

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 October they are in urgent need of the following items: sponge puddings, custard, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned tomatoes, UHT milk, pasta sauce jars, biscuits, chocolate bars, toothpaste, toothbrushes. Thank you! You can also keep up to date with the Foodbank via their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/

Food Bank

TUTOR AVAILABLE: Highly experienced teacher available for tutoring children aged 5 – 14 years. For details please contact Mark 07979 921294.

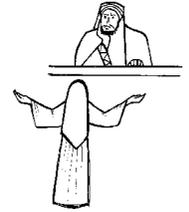
YOUTH GATHER 2019: An amazing encounter for your young people (aged school year 9-13) 26th & 27th October 2019. As well as all the outward-bound activities over the weekend (zip wire, high ropes, archery and much more) at Mersea Island (near Colchester, Essex), we are delighted to be joined by a panel of “BCYS alumni.” Part of the BCYS over the last 10-15 years, this interesting group includes a strategist in the Home Office, a Metropolitan Police Sergeant with a very special role, a press officer at HMRC, dealing with tax evasion and crime, a classroom teacher and a school lead practitioner. Two of the panel are married to each other, and one is engaged. Come and hear them tell their stories and share how they navigate the (sometimes very difficult) balance of decisions in their working life and living their Catholic faith. It will be a fascinating encounter for teenagers considering their own pathways in life. Full details and booking information at www.bcys.net/events and the cost of £50 includes food, cabin accommodation, and coach transport from Stratford, Romford, Brentwood, Basildon, Southend or Chelmsford.

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,

29th Sunday of the Year, 2019, C

Why should we pray? Today’s Gospel recounts Jesus’ parable about the impatient judge, who was constantly being bothered by a widow pestering him for justice. If that judge will answer the woman’s need just to get rid of her and get some peace, Jesus tells us, will not our heavenly Father answer the prayers we make to him?



Even since the age of Enlightenment in the eighteenth century, people of a philosophical bent have questioned the value of prayer, and especially intercessory prayer. It is said, for example, that the German poet Goethe never prayed because he argued that the world was set on its course anyway. Of course, god knows what we are going to ask him in advance of our asking. But the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that God ‘is the Lord of the universe, whose order he established, and which remains wholly subject to him and at this disposal. He is mater of history, governing hearts and events in keeping with his will....’ (para 269). God did not create the world and then leave it to its own devices! He has assured us through the Scriptures that he will change events as a result of our prayers. The world is not just a machine ticking over like a watch. It is more a unity, directed by an infinite mind which we call God. So, we must keep praying, as Paul says, ‘at all times’, that is when things are good and when things are bad.



Of course, prayer can be frustrating. Sometimes our prayers never seem to be answered. But God may be leading us to the virtue of perseverance, in Greek *bupomoné*, which we might translate as ‘stickability’. Christian faith teaches us the virtue of fidelity even in difficult times. We also have help from others in our prayer. Out reading from Exodus tells us the beautiful story of Moses being helped to pray by Aaron and Hur holding up his arms. The Church has a role in encouraging our prayers, by giving us the right prayer to say, and by giving us pastors and Christian friends who can help us and guide us as we grow in stickability. Don’t give up!

PRAY AS YOU CAN, NOT AS YOU CAN’T

Dear Friends in Christ,

28th Sunday of the Year

Our second Youth Mass to be held at St. Edmund's Sunday, 24th November 2019: Following on from the very successful Mass held on 22nd September, it has been agreed that we will hold a Youth Mass for all the youth of our Loughton, Epping and Waltham parishes on 24th November, which is the Feast of Christ the King in our Diocese as 'Youth Sunday'. The arrangements will be largely the same as those of our first Youth Mass and we hope that all the young people and others who did so much to make the first Mass such a success will be willing to get involved in the same way for this next Mass. As before, we plan to hold a gathering in St. Edmund's Hall afterwards for pizza, drinks and chat! A planning meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, 30th October at 7pm in the Retreat room (above the St. Edmund's Church Hall) and we hope that many young people from Loughton, Epping and Waltham Abbey who are interested in getting involved with organising the Mass will be able to come to the meeting. Choosing readers, hymns, music and other things will be part of the planning, so musicians, readers and all kinds of other young helpers would be welcome! Some adult help would also be appreciated, so please do come to the meeting as well! Please start spreading the word about this second Mass to everyone and we hope to see many of you at the meeting! Our Diocesan Youth Director Fr Dominic Howarth will be coming to preach at the mass.



PARISH TALK GIVEN BY DR. PAUL DOHERTY OBE: November 2019 at St. Edmund's Parish Hall at 7.30pm. The title will be 'Royal Murder & Mystery'. Dr. Doherty has kindly accepted to give one of his famous history talks. It's been many years since he has given a talk in the parish. It will be a fund-raiser for the work which has been done on our parish organ. Dr. Doherty will bring some of his recent books to raffle. For those who don't know, Dr Paul Doherty has written over 100 historic novels. His talks are always entertaining and inspiring. Please put this date in your diaries. The cost of the evening will be £3.00 Refreshments – teas, coffee & juices will be available.



