

Masses & Services Saturday 5th April to 13th April 2025		
Saturday 5th	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	6.00pm	People of our Parish Going Forth Mass for Confirmation Candidates
Sunday 6th	9.00am	Daniel Keating RIP (Graves)
April	11.00am	Intentions of Elaine Hudgell (Scannell)
Monday 7th	1.00pm	Euan Carter RIP Requiem Mass
Tuesday 8th	9.15am	Holy Souls RIP
Wed 9th	12 Noon	Holy Souls RIP
Thurs 10th	NO MASS	
Friday 11th	12 Noon	Holy Souls RIP Anniv (McAdam)
Saturday 12th April	10.00am	Tony O'Hara RIP <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & opportunity for Confession until 11am</i>
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD YEAR C 13th April		
Saturday 12th	6.00pm	People of our Parish
Sunday 13th	9.00am	Private Intention
April 2025	11.00am	Intentions of Katie Hughes (Scannell)
Mass will start in our Hall with a procession into the church		

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 £206 in Envelopes & £360.08 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: 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.”

EPHING FOREST FOODBANK needs the usual food and household items.

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
Safeguarding Officer : Jonathan Goldsworthy
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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

6th April 2025

The setting for this Sunday's **Gospel** (John 8: 1–11) is Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles. Yom Kippur, the final opportunity to repent before the close of the year, has just ended. The scribes and Pharisees standing before Jesus are missing the opportunity for repentance, but the lone woman, crouched there, takes it eagerly.

Jesus is offering this chosen woman a way out of her wilderness (**First Reading** Isaiah 43: 16–21). He saves her life and then offers her the drink of new spiritual life. She leaves filled with gladness.

St Paul also received this newness of life (**Second Reading** -Philippians 3: 8–14). He, like the woman, has been possessed by Christ and desires only to continue upward toward the prize. He counts all else as rubbish . For him, knowing Christ as Lord is all that matters.

We are Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee year. Let's continue to move upward into Holy Week as Christ's chosen, praying that we might be agents of his forgiveness and mercy in all the situations of our lives.



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. His Requiem Mass will be in our church on **Wednesday 23rd April at 12.30pm**. *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.*

THE EASTER OFFERTINGS: 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.

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 LUNCHES: The next lunch will take place on Saturday 12th April at the Life Church, Epping Hall. 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.

HOLY THURSDAY: Mass of the Lord's Supper, at 7.30pm, with washing of feet. If you are able to help please add your name to the list at the back of the church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm.

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. It has been a tradition for many years for our parishioners to host the Walk of Witness in our Church Hall, providing drinks and Hot Cross Buns. Please contact Dorothy Whitehouse on 01992 577173 if you would like to help.

PARISH EASTER CARDS: are available for collection and distribution this weekend.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN is holding a meeting which is open to anyone who is interested in the pro-life cause, **NEXT 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.

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 Mass.

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.

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.

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

ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY, LOUGHTON. PRO-LIFE GROUP will meet **NEXT Monday, 7th April** at 7.15pm. All welcome.

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. **Many thanks to our volunteer parishioner, Michele Murphy for carrying out this role so efficiently for our parish.**

ANNIVERSARIES: Albert Bazzoni (5/4), David Clancy, Phyllis McClean (6/4), Stephen Fitzpatrick, Deacon Geoffrey Piper, Ted Povey, Betty Bere, Graeme Hollinshead (8/4), Christina Gruby (9/4), Sally Rutland (11/4), Patricia Rimmer, Martha Sheehan, Terence Caughan, Shirley Wood-McConville (13/4) **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 your servants who suffer in mind, body or spirit. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE SECULAR CLERGY COMMON FUND ('BIG M') is looking to appoint a new CEO. It makes grants to our sick and retired priests and looks after two Catholic cemeteries in London. The role is 0.6FTE and offers flexible working and a salary of £50k-£60k pro rata. For further details contact Angela Rowe secretary@secularclergy.org.uk Closing date **28th April 2025**.

EPHING CHORUS FAREWELL CONCERT: Good Friday. Please see poster in church porch.