

BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH: If you have a child due for Baptism please let me know as soon as possible. To avoid any disappointment with dates contact the Presbytery to book your date. If you are first-time parents, you need to contact Sharon Chalk, who will organise a Baptismal Preparation of two sessions, and then I will come and visit you in your homes. Please don't forget to collect your Baptismal Information Form.



EPPING FOREST FOODBANK DONATIONS: Thank you to all

Food Bank

parishioners who have donated items for the Foodbank. Your donations are needed as much as ever at the moment by people in our

area who are struggling to put food on the table. Basic staple items are always welcome including the unbranded supermarket basic ranges which can make your generous donations go even further. In July they are in urgent need of the following items: tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, UHT milk, powdered milk, long-life juice, pasta sauce jars, tinned tomatoes, small jars of coffee, chocolate bars, washing liquid, ladies deodorant, washing up liquid, rice pouches for the microwave and tea bags (80 bag size). Thank you! You can also keep up to date with the Foodbank via their facebook page: www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/

ALTAR SOCIETY: We need some new helper in the Altar Society to look after the care of Parish Church. If you can give an hour or so once a month please see Fr. John or Sharon Fitzmaurice.

CHURCH PARADE & COFFEE MORNING: Sunday 7th July 11.00am our monthly Church Parade takes place. A big thanks you to all of our Uniform Leaders, who give so much of their time to our young people in the various groups. Immediately after Mass there will be a Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall to which everyone is invited. Please come along and join us!

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS: There are a variety of Catholic Newspapers and Magazines in the Porch of the church. Why not invest in one of them?

IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: Tuesday is usually Fr. John's Day Off. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either in Epping – Tel: 01992 572516, or the St. Thomas of Canterbury Friary at Woodford Green – Tel: 020 8504 1688. This would also apply if Fr. John is away for a few days break or on Retreat. All the local funeral directors have a contact number for Fr. John if a funeral needs to be arranged in his absence.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Fourteenth Sunday of the Year 2019

There is an understanding that religion and politics are not discussed in polite society. This is probably because when they are raised, invariably, the conversation gets rather heated. Sex and death used to have the same effect, but nowadays as a society we seem more comfortable at least talking about sex, albeit in a superficial way.



Nowadays the idea of 'evangelism' also carries a certain taboo element. For sure, there are conferences on the subject and books written, and the occasional Sunday homily on our call to spread the gospel, but how seriously the subject is taken is debateable. This call is the theme of our Gospel passage today: the commissioning by Jesus of seventy-two disciples to go and preach the gospel.

The message that we do often hear is that if we are good, kind and loving, then that is evangelisation. St. Francis of Assisi famously said: Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words', highlighting that witness whether by action or word is crucial. We definitely don't want to come across as 'Bible bashers' or over the top', and we definitely do not want to impose our faith on anyone. Nevertheless, there is no escaping the fact that sooner or later our faith invites us to pass the Good News on to others.

John Lennon famously said: Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I needn't argue with that; I'm right and I will be proved right. We are more popular than Jesus now. I don't know which will go first – rock and roll or Christianity.' While Lennon had a point, the passing of almost four decades since his death had shed a different perspective on his comment. As Christians we know that the raison d'être of the Church is to grow and spread to the four corners of the earth. Our parishes are meant to grow and flourish, not stagnate and be closed

No one is saying that sharing our faith is easy. It isn't – it requires effort, creativity, passion, enthusiasm and conviction. The key is in the name: the gospel is Good News. If we don't experience it as Good News, we don't share it as Good News. The Holy Spirit is the One who creates within us as burning desire to both witness to and share our faith. We pray for this blessing and anointing of faith.



