

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 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.

Food Bank

Thank you! You can also keep up to date with the Foodbank via their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/

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

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.

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,

31st Sunday of the Year, 2019, C

As sinners go, Zacchaeus was a 'big fish' or perhaps it would be better to say a 'big shark'. As a chief tax collector, he was responsible for other tax collectors and no doubt very experienced in the dark art of exploiting and cheating others. There was a real sense of venom and hatred for these traitors – they were seen as the scum of the earth, the lowest of the low. Ironically, the name Zacchaeus means 'innocent' or 'pure', but there was nothing pure and innocent about him. His wealth was the fruit of a corrupt tax system in which the Jewish tax collectors secured their own piece of the pie by charging a further levy and skimming off for themselves. They were literally getting wealthy on the back of others.



It might not be much of an exaggeration to say that Zacchaeus was as loathed and despised by the general public as a drug dealer or drug baron might be today. Imagine then the shock and indignation that would be caused if Pope Francis invited himself to dine at such a drug baron's or drug dealer's house. Pandemonium would break out at the knowledge that the head of the Catholic Church was associating with such people. But what if our drug baron or drug dealer truly gave his life to the Lord and became a Catholic! Zacchaeus' conversion is dramatic and generous, reflecting his experience of Jesus' goodness and generosity. His story teaches us that no one is beyond the pale, no one beyond redemption, and that God's grace and mercy reaches into the deepest and darkest hearts.

Jesus did not come to call the righteousness but the unrighteous. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and the truth is that we are all lost. The rich young man encountered the Lord and went away sad. Zacchaeus encountered the Lord and went away filled with the joy of conversion. God works in amazing ways: those we think are far away from God are closer than we realise, and those we think are close to God may be further away that we imagine.

Lord, you treated everyone you met with dignity and compassion; as persons created in your image and likeness. May I now go and do likewise.

Dear Friends in Christ,

31st Sunday of the Year

NOVEMBER – THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS: The Roman Church has always taught us to pray for our deceased. It is part of our heritage that the month of November has been given specially to pray for our deceased relatives, friends & benefactors; also, to pray for those who have died and for one else to pray for them. This is not a morbid custom. No one leads a perfect life, because we are all sinners; but the onward journey as we depart this mortal life is a purification process, that we call Purgatory. This purgation of all our imperfections and sinfulness prepares us for the moment of Beatific Vision, when we remain in the presence of Almighty God forever. To know that we will be prayed for when we leave this mortal existence is consoling and spiritually uplifting. Holy Mass will be offered daily for all our deceased loved ones. Why not make a very special effort to attend an additional mass during the week to pray for your deceased loved ones. At the end of each weekday mass we will also pray a decade of the Holy Rosary for all our deceased. November deceased list envelopes still available. _



OF OUR FAITH: As Roman Catholics the simple request to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday, (or Saturday evening), is not only an act of faith on the part of the Catholic, but an opportunity to gather together as a Eucharistic community to receive the greatest gift that God gave to the world, His only Son, Jesus Christ through the miracle of the Mass through the Holy Eucharist. It is truly not too much to ask for one hour a week to be given over to the worship of God and Jesus Christ. Think of all the hours that are spent on social media on a weekly basis. How do we expect to know Christ, if we don't spend time with him, either through prayer, scripture, or through the Holy Mass.? What a great shame and pity, if we went through the whole of life with those missed opportunities for our faith to grow and to know Jesus more deeply!

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: In your mercy please pray for the repose of the soul of Emily Courtney RIP, who passed away during the past week. The remains will be received into St. Edmund's on Thursday 7th November at 4.30pm. The Requiem Mass will be on Friday 8th November at 12.15pm, followed by burial at Theydon Bos Cemetery. We extend our condolences to her family in this time of great loss.

May God Bless You All This Week,

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR 2020: From 11th November 2019 you can apply online to Essex County Council



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.

ST JOHN FISHER PRIMARY SCHOOL- VISIT DATES: Visit and meetings for prospective parents.

Tuesday 12th November at 9.15am

Monday 25th November at 2.00pm

Wednesday 4th December at 2.00pm

Thursday 9th January at 9.15am

The visit will give parents the opportunity to view the school and ask any questions they may have. If you would like to visit the school on one of the dates please contact the school office on Tel No: 020 8508 6315 or e-mail tmcgrenra@st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk We look forward to seeing you on one of the above dates.

