

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 donated items for the Foodbank in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Your response was so generous. Your donations are needed as much as ever now 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 January they are in urgent need of the following items: sponge puddings, UHT milk, powdered milk, tinned carrots/peas/potatoes, long life juice, instant mash, tinned meat, tinned spaghetti, rice pudding and female deodorant. Thank you! You can also keep up to date with the Foodbank via their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EppingForestFoodbank/

PARISH REPOSITORY: There is a selection of religious items and gifts available at the Repository. Religious cards for all occasions (mass cards, birthday & anniversary cards, get well cards, etc), and many other items. We are looking for some new volunteers to help Teresa; if you can help on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning, please see Fr. John or Teresa Wallace. Please Phone the Presbytery – Tel No: 0208 508 3492

ALTAR SOCIETY: We are in desperate need for some new members to join. If you can give an hour a month in helping to keep our Church clean and tidy; there are many different jobs to do through the Altar Society. Please see Fr. John or Sharon Fitzmaurice.

PARISH GREETERS: We are looking for some more volunteers to help the Parish Welcome Greeters at all the weekend masses. If you can give some time before mass to welcome parishioners and distribute hymns books & newsletters, we would be most grateful. This is a very valuable ministry. Please see Fr. John

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,

6th Sunday of the Year 2020

Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old climate activist, her voice shaking with anger, told world leaders at the UN in New York, 'You have stolen my childhood with your empty words. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is the money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth – how dare you.' Many things make us angry, and some anger is right, fit and proper. Sometimes we know we are wrong to be angry; much more often we think we are right. We think the fault lies with others – they have made us angry. Or else certain situations provoke us to anger – and because these are bad situations, we feel that we have the right to express our anger. Jesus teaches with extraordinary clarity that 'everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says: "You fool!" shall be liable to the hell of fire.'



Must we take Jesus seriously? Jesus' radical teaching on anger sees it as the root of murder. Angry feelings, if they are nursed and not dealt with, become hatred. The fruit of hatred can sometimes be actual murder. Jesus warns us to avoid the possibility of such appalling fruit of our anger by dealing ruthlessly with the initial feelings of anger. He does not say that we cannot feel anger, express anger or even act on it. What he says is that we do not have the right to hang on to it, nurse it and vent it. Instead we must learn to let go of our anger so that we can imitate him better.

There were, of course, occasions when Jesus himself knew righteous anger and expressed it – but his anger never led him to sin. When he was betrayed, insulted, ridiculed, tortured and crucified, he had full right to feel angry. However, Jesus let go of his feelings of anger and forgave his oppressors: 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do. Jesus shows us a new way of living. As his disciples we must emulate him. Whenever we are angry, we must acknowledge our anger and then let it go by calling on the Lord's grace. Christ's Spirit will give us the power to fulfil his commandment to live as he did.



Dear Friends in Christ
Year

Sixth Sunday of the

PREPARING FOR LENT: This year we will have a Lenten Programme of talks, which are based on Scripture. Our Forming Intentional Disciples team advocated this programme. Lent is the time of year when we can embrace certain disciplines, but also at the same time do something special or extra during the Holy Season. The Programme we will use is called 'The Big Picture' – It is an inspirational Bible course, explaining God's plan of Salvation for humanity. When you begin to understand the Sacred Scriptures, it opens a whole new world of discovery; the power of God's Word can take root deeply in our lives and transform us. In this Year of the Word - 'The God who Speaks', all parishes have been encouraged to explore the Sacred Scriptures. This is St. Edmund's attempt to encourage as many parishioners as possible to attend this programme. Course dates: Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March 2020. Commencing at 7.30pm in the Parish Retreat. Please to attend this course. The study book costs £10 with CD included. At the end of Mass, you will receive a little copy of Matthew's Gospel. We are in Year A of the Liturgical Calendar, the Year of Matthew's Gospel. Please use this throughout Lent.

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF 29th March, England will be rededicated to the Dowry of ancient title dating back to the reign of St. Edward the Confessor and especially in the 13th Century, the people in England have special devotion and honour to Our Lady. On the feast of 1381, King Richard II (1377-1399) dedicated England in a ceremony at Westminster Abbey as an act of thanksgiving for the saving of the Peasants' Revolt of that year.

For nearly a thousand years the Marian Shrine at Westminster Abbey has been a focal point for Pilgrims to show their love and reverence to Our Lady. Unfortunately, during the Reformation the Shrine fell into desuetude. In 1934 the first National Pilgrimage since the Reformation took place once again, and since then Pilgrims in their thousands have made their way to the Shrine.

This Rededication as the 'Dowry of Mary' hopefully will evoke a resurgence in faith and be a catalyst for on-going Evangelisation. The gift we will give to Mary is our personal faith as we seek to gain her prayers and protection as Mother of God. We have all been encouraged to learn and pray the Angelus at the end of each mass.

May God Bless You All

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM
10.00am in the Parish Hall. It is imperative



March 2020, at
end the Parents



Meetings for this programme. These are not optional, and you should make every effort [possible] to attend. The offer of baby-sitters is available, please contact Mrs Poulter.

RCIA PROGRAMME: will continue Thursday 27th February 2020 at 8.00pm in the Presbytery. Theme: PRAYER – Is it necessary? Methods of Prayer. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the Roman Catholic Faith, please contact Fr. John at the Presbytery Tel No: 020 8508 3492



PARISH PARTNERSHIP YOUTH MASS: will take place on Sunday 29th March at 6.00pm at St. Edmund's. We hope and pray that as many of our young people will be involved in the celebration. We will need readers, singers, musicians etc. the more the merrier! Please start spreading the word about this third Mass to everyone and we hope to see many of you at the meeting! There will be Pizza & refreshments after Mass in the Parish Hall

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY: Is your personal gift to God and reflects gratitude for everything he gives to us. If you are a Taxpayer and would like to join the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, all we need is your name and address; Gift Aid forms are available in the porch of the church. Please ensure that you use your Weekly envelope, otherwise we are unable to claim the tax back. Thanks! The Weekly Offertory was very low last weekend. £960.00

DAFFODILS FOR MOTHER'S DAY: Through the Forming Intentional Disciples group, we have decided once again this year to give daffodils on Mother's Day 22nd March. Very kindly last year there were several sponsors to help us buy flowers. Could I make an appeal again this year? You can use your gift aid donation envelopes and leave them off at the Presbytery. Thanking you in anticipation

NOTE TO EVERYONE IN THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: Our next practice will be on Monday, 24th February (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns / music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 1st March. NB We'd also like to look at the hymns and music suggested for the Youth Mass on 29th March so please do come to this important practice. Any new young (and not so young!) singers and musicians who would like to join us and be part of the Youth Mass would be made very welcome! Thank you.