NEW INITIATIVES: If any parishioners have ideas for new initiatives that we can explore through our Forming Intentional Disciples Programme please let Fr John or Mark Poulter know as soon as possible.

May God Bless You All,

NOVEMBER THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: As November rapidly approaches, we always remember in a



Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. Every person has someone they can remember during November. If you would like to remember in a very special way a deceased relative, friend or benefactor, please complete the November Deceased List envelope attached with this Newsletter and include your Mass Offering and return to the Presbytery by the 2nd November All Souls Day. Holy Mass will be celebrated daily throughout November, and a decade of the Rosary will be prayed at the end of each weekday mass for the repose of all our Holy Souls.

PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday 21st October at 7.30pm in the Parish Retreat. Would all Committee members make every effort possible to be in attendance of the meeting?

PARISH PARTNERSHIP MEETING: The parishes of Loughton, Epping & Waltham Abbey Stewards of the Gospel and Parish representatives will next meet on Tuesday 22nd October at 8.00pm at Waltham Abbey Church. We will continue in our deliberations and preparations for the document for the diocese, which is due at Advent this year.

ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL DIRECTORY: The school is looking for qualified and experienced tradespeople who would be willing to help with small jobs around the school for free or a reduced price. Your kind work would then be publicised on the school newsletter and on the PTA Facebook group – and you would be directly supporting the school using your valuable skills! Please fill in the form you received from the school and return!

PARISH REPOSITORY: There are lots of beautiful religious items available, cards, medals, statues, children's books, baptismal gifts, etc.

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY: Just a reminder that your weekly offertory if your offering to God in thanks giving and gratitude for so much that he gives to us in our daily lives. If you use the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, please ensure that you use your GA envelopes each week. And please keep your envelopes up to date. If you forget your envelope, there are plenty of spare ones in the porch, please put your number on the envelope, or your name. If you would like to join the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, there are forms in the porch. We can claim back 25pence in the pound, from your weekly offertory. Please think about joining. Thank you for your generosity.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2019/2020: The Communion Programme continues Sunday 20th October at 10.30am in the Parish Hall. The Children are focusing on the theme of I



through the Sacrament of Baptism they were initiated into the life of faith in the Roman Catholic Church. Just a little reminder of the invitation that was extended to all parents of our First Communion Children, you are most welcome to attend any or all the sessions that we have with the children. First and foremost, it allows you to see how we teach the Sacramental Programme, and secondly, you can be involved with the children preparation at a practical level. The next Parents' Meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th November at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: The Journey of RCIA Programme continues next Thursday 24th October at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. It is a systematic programme of instruction in the Catholic Faith; hopefully with the view to those enquirers seeking entry into Full Communion with the Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil 2020. We will look at the Scriptures and Sacred Revelation, Old Testament & New Testament; we explore the Person of Jesus Christ, Mary, and the Saints. We look at the moral issues facing the Church today. The Four Last Things; Prayer and personal spirituality; Sacramental Life of the Church – All 7 Sacraments. The Catechists are Fr John and Aidan Potter. If you would like to join us, we will be meeting in the Presbytery on a Thursday evening at 8.00pm.



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



WEDDINGS FOR 2020: If you're planning of getting married in 2020, could you kindly contact Fr. John as soon as possible. Obviously, there is a lot of preparation that goes into organising a wedding. The administrative and spiritual aspect of this is extremely important, especially when getting married in Church. Marriage Preparation Days for engaged couples are organised by Marriage Care on a regular basis. If you're getting married abroad, we need at least nine months' notice. Thank you!

APPLICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL PLACES FOR 2020: Note to all who are applying for Secondary School places for September 2020. Please ensure that you have completed the online Essex County Form by the 31st October. After this date you will be locked out of the system.

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR 2020: From the 11th November 2019 you can apply online to Essex County Council Education Department for your child's Primary (Reception) School place for September 2020. You have until 15th January to make your application. If you are applying for a place at St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Primary School, and you are a practicing Roman Catholic you will need a Certificate of Catholic Practice from your Parish Priest. All the Priests & Parishes have recently received clarification and updated guidelines from the Episcopal Vicar for Education via the Bishop's Office, regarding the issuing of the Certificate of Catholic Practice. The definition of a Practicing Catholic is quite definite. A strict interpretation of practicing Roman Catholic is now adopted by all Catholic Parishes throughout the Diocese. A history of five years of practice. CCP Forms can only be obtained from the Parish Priest. Fr. John will meet with applicants from Monday 25th November to Friday 29th November to sign forms. You will need to book an appointment and pick up the form.



EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: Our practice will be on Monday, 28th October (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 3rd November. Please, please, please, please do try to be at the practice! We'd like to go over some of the newer hymns we've looked at recently, but not yet sung at our Mass, plus discuss hymn/music ideas for our next Youth Mass at 6pm, Sunday, 24th November. Please do put the 24th November Youth Mass in your diaries as we'd like a great turn-out of musicians and singers for this celebration! New singers and musicians who would like to join us would be made very welcome!



ALTAR SERVERS: There is a Brentwood Diocese mass for altar servers on Saturday 9th November at 2:30pm at Brentwood Cathedral, celebrating the ordination of Bishop Alan. The mass is open to all Altar servers in the Brentwood Diocese. Vesting is in Brentwood Cathedral parish hall at 2:00pm and please bring your own alb. If anyone would like to attend, please let David know.



ANNUAL PARISH BAZAAR: Saturday 7th December, 11am – 3pm. As you know, the Annual Bazaar tends to be the only major fund-raising event that we have throughout the year. Its success is always dependent upon your generosity. So once again I appeal to your generosity for gifts and items for the Bazaar. The Bazaar Bin is at the back of the Church; you can place your gifts and items in the box, or you can drop off



anything at the Presbytery during the week. **A BAZAAR IS NOT A JUMBLE SALE**, please ensure that your gifts and items are worthy of sale! New items are preferable: e.g. Toiletries, fancy goods, bric-a-brac, cuddly toys, new toys, Jams & Preserves, Sweets, (Boxes of Chocolates, Christmas Selection boxes, Tins of Sweets, Christmas Sweets, Candy Canes.

Suggestions for Grand Draw Prizes: If anyone could donate any of the Money Prizes this would be helpful? 1st Prize £200; 2nd Prize £100; 3rd Prize £50; Flat Screen Colour Television; I Pad; I Pod; Wii Game; Kindle, X Box games; DVD Player; CD Player; Theatre Vouchers; Crate of Wine; Tickets for Dinner at Restaurants; Theatre Tickets; Hairdressing & Beauty vouchers; Marks & Spencer Christmas Hamper, and various other hampers and many more prizes. If you can help with any of these prizes, we would be most grateful. If there are any money donations, these can be Gift Aided; all we need is your GA envelope, or your number, name and address. Thank you!

BOTTLE STALL: Is always one of the most popular stalls at the Bazaar. We are appealing for Bottles of Wine and Spirits. We are aiming for 300, in that way we can make the bottle stall much bigger this year. If you have bottles of Wine and Spirits, you can drop them off at the presbytery at any time. Please be generous!



 **FR. JOHN'S STALL:** Every year I try to enter the full spirit of the Parish Bazaar; I run a stall with excellent prizes. They are all donated by your good selves! I appeal to the whole parish community for really good quality gifts for my stall. Thanking you all in anticipation of your generosity! Flat Screen Television is a must! A Christmas Hamper; I Pad, or I Pod; Kindle; Crate of Wine; Theatre Tickets; CD Music Player; X Box; Restaurant Vouchers, Theatre Vouchers and any other luxury goods that you might think worthy of a special raffle. Thanking you in anticipation!

MATCHED GIVING: Could I make a special appeal to the whole parish regarding Matched Giving – Many Banks and big companies offer this facility to their employees. If you're willing to give some time at the Bazaar and you would be willing to approach your employers to avail of this facility it would be wonderful. Please notify Fr. John if you're able to help in this way. I'm sure there are many parishioners in the parish who work in banks. Thank you!

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES:

As part our FID ongoing programme of Evangelisation. I would like to encourage the whole parish community to continue in our endeavours to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ known. Evangelisation is accepting Jesus Christ as Our Lord & Saviour, and living out our Christian calling in our homes, marries, families & community. Being part of a Christian community was the desire of the Lord Jesus himself, that's why he sent the Apostles out into the world to share his Good News.

Discipleship:
Becoming More Like
CHRIST
EPHESIANS 2:10

In an age of secularisation, materialism, individualism, apathy & indifference, the Catholic faith must stand as a beacon of hope and confidence for the future. The take it or leave it attitude which has crept into society over the past 40 years has most definitely affected the Catholic Church. A laissez-faire attitude to faith is both damaging and destructive. The key word is 'commitment'; not just paying lip-service, but truly being on board one hundred percent. Faith is the most precious gift that we are given; it is to be treasured and enriched by our total commitment to Jesus Christ. This manifests itself in our engagement in the weekly celebration of the Eucharist at Holy Mass; by being involved and committed to our parish community; by supporting the apostolic works of the Church; by encouraging and helping our young people realise what great treasure they possess in their Catholic faith; by engaging in the Sacramental Life of the Church; by personal and corporate prayer; through the Sacred Scriptures. This list can go on and on.

Our next Forming Intentional Disciples Meeting will take place on Monday 11th November at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. Could I make an extra special appeal to all parishioners, especially those who were originally with us on this journey to come along to our meetings to help plan events for our parish. This is your opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the life of faith and the Church. Thank you! Fr. John