ST JOHN FISHER SCHOOL DIRECTORY: The school is looking for experienced tradespeople who would be willing to help with the maintenance of the school for free or a reduced price. Your kind work has been publicised on the school newsletter and on the PTA Facebook page. If you would be directly supporting the school using your valuable skills, please return the form you received from the school and return!



CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS: There are a variety of Catholic Newspapers delivered every week, but unfortunately, very few of them are purchased. If you would like to keep up to date with everything that is happening in the Catholic world, please invest in one of the papers or magazines!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2019/2020: The Communion Programme continues Sunday 10th November at 10.00am at St. John Fisher Parish Hall. The theme of Listening will be explored, specifically through the Parables. Just a little reminder of the invitation that was given 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 27th November at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: The RCIA Programme continues Thursday 7th November at 8.00pm at St. Edmund's Parish Hall. Theme: How do we recognise the Church today? 21st Century? 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.



IS FOR 2020: If you're planning of getting married in 2020, could you contact Fr. John as soon as possible. Obviously, there is a lot of work that goes into organising a wedding. The administrative and financial 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!



CHURCH CLEANING – ALTAR SOCIETY: We are in need of some new helpers to join the Altar Society's Church Cleaning Service. This really is not an onerous task, probably an hour each month. The more helpers we have the less frequently you will be needed. I do appeal to the parish community, in your charity, could you give an hour or so a month? There are various tasks within the Altar Society, and there may be a specific job that you might like to assume? Our Altar Society has been running for over 75 years; but it can't function without voluntary help. Please consider this request and see Sharon Fitzmaurice or one of the Altar Society or Fr. John for more information. Thank you!



PARISH TALK GIVEN BY DR. PAUL DOHERTY OBE: November 2019 at St. Edmund's Parish Hall at 7.30pm. The talk will be 'Royal Murder & Mystery'. Dr. Doherty has kindly accepted an invitation to give one of his famous history talks. It's been many years we have had one in the parish. It will be a fund-raiser for the 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.

Our Second Youth Mass to be held at St. Edmund's, Loughton, 24th November 2019: Following on from the very successful Youth Mass held on 22nd September, it has been agreed that we will hold a second Youth Mass for all the youth of our Loughton, Epping and Waltham parishes on 24th November, which is the Feast of Christ the King and designated by 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 big thank you to those who attended the meeting last Wednesday evening. 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.



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 you should bring your own alb. If anyone would like to attend, please let David or Sue know.



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 contact Sue Farrow our music director, you will be more than welcome to join the choir. At present the choir are preparing music for Christmas. This would be a beautiful time to join the Choir.

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. 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!

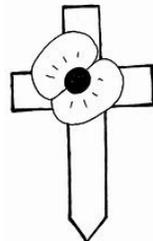
BOTTLE STALL: Is always one of the most popular stalls at the Bazaar. We are appealing for Bottles of Wine and Spirits. We are aiming for 300, in that way we can make the bottle stall much bigger this year. If you have bottles of Wine and Spirits, you can drop them off at the presbytery at any time. Please be generous! **TO DATE WE HAVE 23 BOTTLES**



 **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; Amazon Echo or Amazon Dot, 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!

COULD ANYONE PLEASE DONATE A NEW COLOUR TV PLEASE?
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!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: 10th November 2019. Loughton Remembrance Day Service at 12.15pm at the War Memorial.



The Scout Group Dismissal and Refreshments – Beavers, Cubs & Scouts will be dismissed from St. Edmund's following the remembrance service and parade. Soup and hot chocolate will be available in the parish hall to warm up both youngsters and adults. All parishioners are invited to join the scout's group for the refreshments following the service.

Discipleship:
Becoming More Like
CHRIST
EPHESIANS 5:1

Forming Intentional Disciples – we need YOUR help!

A number of new events and initiatives have grown from our Parish Evangelisation Team following the work we did on *Forming Intentional Disciples* last year. These include the very successful parish barbecue last month and our first youth Mass. At our next meeting, we shall be planning new events in the lead-up to Christmas and beyond.

Can you help? We would like to develop more social, prayer and charitable events for our parish and to let the wider community know about our church community. We would also like to explore a programme of Lenten talks and other ways to help people learn more about their faith. We need people who might be able to help with publicity, including using social media. Please consider coming along to the meeting on **Monday 11th November (8pm)** in the parish hall. Everyone 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.