

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Sacramental Coordinator: Jane Tatam 07930 510218

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.30-6.00pm and by appointment



Second Sunday of Advent

Year B

10th December 2017

Prepare a way for the Lord.

The readings this week invite us to prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus into our lives and our hearts, both at Christmas and every day.

The **First Reading** from Isaiah (40: 1–5, 9–11) speaks of the God who wants to console his people; who comes to change the landscape of our lives with power and tenderness.

God speaks in a voice of peace, offering mercy, faithfulness and justice. Wherever God is present, there will be peace for all (**Psalm 84**).

St. Peter (**Second Reading** - 2 Peter 3: 8–14) reminds us that God's time is not our own. While patiently waiting and longing for God to bring to completion all that he promises us, we are called to try to live holy lives, to live at peace with ourselves and others.

The coming of Jesus is announced by a messenger, John the Baptist, who prepares the way for the Lord as Isaiah foretold. His witness to the truth changes the lives of those who hear what he has to say (**Gospel** - Mark 1: 1–8).

In this time of Advent, we ask the Lord to free us from all that would hinder our following him more closely, so that we too might be messengers of the Good News for others.

Christmas Offertory Collection: Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Christmas Masses is your personal gift to your Priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Easter this provides a major part of their income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

Advent Reconciliation Service: Monday 11th December at 7.30pm.

Reading and Communion for the Christmas Services: Will Readers and Eucharistic Ministers please put their names on the list in the porch for the Christmas services (Christmas Eve evening and Christmas day morning). Come on, don't be shy – **your parish needs you!** If you are not on the regular rota, please call Brian Rodgers on 07790 321845 with your contact details.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions will take place on Saturday 16th December 11.00am-12.00pm.

Christmas Masses: As Christmas Day, 25th December, falls on a Monday this year, there will be a change to the Sunday masses. Masses will be as follows:

Saturday 23 rd December	4 th Sunday of Advent	6.30pm
Sunday 24 th December	4 th Sunday of Advent	9.30am
Sunday 24 th December	Christmas Eve	6.30pm
Sunday 24 th December	Christmas Eve	10.00pm
Monday 25 th December	Christmas Day	8.00am
Monday 25 th December	Christmas Day	9.30am
Monday 25 th December	Christmas Day	11.30am

Children's Choir for Christmas Eve Mass: Meet Janet in the Choir loft at 5.15pm on Sunday 24th December with bells and water.

Alone this Christmas? Why not join the St. Mary's Christmas dinner being held at St. Mary's Parish Hall, 12.45pm-4.30pm. Transport can be provided if necessary. Everyone welcome irrespective of faith. A small donation of £10 is appreciated towards the day. Please contact Josie or Peter for more information on 01708 457549.

Youth Club: Youth Club is now finished for Christmas & will reopen on Friday 12th January 2018.

Catholic Schools: The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Please visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

New Year's Eve 2017: Please join us for our New Year's Eve Party at St. Mary's Parish Hall from 8.00pm-1.00am. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets £15 per family, £5 per adult, £3 per child. For tickets & more information please contact Nicci on 07957 411546

Restructuring of our Diocese: The First Formal Proposal for the Renewal and Restructuring of Our Diocese has now been put onto the diocesan website <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/>. A Parish meeting will be held in the New Year to discuss this further. Please check the newsletter for dates.

Mass for Vocations: A Mass for those enquiring or discerning a vocation to the priesthood will be at Our day of Lourdes at Leigh on Sea at 12:00pm on the feast of St. Thomas Becket, the 29th December 2017. All are welcome to come and pray for vocations and to meet our seminarians.

2018 Brentwood Diocesan Directory is now available in the porch. Ring bound £4.00 and others £2.75.

When buying Christmas Stamps Please ask for Religious ones or they will be discontinued if there is not enough demand.

Interested in the Catholic Faith (RCIA) Why not come and see? We meet on ***Mondays at 7.30pm until 9pm*** in the Van Meenen Room (room jutting out from church in the car park). Contact Fr Martin or Eileen Jonas or enquire at the Parish office. You are most welcome. Bring a friend!

Pass It On! Every first Saturday, 2-4pm in the parish hall. This is a free social event for older generations to pass on stories, skills and advice to younger generations. All welcome! If you require help with transportation or for more info call Joanne on 01708 747026.

Iona Social Club family atmosphere, close to Church. Club is available to members and non-members for non-exclusive functions during the weekday, for weddings, funerals and parties, alongside our existing programme. Phone the Iona on 01708 442453 for bookings, membership and general enquiries.

Piano Students: Experienced piano teacher of all ages, particularly children aged 5-12, is looking for additional pupils. Has achieved ABRSM Grade 8 Piano. 9:30 Sunday Mass Pianist. £10 per ½ hour. To find out more please contact Jacques Allen 07804690824.