Dear Friends in Christ

14th Sunday of the Year

PARISH FLOWER FESTIVAL: Friday 12th – Sunday 14th July. Calling all those parishioners who love flowers and plants. Our first Flower Festival will commence next Friday 12th July, and through the weekend 13th/14th July. First and foremost it will be a beautiful way of decorating the Church, and secondly it will give all parishioners an opportunity to be involved. It doesn't matter how good you are at flower arranging, if you would like to make a contribution to the Festival it will be gratefully received. It would be good to know who wants to make a contribution, so that we can plan where to put all of the Flower displays. You can be as imaginative as you want to be. Our own flower arranging team at St. Edmund's, hopefully will be adventurous in their displays. It would be nice to open the Church to the public on this occasion. Also, if you could spread the information by word of mouth, this also helps! If you could notify Jackie Taylor or Fr. John, it will give us some idea of the number of displays. If you know of any organisations that might be willing to sponsor a display this also would be good. **JOIN WHATSAPP GROUP.** Tel No: 07806 998187.



Could I ask all of those who are presenting Flower Arrangements and Displays to kindly deliver them on Thursday 11th July during the day, so that we can arrange them in the Church? Kindly put your name on your display.



ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY LEYTONSTONE: Mass for Deceased Relatives & Friends on Monday 8th July at 11.30am. Many of us have deceased relatives and friends buried at St. Patrick Cemetery. Each year there are two special masses of remembrance, one in November and the other in July. I would like to invite all those with deceased loved one to join us on Monday. The Mass is the great act of thanksgiving; and even in death we can offer thanks to God for our deceased loved ones. There will be the opportunity to visit your loved ones graves after the mass. *Requiescant in Pace!*

CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS: I'm making an appeal especially to our Seniors to seriously consider attending an additional weekday mass once or twice a week. The mass is the great act of thanksgiving, as we grow older, and perhaps have a little more time on our hands, it would be truly wonderful to have more people at the weekday masses. Our numbers have diminished through the years. Please consider coming along. You'll always be welcome!

May God Bless You All This Week,

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who attended our June meeting.

BBQ plans: We would like to hold a parish BBQ at the church, possibly in September. We hope this will be a fantastic community event and appeal to all of you to come forward to help. We will need volunteers to help with food, drink, welcoming, entertainment and more. Please try to come along to our next meeting on July 15.

WhatsApp: To improve communication and help organise future events we would like to invite you to join a parish WhatsApp group. This has worked well in other parishes. If you would like to be included, please contact Iain McLay with your mobile number on 07806 998187.

Forming Intentional Disciples author *Sherry Weddell* will be leading a conference at Westminster on Tuesday June 18. It is not too late to get tickets using this link:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/centreforcatholicformation/251195>

Conference on marriage: The first diocesan conference to promote marriage and the family takes place on Saturday 6th July (10.30am-2.30pm) at Brentwood Cathedral. Loughton parishioners are encouraged to attend. If you are interested, there is no charge and lunch is provided. Please book in advance via Eventbrite using:

<https://brentwoodmarriageday.eventbrite.org>.

We hope you will support the *Flower Festival* and consider coming along to the *Bible study/faith sharing* group. We are also working towards holding a youth mass with Epping and Waltham Abbey in September. Our next meeting is on Monday 15th July (8pm). Please make every effort to come along and help. You will be very welcome.

Our Parish Evangelisation Team (PET) meets monthly to:

1. Pray together;
2. Reflect on, and to discuss, opportunities to spread the Good News among our own parishioners and the wider community;
3. Plan and organise a wide range of activities in our parish;
4. Help each other to develop our faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ through words and actions.

We have sent an email to all those that signed up at the meetings. If you have not received it, please email markpoulter70@hotmail.com for further details.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

2019/2020: My sincere and grateful thanks to all the parents who came to see me this week in preparation for your child's First Holy Communion in May 2020. It was good to have been able to speak with you in advance of the Programme commencing in September. This is going to be a small year; looking at the Baptismal Register there were far less baptisms that year. I presume that I have seen all those who desire their children to be enrolled in the Sacramental Programme 2019/2020. If anyone has forgotten or omitted to make an appointment, could you kindly do so immediately? Please phone Fr. John. Tel No: 020 8508 3492.
Pre-requisites: a) Baptised practicing Catholic, attending weekly mass. b) That you live in the Parish. Any outsiders will need a letter of reference from their Parish Priest. c) That the child is already attending Mass with their parents. This is a really serious commitment that you undertake. The practice of your faith is fundamental to this programme for the children. Many parishes have adopted a weekly check-in register which is signed at the end of holy mass by the Parish Priest for each candidate. Sadly, some enrol in the programme, and often don't attend the weekly celebration of the Holy Mass. If there are any problems with these requirements please see Fr. John.



FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN: Once a child makes their first Holy Communion, the Catholic obligation and commitment to attend weekly Sunday Mass is binding. This doesn't only apply to our first communicants, but to everyone; this has always been the teaching of the Roman Catholic Faith and has never changed. To be part of the worshipping community of believers is the greatest gift we have from the Lord, to share in his Eucharistic celebration.



NEW ALTAR SERVERS: Could I ask all of the parents of our First Holy Communicants this year to encourage your sons and daughters to think about becoming Altar Servers. This is a wonderful way of serving God at a very young age, and also serving the community of faith. We are fortunate enough to have a wonderful team of servers who faithfully attend weekly mass and attend the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist. If your child would like to start serving, please speak to Fr. John, and he will arrange for them to receive Albs and cinctures. Our two MC's will assist in training them, and helping them in the early weeks of serving.



INVITATION TO OUR RETIRED COMMUNITY: The children of St. John Fisher school choir would like to invite retired members of the parish community to a mini-concert on Tuesday 16th July at 4.00pm. They will be telling the story of The Selfish Giant through song as well as performing a hymn by John Rutter, Refreshments will be served afterwards. For details please call the school office 020 8508 6315 or speak to Kathryn Poulter on 07919 208266.

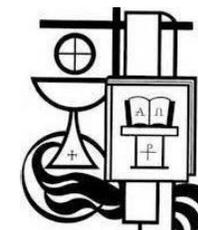


PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 8th July at 8.00pm in the Parish Retreat. Would all Parish Councillors kindly be in attendance. Thank you!

PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE: Tuesday 16th July at 7.30pm Parish Retreat. Would all Committee Members kindly be in attendance. Thank you!

NEW YOUNG READERS: We also need some new Lectors (Readers) at Mass. I would like to encourage some of our young teenagers to seriously think about this request. If you are interested in Reading God's Word at one of the Sunday Masses on a regular basis, once again, please see Fr. John. To bear witness to Christ by proclaiming his Word is truly a great honour and privilege. We will help you to prepare for public reading!

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: If anyone is interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Faith, possibly with the view of receiving the Easter Sacraments at Easter 2020, please contact Fr. John to talk about the RCIA – Journey of Faith Programme. It is a systematic programme of the Catholic Faith from the Scriptural & Moral teachings of Jesus Christ, to the celebration of the Sacraments & the Sacred Liturgy; to understand the whole meaning of the Eucharist; Distinguishing the Old & New Testaments; to learn about the Blessed Virgin Mary & the Company of Saints; the different methods of prayer and meditation; the meaning of 'The Church' and what it means to be a member of the Church – Ecclesiology; the four last things, death, judgment, heaven & hell. Tel No: 020 8508 3492



ADVANCED NOTICE: It is over 45 years since our Parish Organ had a complete overhaul; we keep a diary of every Organ visit and tuning. Unfortunately there are some serious issues with the organ, and if they are not resolved fairly soon, we are going to find ourselves in difficulty. The engineers will be working on the organ at the end of September for three weeks.



ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: Next Thursday 11th July, the Feast of St. Benedict, I celebrate 38 years of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Please remember me in your prayers on this day. I'm truly grateful to Almighty God for his call to me so long ago. It has been a joy and honour to be a priest of Jesus Christ in his service for all these years, and I'm also grateful for the many parishes which I have served in. The longest I have ever served anywhere is here in Loughton for the past 17 years. I'm afraid you've got me for another year, as the moves were announced last weekend, and I wasn't on the list! I will be offering mass for the Parish on the 11th July at 9.00am. If you're free, come and join us at Church?

