

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.



Food Bank

EPPING FOREST FOODBANK

DONATIONS: Thank you to all 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 helpers 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.

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

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, were going to find ourselves in difficulty. The engineers will be working on the organ at the end of September for three weeks.

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,

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year 2019

In a story unique to St. Luke's Gospel, we read of a remarkable and beautiful incident in Jesus' life. Mary of Magdalene, whose feast we celebrate tomorrow, is traditionally associated with the Mary before us today but scholars think that it is unlikely to be the same person, believing this woman to be Mary of Bethany. What is clear is that, like Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany loved the Lord. In this account, she did not wash his feet with her weeping or anoint his body with expensive nard but she showed that one thing was needed, and that was to sit at the Master's feet and learn from him

There has always been a tension between the contemplative arm and the apostolic arm of the Church. The contemplatives are accused of being too focused on prayer whereas the apostolics are criticised for being too preoccupied with action and not placing enough emphasis on the interior life. Of course, this is too simplistic juxtaposition but there is an element of truth in it.

It is, however, hard not to feel some sympathy for Martha, who in this understanding embodies the apostolic approach, Mary can come across as a kind of 'goody two shoes'. Martha on the other hand, has not airs and graces; she is a worker and not a shirker. Clearly both women were serving the Lord, but Mary, in Jesus' own words, chose what is better. This doesn't mean what Martha was doing in that moment wasn't good or noble or worthy, or even right for her to be doing; it simply means that ultimately sitting at the Lord's feet and learning from him who is humble and gentle or heart is the goal of our faith.



The great saints of the Church did not hesitate to serve others practically. It was aid of St. Catherine of Genoa, for example, that she used to be so preoccupied in prayer that she appeared to be in a trance. Nevertheless, if anyone needed her help, she would stop praying immediately to respond. Pope Francis is calling us all to serve others in a spirit of love and charity, but all service of God must be first rooted in prayer and hearing God speak through his Word.

*Dear Friends in Christ
Year*

16th Sunday of the

***THANK YOU!** I would like to take this opportunity of thanking most sincerely all those parishioners who contributed so generously last weekend at our Flower Festival in the Church. Your flower arrangements were truly magnificent, and many parishioners commented on how beautiful the Church looked! Obviously this was the first time we have organised a flower festival, and I believe it was a great success. There were many people visiting throughout the weekend! Hopefully next year more parishioners will participate! Thank you one and all!*

***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!*

***END OF ACADEMIC YEAR:** Our Schools will close this coming Wednesday 24th July. May I take this opportunity of thanking all of our Teaching Staff & Assistants, Caretaker & Ancillary Workers for all they have done over the past year for our children! It is now time for a break, some rest and relaxation! As you know Mrs Bryson left us just after Easter; a big thank you to all the Senior Leaders and Mr Sean Kelliher for stepping in as Acting Head over the past term; we are grateful for everything you have done for our school of St. John Fisher. We bid a fond farewell and every happiness & success to Mrs Kathryn Poulter who is taking up a new assignment as Deputy Head teacher at St Antony's Catholic School, Woodford Green; she will be greatly missed! The End of School Year Mass will take place on Monday 22nd July at 9.15am. I would like to encourage parents to attend the Mass. The new Academic Year will commence on the 5th September at 8.45am. Have a wonderful Summer Holidays.*

***SUMMER HOLIDAYS, NOT A HOLIDAY FROM GOD:** Our obligation as Roman Catholics is to participate in the Weekly celebration of Holy Mass; this is not suspended over the summer holidays, and has always been the teaching of the Church Mass is celebrated every Weekend; Saturday's at 6.00pm & Sunday's at 9.00am & 11.00am. Even if we are on holiday we have obligation to participate in the Holy Eucharist; but it's also a wonderful time to explore the*

beautiful Churches all over Europe and Abroad; and also the various other Continents people happen to travel to. God Bless You All!

ADVANCED NOTICE: The Parish Newsletter during the month of August will be a single page and produced fortnightly. As all of the programmes suspended during the summer recess, and many people are on holiday, our numbers are somewhat reduced! If you have any information for over the summer newsletter, can you let Fr. John have it as soon as possible please; also if you have mass intentions please let us have them also! Thank you!



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.



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!

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: In your mercy please pray for the repose of the soul of Desmond Gibbins RIP who passed away last weekend. Desmond was a long time parishioner at St. Edmund's, but for the past few years has been housebound. We extend our condolences to his family at this time of loss.

Desmond's body will be received into the Church on Thursday 25th July at 4.30pm, and the Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 26th July at 12.15pm.

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

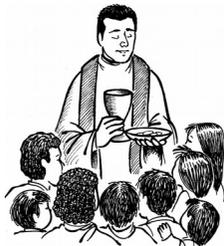


THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: will feature on Lourdes TV (www.lourdes-france.org/en/tv-lourdes/) at 22.00 (UK time) on Monday 22nd July when we are part of the Marian (Torchlight) procession and at 09.30 (UK time) on Tuesday 23rd July, when we celebrate Mass at the Grotto. In addition, each day from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th July the BCYS (Brentwood Catholic Youth Service) will be offering "Virtual Pilgrimage" clips and highlights from Lourdes, including homilies from Bishop Alan and priests of the Diocese. You will find all these on the website www.bcys.net. The website is being refreshed this Friday, 19th July, with new resources and links for youth leaders and catechists: have a look!

