

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.



NOTE TO EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: Our next practice will be on Monday, 1st July (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 7th July. We'd like to look at a couple of new pieces for our Group so please do try to be at the practice, even if it's for a short while. Thanks. We would also like to encourage many of our young people to come along and this invitation extends of course to anyone in our Parish, whether musician or singer, to come and join us!

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

Food Bank

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 June 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 of Parish Church. If you can give an hour or so once a month please see Fr. John or Sharon Fitzmaurice.

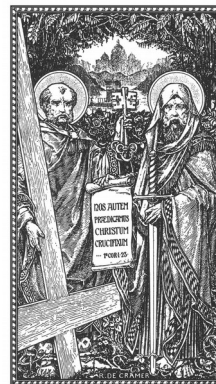
IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: Tuesday is usually Fr. John's Day Off. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either in Epping – Tel: 01992 572516, or the St. Thomas of Canterbury Friary at Woodford Green – Tel: 020 8504 1688. This would also apply if Fr. John is away for a few days break 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,

Solemnity of St. Peter & St Paul, 2019

On this Feast of SS Peter & Paul we focus on the gift of revelation through which these two giants of the Christian faith entered into the mystery of the Christian life.

Revelation can best be understood as a gift of grace through which we grasp or understand or receive insight into the mystery of God in Christ. Revelation is a form of knowledge which reason itself cannot penetrate. We are blessed in today's Gospel to see revelation at work, so to speak. Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ did not and could not come from 'flesh and blood' or human thought or reasoning. Jesus is explicit and clear where this gift of revelation came from - from his heavenly Father.



Paul having suffered intensely at the hands of his fellow believers, who constantly questioned his authority and credentials, pointed to this gift of revelation as the way in which he took hold of the gospel: 'For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ'. There you have it in a nutshell: the two apostles were both recipients of the grace of revelation.

We too seek this grace of revelation and, as St. Pope John Paul II explained, our search must draw us to the Father: 'How had Peter come to this faith? And what is asked of us, if we wish to follow in his footsteps was ever greater conviction? Matthew gives us an enlightening insight in the words with which Jesus accepts Peter's confession: "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven". The expression "flesh and blood" is a reference to man and the common way of understanding things. In the case of Jesus, this common way is not enough. A grace of "revelation" is needed, which comes from the Father'.

Lord Jesus, grant me in ever-deeper measure the grace of revelation into the rich panoramas of Christian truth. I humbly confess that I come to the fullness of contemplation of your face by my own effort and must let you take me by the hand.

Dear Friends in Christ

SS Peter & Paul 2019

QUARANT HORES – FORTY HOURS: Of Eucharistic Adoration will commence next Thursday 4th July at 8.00pm with Holy Mass. I would like to encourage the whole parish community to come and share in this Mass, as we begin our 'Forty Hours' before the Blessed Sacrament. If there are any parishioners who have never been to the Forty Hours, it is a truly wonderful experience of spending real intimate time with Jesus exposed before us in the Blessed Sacrament. It is a time when the whole parish community can gather together in prayer and meditation. It would be truly wonderful to have as many people as possible at the mass, but also to give an hour or two during that Forty Hour period to spend time with the Lord.



In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus said to his Apostles, 'can you not watch with me for one hour...?' Blessed John Henry Newman wrote in his diary, 'If I find it difficult spending an hour with the Lord in prayer, how am I going to spend eternity with Him?' St. Francis de Sales said 'Of what use to me is all knowledge of science and education, if I do not become holy?' St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it will be recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity. It opens up the flood gates of God's merciful love upon the world. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth." Pope Francis recently said: "Moreover, I want to encourage everyone to visit – if possible, every day – especially amid life's difficulties, the Blessed Sacrament of the infinite love of Christ and His mercy, preserved in our churches, and often abandoned, to speak filially with Him, to listen to Him in silence, and to peacefully entrust yourself to Him." **PLEASE COME AND SPEND AN HOUR WITH THE LORD!**

Parents, could I encourage you to bring your children, even for a few minutes, to the Church while the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. Teaching our children and young people about the beauty of the Eucharist is fundamental to the life of the Roman Catholic Faith.

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

2018/2019: Forward planning is extremely important in the life of faith and the Church. If you have a child eligible for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist in May 2020 I will be meeting with parents from Monday 1st July until Friday 5th July. Children usually make their First Holy Communion when they are in Year 3 at Primary School. This year we had children from several schools on our programme. Please phone immediately for a meeting with Fr. John. Tel No: 020 8508 3492

Pre-requisites: a) That you are a baptised practicing Roman Catholic, this means that you are and, have been 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.