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS: Last weekend I was handed by a parishioner a Parish Newsletter from June 1994; looking at it after mass I was a little saddened to see that the parish offertory last weekend £1,028.40 was almost the same as that of 1994. Manifestly 25 years hasn't made that much difference in the weekly contributions! I've done everything I can to try and keep the costs down in all sorts of different ways. But if people are not using their Gift Aid envelopes or updating their Standing Orders it's a problem! As many of you have commented to me recently the weekly offertory has certainly plummeted! This isn't just about the Offertories; it's about real & true commitment in faith. Time, Talent and Treasure, isn't about just giving God our 'left overs', it's about giving him 'our best'. The best of our time, in prayer, coming to Sunday Mass, being a part of the community, teaching our children about the faith; Our talent – making sure that what we contribute to God is the best that he has given us, whether we be musicians, Uniform Group Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers & Readers, Servers, Flower arrangers, Church Altar Society. Our treasure – is making a real contribution to the running of our Parish. This is your Church and parish, its upkeep and maintenance is holily dependant on your contributions. What you give reflects your commitment and support of your church. I'm just the Shepherd & caretaker, as is any priest in a parish. Priests come and go from parishes, but the people are the community and have that responsibility for their church. I appeal to your generous natures! Some comparisons in offertories last weekend throughout the diocese. Immaculate Conception Epping - £1,347. Brentwood Cathedral - £3,709.09. St. Bede Chadwell Heath - £1,233.87. Mary Mother of God Hornchurch - £2,255.30. SS Peter & Paul Ilford £1,439.26. Our Lady Immaculate Chelmsford £2,639.72. Holy Family Witham £1,317.28



CANONISATION OF BL. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN:

The announcement was made from Rom this week that Bl. John Henry Newman will be Canonised on Sunday 13th October 2019 in St. Peter's Square, Rome. This is truly great new for the English Catholic Church, as we haven't had a Canonisation since 1970 with the Forty Martyrs of England & Wales; and they were all martyrs of the Reformation. So Bl. John Henry Newman is the first English Saint since the 17th Century. He was born in London in 1801; his family were very strong members of the Church of England. He entered the Anglican Ministry and was an Anglican Priest until 1845. He founded the famous Oxford Movement. But he slowly found himself moving away from the Anglican Church. Eventually retreating to Littlemore, where he was eventually received into the Roman Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi. Even as a Roman catholic life wasn't always easy. He established the Birmingham Oratory, where he lived out his Priesthood. He is a famous academic and theologian. In 1879 Pope Leo XIII created him a Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, as a tribute to his outstanding erudition and piety. Pope Benedict Beatified Bl John Henry back in 2010 at Cofton Park, Birmingham, many from the parish travelled up for this beautiful celebration. Please pray to Bl John Henry Newman —



CARDINAL NEWMAN

UPDATE ON THE 'DIOCESAN VISION' FROM THE BISHOP:

Over six months ago we published the Diocesan Vision Document: Shaping Our Future. That was the culmination of nearly three years of discussions, prayer, discernment and working together. After initial meetings with the clergy, I invited Stewards of the Gospel to step forward to work with the clergy and myself to find new ways of responding to God's love for us. In the Diocese and our Parishes, we have worked together to find a response that is fit for the 21st Century in East London and Essex. Last December I asked everyone to work in Parish Partnerships to make the Vision a reality in every part of our diocese. I encouraged us not to cling to the status quo but rather to be bold in our thinking and to explore new ways to evangelise our diocese. In six months, every Parish Partnership will send in a draft plan for my consideration. That plan should set out how Stewards and Clergy in each Partnership, informed by discussions with local parishioners, think it could be structured so as to best evangelise their part of the diocese. There are many wonderful things happening in our diocese for which I am very grateful- please continue to work together in a spirit of prayer and united always in Christ and Mary. Bishop Alan Williams, sm