2018 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Bishop Alan will lead our annual pilgrimage from Monday 23 to Saturday 28 July. We shall be accompanied by an experienced medical team and there is plenty of help for those with mobility needs. The pilgrimage is no less ideal for couples, individuals, and groups of friends; all are welcome. There is a full programme to opt in and out of. There are brochures at the back of the church. For more information or for a brochure, please 'phone the pilgrimage administrator Cathy O'Connor: 01206 735623.

Volunteering Opportunities: Would you like to make a difference to young people and families living in Havering? London Borough of Havering Early Help are recruiting to their volunteer Family Coach and Young People's Mentor roles and we would love to hear from you. For further details please contact Alison Day at Alison.Day2@havering.gov.uk or on 01708 434111.

CHURCH EVENTS:

Children's Liturgy: Sundays for children at the 9.30am Mass.

Baptism Course: First and second Thursday of the month.

Baptisms: Last Sunday of the month.

Charismatic Prayer Group: Wednesdays at 8.00pm in the Van Meenen Room.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: *Every Thursday 2.30 – 5.30pm & every First Friday from 9.00am – 7.00pm.*

RCIA Journey in Faith: Mondays at 7.30pm in the Van Meenen Room.

Rosary: Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Weekdays after 8.30am Mass in Our Lady's Chapel. Saturdays after 12 noon Mass in Our Lady's Chapel.

St Mary's Prayer Hotline: Call Betty (daytime) on 01708 720834 with any prayer requests.

St Vincent de Paul Society: Meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Van Meenen Room. New members always welcome. If you, or anybody you know, would like/need a visit or help from the SVP please contact us through the church office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH at home and in hospital, especially Roseleen Ammerman, Margaret Baan, Ashley Baptist, Phil Clerkin, Joyce Cougill, Patricia Crudginton, Sharon De Giorgio, Joan Dowding, Leo Duffy, Anne Emmerly, William Fernandez, Alan Fisher, Bernadette Haddle, Kevin Hartie, Baby Nathan Howe, Evelyn Hughes, Mary Hughes, Anne Humphrays, Yvonne Ingham, Sajy Joseph, Cathy Lennon, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Betty Long, Mary McCarthy, Dinah McMahan, Patrick Medlin, Joseph Mifsud, Patricia Mills, Richard Mole, Sheila Murphy, Maureen O'Neill, Kathleen Payne, Molly Peters, Anthony Picton, Jill Ridley, Paul David Ridley, Oliver Roome, Maura Shanney, Jane Stevenson, Anne Sullivan, Edna Sullivan, John Sullivan, Alex Taylor, Pat Taylor, Marie Tweedie, Maria Wallace, Mary Wallace, Josie Walsh, David Wells, Maureen Williams and for all our family and friends who are ill. **Please inform us if there is someone seriously ill and let us know if anyone on the list is no longer ill so we can remove their name from our list.**

WEEKEND 16th / 17th December 2017:

Readers:	Sat. 6.30pm	Peter Amey / Pat Martin
	Sun. 8.00am	Albert Mathew / Joshua Duah
	9.30am	Alan Sabu Mathew / Albert Sabu Mathew
	11.30am	Matthew Leigh / John Hawes

Bidding Prayers: Brian Rodgers

Coffee Morning Rota: Group 3

Offerings 03.11.17: Envs: £1,256.04

Church Cleaning: Group 3

Loose: £911.19 Total: £2,167.23

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	9 th Dec	12.00pm 6.30pm	Fabian Robinson RIP Cathy Breen RIP & Holy Souls
Sunday	10 th Dec	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Private Intention Rita Olaniyan Thanksgiving Connie Farrugia Thanksgiving/Terry Plumer RIP
2 nd Sunday of Advent			
Monday	11 th Dec	8.30am 7.30pm	John Coughlan RIP/Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP Advent Reconciliation Service
Tuesday	12 th Dec	8.30am	The Chilton Family RIP / David D'Agata RIP
Wednesday	13 th Dec	7.30pm	Joyce Rafferty RIP
St. Lucy			
Thursday	14 th Dec	8.30am 2.30–5.30pm	The O'Carroll Family RIP/ Tom Kileen & Family RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
St. John the Cross			
Friday	15 th Dec	8.30am	Len Brown & Family RIP/Joan Prior
Saturday	16 th Dec	11.00am 12.00pm 6.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions Jean Horan RIP Timothy Joseph Sullivan RIP
Sunday	17 th Dec	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Alfred Medlin RIP Elizabeth Wilson RIP/Holy Souls Eamon Commins RIP
3 rd Sunday of Advent			

***Hospital: Are you going into hospital this week for surgery?
Fr Martin will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick
after all Sunday Masses.***

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies in this newsletter!