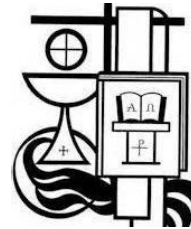
FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN: Once a child makes their first Holy Communion, the Catholic obligation and commitment to attend weekly Sunday Mass is binding. This doesn't only apply to our first communicants, but to everyone; this has always been the teaching of the Roman Catholic Faith and has never changed. 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.



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

ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL PTA PRESENTS: Annual Summer Fair Next Saturday 6th July 2019 – 12Noon to 3.30pm. Entry £1.00. There will be Inflatables, Grand Auction, Falconry, BBQ, Raffle, Traditional Games, Plants for Sale, Craft Stalls, Sweets, Pimms, Face Painting, Performances, Ice Cream, Football Academy. Please come along and support our Parish School Fair.



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!

PARISH FINANCES: No priest likes talking about Parish Finances, but It has become very apparent over the past year or so that the Weekly Offertory has dropped dramatically, especially over the past several weeks. Unfortunately if this trend continues we will not be able to pay our weekly salaries to the employed staff. As you know I didn't replace our parish secretary, and now do all the Office Administration myself, I also did not take my own salary of £690.00 for the last quarter. As the offertories have been so low, I have been trying to keep costs to a minimum, but we are still not meeting our monthly targets. The Diocesan Monthly Quota is £2,200.00 which is automatically debited every month. Utilities - as you all know are astronomical, and with such large buildings to light and heat this is no mean task. As you know, I have always maintained that our Church should be warm, especially during the winter months. Monthly salaries work out to about £1,400.00. Capitation to Trinity Catholic High School was £1,410.00. Altar Wine for Mass £384.40. Altar Candles & Votive Candles £341.53. Supply Priest £250.00

May I appeal to all those who use the Parish Gift Aid Scheme to kindly use your envelopes on a weekly basis. If you forget your envelope, there are plenty of spare ones in the porch; all we need is your GA number or your name. Without the use of the envelope, we will lose the claim of the tax return. The tax Return from the Inland Revenue is 25 pence in the pound. Over twelve months, this can build up to quite a bit. Sadly not everyone attends mass on a weekly basis; therefore, we also miss out on the weekly contribution from these parishioners. Could I ask Parishioners who Gift Aid to seriously consider using the Standing Order option, at least if you are unable to attend Holy Mass, the parish doesn't miss out on your weekly contribution to the Lord? As you can see and appreciate these are difficult times! I really don't know what to do anymore; I've tried my best to encourage all those who attend Holy Mass to seriously consider your weekly contribution to the Lord. Put your contribution into the perspective of your everyday expenditure – there are many luxuries we avail ourselves of, eating out, which is not cheap these days. A Bottle of Wine, a pint of beer, a take-away Pizza, or any other carry-out meal. If we make our weekly contribution in line with these luxuries I think this is a reasonable gift to God. Please reflect on these sentiments, because they are important. Thankyou!

THE BEAUTY OF HOLY MASS: *The one obligation that we are bound to as Roman Catholics is to fulfil our obligation and participate in the celebration of Holy Mass, either at the Saturday evening Vigil Mass or one of the Sunday morning masses. This has always been the teaching of the Roman Catholic faith and has never changed! Once a child has made their First Holy*



Communion they are bound by this teaching. The Priest is Ordained to celebrate the sacraments, and specifically the Holy Eucharist on a daily basis. I personally consider it the most important thing that I do every day, to be a Priest of Jesus Christ, to share in his Eternal Priesthood is the greatest honour and privilege of my life. To be able to share that with others, the faithful people of God, is also a privilege!

Mass in our parish is celebrated daily. Sadly through the year, those who were regular daily mass-goers, have passed on, and very few have taken their place. Could I make this special appeal to all of our Senior Citizens, who perhaps do not work anymore, to attend and additional mass or two each week. The Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Christian life', what more beautiful way to honour the Lord than to participate in the Eucharistic Banquet! There also may be others, who can attend an additional mass; parents who are looking after young children, please bring the children along as well, the more the merrier!

PARISH CHOIR: You have heard the wonderful music from our choir. We are always looking for new members to join the choir. If you enjoy singing and music, please make contact with Sue Farrow our music director, you will be more than welcome to join the choir.

PARISH REPOSITORY: As you have seen, our Parish Repository has been able to stock many new religious items. Statues, Children's Books, Medals, Rosaries, Prayer Cards, Many different occasion Cards, First Holy Communion Gifts. Please continue to support our repository. If there's anything you specifically require we can order it for you.