

Masses & Services Saturday 3rd May to Sunday 11th May 2025		
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C		
4th May 2025		
Saturday 3rd	6.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday 4th	9.00am	People of our Parish
	11.00am	Anne McNama RIP 1st Anniv (McNama)
Monday 5th	10.00am	Grace Kelly Family Intentions (SB)
BANK HOLIDAY	NOTE TIME	
Tuesday 6th	9.15am	Intentions of Silvana Armstrong
Wed 7th	12 Noon	Intentions of Mrs Mary Stanisclass
Thursday 8th		NO MASS
Friday 9th	12 Noon	Intentions of Betty & Peter Mulligton
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C		
11th May 2025		
Saturday 10th	6.00pm	Ania Wigley RIP (Wigley)
Sunday 11th	9.00am	People of our Parish
May 2025		CROWNING OF OUR LADY'S STATUE
	11.00am	Intentions of Jenny Hawke (Poole)

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: Many thanks for your generous offerings. Last week you gave: £81.50 in Envelopes and £159.10 in Loose collection. **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: Fr Martin will usually take his day off on a Thursday. 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.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED: If anyone would like to be an altar server, please see Fr Martin or contact the Parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: Masses can be booked through our parish office.

HALL HIRE: Our Hall is available to hire at very competitive rates and a discount for parishioners. Please contact our Parish Office for further details and to book.

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. Please speak to Fr Martin if you are able to help.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher Tel: 01992 572516

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Parish Administrator : Mrs Margaret Lechley

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C

4th May 2025

As we continue the Easter season, today's joy-filled readings speak of the meaning of discipleship, both in our personal relationship with Jesus and in our relationships with other people.

The apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit (**First Reading** Acts 5: 27–32, 40–41), continue to proclaim the teachings of Jesus. When confronted by the religious leaders, they insist on obeying God rather than any human authority. The joy of the apostles is based on their faith that God will change our 'mourning into dancing', as the Psalm of praise and thanksgiving proclaims. Our merciful God will lift us from our troubles.

The **Second Reading** (Apoc. 5: 11–14) presents a vision of heavenly worship, with every creature in the universe praising Jesus as the risen Lamb that was slain: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!'

John recounts Jesus's third post-Resurrection meeting with the disciples, who have returned to their old ways of fishing (**Gospel** John 21: 1–19). Jesus calls to them at dawn, guiding them to a miraculous catch, followed by a shared breakfast. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him, instructing him to care for his followers.

As we ponder these texts as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee year, we pray for a spirit of justice and generosity in all situations of conflict, injustice and poverty in our world.



POPE FRANCIS RIP: The Bishops Conference has set up an online book of condolence for Pope Francis. <https://popefrancistributes.com/>

FR JOHN TUOHY: We welcome back Fr John Tuohy who will be covering in our parish while Fr Martin is away.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The next session for the children will take place on **Saturday, 10th May at the usual time of 4.30pm.**

BAPTISM: *Congratulations to the family of Lana Evelyn Newstead, baptised in our Church on Saturday 26th April. May the Lord bless her and her family and help them bring up their child in the knowledge and love of God.*

THE CROWNING OF OUR LADY'S STATUE will take place at the 11am Mass **NEXT Sunday, 11th May**, during which the children of the first Holy Communion group will crown the statue of Our Lady and present flowers to her. This is truly fitting as the month of May is dedicated to Our Lady.

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Smith-Galer, Tom Clark, Duncan Wilkie, Morgan Gardiner (3/5), Patrick Butler, Anne McNama (4/5), Canon Patrick Palmer, Canon Basil Booker, Thomas Clark, Albert Bazzoni, Fr John O'Callaghan, Tommy Holmes, Grace Kelly (5/5), Kathleen Johnson (6/5), Mary Geoghegan, Diane Tucker (7/5), Canon Brian Grady, Canon John Duckett, Elsie Moore (9/5), Diane Harrington, Donald Wood, Christine Gallacher (10/5), Betty Sullivan, Fr Augustine Davidson, Fr John Boyle, Mgr John Howell, Fr Stanley Joynes (11/5). **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.

PARISH COUNCIL: Our Parish Council will next meet on **Tuesday 13th May at 7pm** in the priest's house. All welcome to attend. If you would like an item added to the Agenda, for discussion, then please email our parish office.

GIFT AID OFFEORTY ENVELOPES: Please collect your box of envelopes for the new financial year, if you have not done so already. Many thanks.

PART-TIME CARETAKER: A vacancy has arisen for a part-time **Caretaker for our Parish**. The start date is as soon as possible and the salary is negotiable depending on skills and experience. If you would like to discuss the role please speak to Fr Martin or our Parish Administrator.

MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: **20th - 22nd June** www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983.

ANNUAL MASS FOR MIGRANTS: **NEXT Monday, 5th May 2025**, 2pm at Westminster Cathedral. For more information or to join the banner procession, visit: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/migrants-mass-2025/>.

LIFE GROUP, LOUGHTON: There will be a meeting at the Catholic Church, Loughton on **Monday 12th May at 7.15pm**. All welcome to attend.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (18+), SATURDAY 24th MAY 2025

A group of representatives from the BCYS (aged 18+), will join Bishop Alan and other parishes on pilgrimage to Walsingham, with opportunities for readers, servers, musicians and singers during the day.

There will be Mass at the Basilica, walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey, Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House.

To apply to join the BCYS group and find more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: Throughout the Easter period we read each day in the Liturgy from the Acts of the Apostles. Talks by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park, are available on www.whatgoodnews.org Please go to 'Faith Talks' and scroll down to 'Acts of the Apostles' and 'Paul in Acts'.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL - LESS THAN 2 WEEKS LEFT!

Report Stage of the assisted suicide Bill is **16th May**. It is vital that you contact your MP urgently about this issue.

Please take action now and visit [//www.righttolife.org.uk/ASVote](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/ASVote) to email your MP - it takes just 30 seconds! If you have the time, please also visit your MP - you can arrange a meeting now by visiting [//www.righttolife.org.uk/meetyourMP](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/meetyourMP)

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 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."

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