NOTE TO EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: Our next practice will be on Monday, 29th July (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 4th August. Please do try to be at the practice, even if it's for a short while. Thanks.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

2019/2020: My thanks to all the parents who recently came to see me regarding your child being enrolled in the First Holy Communion Programme 2019/2020. It was good to have the opportunity to speak with you. The Programme will commence on Wednesday 11th September at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall with an Information Evening for the parents. You will receive your child's Golden Book, the Programme of Meetings for the children and



parents; various prayers and Guidance Notes. This is going to be a very small class. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME: Runs in every parish. The principle behind the scheme is to encourage the Faithful people of God to make a weekly commitment in faith to its parish through financial contribution. This is your weekly gift to God and is used to defray the costs of running a parish. Every householder is completely aware of the increasing costs of everyday living, and how we have to budget the annual income. The Gift Aid Scheme means that for every £1 you give, we are able to claim back at the end of the Financial Year an additional 25pence per £1. But using the Gift Aid envelopes is essential, and without your envelope there is no additional income. Manifestly, there are occasions when parishioners do forget their envelopes, in fact I've noticed that many people leave their box of envelopes in their cars. But there are additional spare envelopes in the porch, and all we need is your Gift Aid number or your name.

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Making donations go further

Our Gift Aid Organiser Maria Mosquera recently sent all who Gift Aid a letter, giving a breakdown of your contributions over the past financial year; this will assist you in your Annual Tax Return. If you have any problems with this, please contact Maria directly, as I do not have access to the Gift Aid information. Also if you would like to join the Scheme, and are a Taxpayer, it doesn't cost anything, other than your name and address, and of course your weekly contribution. It is possible to set up a Standing Order through your Bank this will ensure that your Weekly Contribution for the support and upkeep of the Parish is ensured! Application Forms can be found in the Porch of the Church, please feel free to take one and return completed to the Presbytery

It should be pointed out that all your contributions can be Gift Aided. Your Weekly Offertory contribution; Mass Intention requests; Donations for flowers; Forty Hour Candles; Special Collections; CAFOD; Any charitable contribution that you make; Any Special Donations to the Church; as long as you are a Taxpayer, and are signed up to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, all of the above apply!

For any further information please speak to Maria Mosquera or Fr. John. There are spare Registration Forms for the Gift Aid Scheme available in the

Porch of the Church; please complete the form and return it to the presbytery

Youth Mass at St Edmund's, Loughton 6pm Sunday, 22nd September

On 3rd July, we had a great meeting with eight of our Loughton Parish youth (our core group) to start planning for this Mass. Three of our Loughton and Waltham Abbey musicians and two other supporting adults were there as well. Everyone brought some really good ideas to the meeting and the following has been agreed:



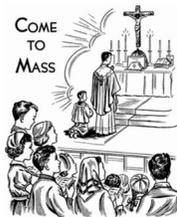
The core group will organise the writing of bidding prayers, get readers, choose hymns, music and other things that need to be done – all of these with the help of their friends and other young people from Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping parishes. Musicians from Loughton and Waltham Abbey parishes will combine to provide the music and hopefully Epping will join us. After the Mass, everyone will be invited into St. Edmund's Hall for refreshments, drinks and chat and the Hall has already been booked.



We've planned another meeting for 7pm. Wednesday, 4th September in St. Edmund's Hall / Retreat when the core group will meet to agree everything, where the musicians will gather to practise the hymns / music and where we'll then combine to polish off what needs to be done. If any of our young parishioners from Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping are interested in joining us (as being part of the core group, musician, or willing to help in any other way) please do come to this meeting – you'll be made very welcome!

For all of our young people in Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping parishes, please put the 22nd September in your 'phone/diary, please do come and bring your friends as well!

There are many of our young people who no longer attend Weekly Sunday Mass, which is always sad; but we ask all those young people who regularly attend weekly mass to become evangelists, and invite these other young people to accompany you to this Special Celebration. The Celebration of the Eucharist is the central feature of our Catholic Faith, we gather together as a Community of believers to express our love and thanksgiving to Almighty God for so many gifts in our lives. The



Mass is our opportunity to come to know Jesus even more deeply and develop a relationship with Him.

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who attended our July meeting.

COMING SOON! PARISH BBQ: We are planning to hold a parish barbecue on Sunday 6th October. We hope this will be a fantastic community event so appeal to all of you to come forward to help. As well as the food and drink, we would like to showcase our parish and provide activities and entertainment. Perhaps you could help with catering, welcoming, music, face painting, activities for children or something else? We would love for all groups and individuals in the parish to be involved in the organisation of this event. If you would like to get involved, please contact Iain McLay with your mobile number on 07806 998187 so that you can be added to the WhatsApp group. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time and talents!



This year: A lot has been achieved in the last year. Large numbers of you took part in the *Forming Intentional Disciples* programme and many events have followed. We gave out daffodils on Mother's Day, held a forest walk, ran bible study/prayer group sessions and had a wonderful flower festival recently. Thank you to everyone who has been involved so far.

Next steps: A Youth Mass for Loughton, Epping and Waltham Abbey is being planned for Sunday September 22 (6pm) at St Edmund's. Please support if you can.

Next meeting: We will have a break for the summer recess and meet again on Monday 9th September (8pm). Please make every effort to come along as we shall be planning the Parish BBQ and need your help. Everyone welcome! We need a lot of help in organising this open Sunday event. It will coincide with Uniform Sunday Parade. This is an open invitation to the whole community, if you have friends please bring along with you!

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.