

<b>Masses &amp; Services Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>		
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C</b>		<b>11<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Ania Wigley RIP (Wigley)</b>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>People of our Parish</b>
<b>May 2025</b>	<b>CROWNING OF OUR LADY'S STATUE</b>	
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Intentions of Jenny Hawke (Poole)</b>
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>Feast of St John Houghton</i></b>	
	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Holy Souls RIP</b>
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>Feast of St Erconwald</i></b>	
	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Douglas Bere RIP (FM)</b>
<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>Feast of St Matthias</i></b>	
	<b>12 Noon</b>	<b>Holy Souls RIP</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 Noon</b>	<b>Intention of Margaret Goode (Durkan)</b>
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C</b>		<b>18<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Intentions of Mrs Mary Stanisclass</b>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Patrick Donohoe RIP Recently (Coyne)</b>
<b>May 2025</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>People of our Parish</b>

**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: £168 in Envelopes and £340.79 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/////////](http://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.

**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

**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!**

## 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**  
**Email: [epping@brcdt.org](mailto:epping@brcdt.org)**  
**Website: [www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.eppingcatholicchurch.co.uk)**  
**Registered Charity Number: 234092**  
**Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove & Lebohang**  
**Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C -** **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS** **11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

On this 'Good Shepherd Sunday', the **Gospel** verses are taken from the tenth chapter of St John (10: 27–30). Here Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd, who brings life, love and protection to those within his flock.

In the **First Reading** (Acts 13: 14, 43–52) we follow Paul and Barnabas to Antioch, where their message is rejected by the Jewish leaders. Undeterred, they turn their preaching to those termed pagans. To the joy of the disciples, these people readily hear and receive the message of eternal life offered by the Lord, fulfilling the commission given by Jesus himself.

The **Second Reading** (Apocalypse 7: 9, 14b–17) recounts John's vision of heaven. Amid countless souls robed in the whitest of garments, we see Jesus as the Lamb, standing at the throne of God. We hear of the gifts of protection from hunger, thirst and sorrow which come to those who stand before God's throne.

This week, perhaps we can pray especially for those who, for whatever reason, may feel lost and without the protection of the shepherd they once knew. We also remember those who are searching for a flock in which to make their home. We continue to pray for peace across the world, and especially for the people of Ukraine and the middle East.



**THIS SUNDAY IS GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**, or the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese and for those currently training for the priesthood. Prayer leaflets are available at the back of the church. Please take one as you leave Mass.

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

**THE CROWNING OF OUR LADY'S STATUE** will take place at the 11am Mass **THIS Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FR JOHN TUOHY:** We thank Fr John Tuohy has been covering in our parish and welcome back Fr Martin this weekend.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Our Parish Council will next meet **THIS Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The first Holy Communion rehearsal will take place on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm**. **The first Holy Communion Mass will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 11am.**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Cleonagh Jolly (4/5), Elsie Moore (9/5), Diane Harrington, Donald Wood, Christine Gallacher (10/5), Betty Sullivan (11/5), Doug Bere, Percy Flower, Kathleen King (13/5), Stephen Thornhill (14/5), Bernadine Potrykus, John Hassey (15/5). **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 all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. **Amen**

**UNITED REFORM CHURCH 400 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:** **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm** 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the URC followed by refreshments. All welcome.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm** 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert by "Downside Up" at the URC, performing unforgettable melodies, spanning classical, jazz, opera, musical theatre and more. Free admission. Retiring collection for Epping Forest Foodbank. All welcome.

**Please support our friends at URC by celebrating this milestone with them.**

**THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** invite you to join them at their Summer Luncheon on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June**, at The Lawn – a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house in Rochford.

**12.30pm to 3.30pm. Tables of 10. £37.50 per person.** Tickets are available now! Reserve your place by visiting their website: [www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/)

**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.

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

**ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL - LESS THAN A WEEK LEFT!**

Report Stage of the assisted suicide Bill is **16<sup>th</sup> 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)

**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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Please go to 'Faith Talks' and scroll down to 'Acts of the Apostles' and 'Paul in Acts'.

**CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER – A STUDY DAY:**

This year we celebrate seventeen-hundred years since the Church Council held at Nicaea, which drew up a statement of faith which is the basis of the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass. Dr Ken Carleton, Deacon of the Brentwood diocese, who has a doctorate in Church History, will explore the issues debated at the Council. The study day will be held on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 11am until 2 pm** at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) No prior booking necessary for this free event. A recording will be available subsequently on the website.

**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