

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. 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.

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY: Just a reminder that your weekly offertory is your offering to God in thanksgiving 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,

32nd Sunday of the Year, 2019, C

In Jesus' day there were two prominent groups within Jewish society – the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Jesus crossed swords with both of them. Today it is the Sadducees who confront the Lord. The Sadducees were an elite aristocratic group – a kind of club of socially aspirational and religiously conservative men. They rejected most of the Old Testament, accepting only the Pentateuch (the first five books) as divinely inspired. Unlike the Pharisees, they did not believe in the afterlife, the spirit world or the resurrection of the body.



Intent on backing Jesus into a corner, the Sadducees present a bizarre scenario concerning a woman who appears something of a Black Widow, in that she has made her way through seven brothers, each of whom died after marrying her. In line with the law and Jewish culture at this time a woman whose husband died was offered future security by marrying any surviving male siblings. The question is, of course, whose wife will she be after death?



Typically, the Lord refuses to answer the questions head on. He rather points to the fact that marriage is a human institution which comes to an end with death, 'till death do us part'. That is not to say that those who are married are not reunited after death – surely they are – but they are united in a different way and in a different relationship before God. Beyond the confines of this world there is no need for marriage because both man and wife are joined together in their love and worship of God – in the same way as the angels are.

God is the God of the living, and when we die in Christ, we receive the gift of eternal life and our bodies will rise again. This is the central event and a basic truth of our faith. We look to the resurrection as our greatest hope, assuring us of our eternal destiny: Christ in us the hope of glory.

'What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown in physical body; it is raised in spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.'

Dear Friends in Christ,

32nd Sunday of the Year

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Today is Remembrance Sunday, remember in a very special way all those men and women who died in the two Great Wars, and all the subsequent conflicts. We are 'remember them'; these courageous young army, air force & navy homes, never knowing if they would ever return; many lost their lives and their legacy lives on in our memory. Let us pray with our Country today as we honour them.



There will be a Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial on Sunday 11th November at 12.15pm. The Scout Group Dismissal & Refreshments will take place at St. Edmund of Canterbury Parish Hall immediately after the service & Parade. Soup and Hot Chocolate will be available to warm up adults and youngsters. All parishioners are invited to join the Scout Groups for refreshments following the Remembrance Service.

ANNUAL PARISH BAZAAR: This is our main fund-raiser of the year! The success of our Bazaar is holily dependant on your generosity. We have been advertising for several weeks now; I know we're all creatures of habit, and tend to leave everything until the last minute, but if you could continue to respond in kind; we need everything for the Bazaar. Next weekend 16th/17th November, we are collecting in **TOILETRIES** – these are always popular at the Parish Bazaar. On the weekend 23rd /24th November we will be collecting in **BOTTLES**. I have about 27 bottles so far, our target is about 300 bottles of wine & Spirits. You can drop off bottles anytime throughout the week.

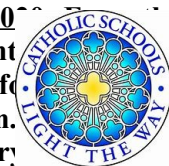
On the Weekend of 30th Nov /1st Dec we will be collecting in **NEW & NEARLY NEW ITEMS**; this stall is very popular at Christmas time!

We're desperate for more Grand Draw Prizes, Also some good prizes for Fr. John's Stall. If parishioners could donate any of the Money Prizes, or money donations; TV's, X Box, Amazon Echo & Dot, Hampers, Restaurant Vouchers, Crate of Wine, Theatre Tickets, etc.

Next Weekend we will be giving out Grand Draw Tickets: 3 books will be placed in your parish newsletter, but if you need any more they will be available in the porch, please take as many as you can and sell them; any unsold tickets, please kindly return to the Presbytery, as we may well be able to sell them on the day of the Bazaar! Thank you!

May God Bless You All,

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR 2020: From 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, if 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

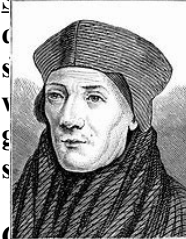
Monday 25th November at 2.00pm

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 repairs around 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 17th November at St. Edmund of Canterbury Parish Hall. The theme of Listening will be explored, specifically the Eucharist.



Parables. 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 27th November at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. Our Guest Speaker will be Sarah Barber

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: The Journey of RCIA Programme continues Thursday 14th November at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. Theme: The Church – What is authority: The Canon of the Church – Its rules and regulations? The Catechists are Fr John and Susan Potter. If you would like to join us, we will be meeting in the Presbytery on a Thursday evening at 8.00pm.



WEDDINGS 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 legal 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 re-examining the 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 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!



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 have 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 and Youth Sunday in the 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! Please start spreading the word about this second Mass to everyone; tell your friends. Even if a person hasn't been to mass for a long time, please encourage them to come along. Our Diocesan Youth Director Fr Dominic Howarth will be coming to preach at the mass.

PARISH PARTNERSHIP: In the Forming Intentional Disciples Parish Partnership with the parishes of Loughton, Epping & Waltham Abbey, we have been preparing a report to be submitted by the beginning of Advent. The report is almost completed. Its emphasis is on how we can work together as a Church, sharing resources, and expertise. Utilising our facilities to their greatest capacity, and continuing the work of Evangelisation.

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.

'MISSIO' MISSION (RED) BOXES: We will be holding a coffee morning in support of 'Missio' on Sunday 17th November after the 11.00am mass, all are welcome. 'Missio' supporters, can you please bring your box to mass the third weekend in November (16th-17th November), when they will be emptied and returned to you. If you have a box and no longer wish to use it please return it that weekend.

THANK YOU: To all those who attended Dr Paul Doherty's talk last Wednesday on a 'Royal Murder & Mystery'. We raised a staggering £750 for the newly renovated Parish Organ. Grateful thanks to all who contributed to the raffle and auction. Thanks to those who looked after teas and the bar.

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 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!

Discipleship:
Becoming More Like
CHRIST
PRESENTING

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.

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY, LEYTONSTONE: Mass on Monday 11th November at 11.30am. Mass for all deceased loved ones buried at St. Patrick's. It is a wonderful opportunity during the month of Holy Souls to offer mass for our deceased loved ones and make a visit to each of their graves. Requiescant in Pace.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord. Amen

