is open to anyone who is interested in the pro-life cause, on **Tuesday 8th April, at 7.30 p.m.** here at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. In this meeting, SPUC will focus on current pro-life campaigns, especially the serious threat posed by the assisted suicide bill currently before Parliament. All are welcome to attend.

GIFT AID: Gift Aid envelopes for the new financial year, beginning 6th April 2025, are ready for collection in the church porch. We encourage parishioners to use Offertory envelopes, especially for taxpayers to Gift Aid your donations to the church. This increases the value of your offerings to the church by 25% at no cost to yourself. **Many thanks to our volunteer parishioner, Michele Murphy for carrying out this role so efficiently for our parish.**

EPPING CHORUS: Farewell Concert on Good Friday. Please see poster in church porch. Admission is FREE with donations requested. Advance on line via [/www.ticketsource.co.uk/epping-chorus](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/epping-chorus).

ANNIVERSARIES: Gerald Bryan (31/3), Molly Denihan (3/4), Tommy Callaghan, Bertha Tedder, Canon Charles Loughran, Fr Ronald Roberts (4/4), Norah Murrihy, Albert Bazzoni (5/4), David Clancy, Phyllis McClean (6/4). **May they rest in peace.**

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL & CARE HOMES: Toohey Family, Paula Hall, Catherine Steel, James Bullen, Albert Fuller and John Millward & Jackie Hickman. *May the Lord send the healing power of his Holy Spirit down upon them and all who are ill.*

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK needs the usual food and household items.