

# ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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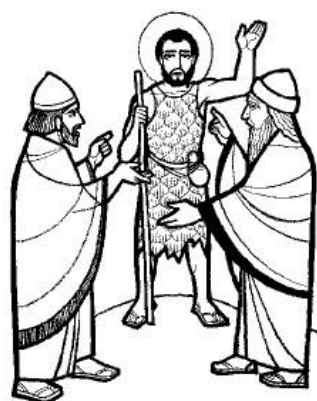
Website: [www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk](http://www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Sacramental Coordinator: Jane Tatam 07930 510218

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.30-6.00pm and by appointment



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Year B**

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

*Rejoice in the Lord always!*

This Sunday's readings are full of joy and hope – we have a glimpse of the joy of our approaching redemption.

Isaiah, in the **First Reading** (Isaiah 61: 1–2, 10–11), announces the redemption of Jerusalem, clothed in the bridal robes of justice and integrity. Jesus quoted this text to describe his mission, and it also prefigured Mary's role in our salvation.

The **Responsorial Psalm** (Luke 1: 46–50, 53–54) is the song of Mary's Magnificat. It is a joyful hymn of praise to God for his holiness, his mercy and his faithfulness in bringing the salvation promised to his people.

St Paul's sentiments in the **Second Reading** (1 Thessalonians 5:16–24) echo this. In his letter he encourages the Thessalonians – and us – to be happy, to pray constantly, to give thanks to God and to be open to the Spirit as we wait for the coming of the Lord. God has called us and he will not fail us.

This Sunday, we again meet John the Baptist in the **Gospel** (John 1: 6–8, 19–28). John the Evangelist insists on the Baptist's role as witness to the light. He is a witness, a voice, but not the Messiah. The Messiah is here, amongst us, but we do not know him. In this year's very short Advent season, let us benefit to the full this week, as we listen to all the voices that witness to Christ unknown among us.

**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.

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

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	6.30pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	9.30am
<b><u>CHRISTMAS MASSES</u></b>		
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve	6.30pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve	10.00pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day	8.00am
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day	9.30am
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day	11.30am

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

**Christmas Greenery required for the Church** Conifer, Ivy and Laurel. Please bring to the Church on Wednesday. Many thanks.

**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.

**Big Church Clean:** A reminder that we will be doing the big clean of the Church on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 9.30am. Anyone that can come along to help, would be greatly appreciated!

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Due to the Church decorating for Christmas, there will be no exposition of the blessed sacrament this Thursday.

**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.

**Fr Tony McKentey RIP:** Sadly Fr Tony, a priest of our Diocese, died last Sunday after a long illness. He was 67 years old and a priest for 41 years. Born in Chelmsford, he was educated at Champion School. Please remember Fr Tony and his family in your prayers.

**Youth Club:** Youth Club is now finished for Christmas & will reopen on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Nine Lessons and Carols** takes place this Sunday afternoon at 4.00 pm in Brentwood Cathedral. It is a beautiful service and a perfect way to enter the spiritual mysteries of Christmas. Nine Lessons and Carols will be led by Bishop Alan, the Cathedral choir and readers from across the diocese. This year, it will be recorded by BBC Radio Essex and broadcast on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness to the wider community in Essex and beyond. All welcome.

**Youth 2000:** "Chosen" is a four day retreat for young people and young adults (16-35) run by Youth 2000 at St Bonaventure's school, Forest Gate. This takes place over the New Year bank holiday weekend - 29th Dec to 1st Jan. Dynamic talks, creative workshops, friendship, adoration and worship, reconciliation and healing. Visit: [www.youth2000.org](http://www.youth2000.org)

**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!

**Community Coffee Morning** at Romford Care Centre, 107 Neave Crescent, RM3 8HW. Please join us for coffee morning open to all every Thursday morning 10am-12noon. We specialise in dementia and nursing care. It is very social and we welcome all from the community. Contact Fiona 01708 379022.

**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.

#### **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 Emmery, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> December & Christmas Masses 2017:

<b>Readers:</b>	Sat.	6.30pm	Janet James / Peter Amey
	Sun	9.30am	Emma McMillan / Ella Donald
<b>Christmas Eve</b>		6.30pm	Jane Hull / Maureen O'Brien
		10.00pm	Maureen Boorman
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Mon	8.00am	Kardina
		9.30am	
		11.30am	Angela Bennett / Nicola Stacey

**Bidding Prayers:** Maureen Boorman

**Coffee Morning Rota:** Group 4

**Offerings 10.11.17:** Envs: £934.69

**Church Cleaning:** Group 4

Loose: £776.81      Total: £1,711.50

### MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>12.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Jean Horan RIP Timothy Joseph Sullivan RIP
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>8.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	Alfred Medlin RIP Elizabeth Wilson RIP / Holy Souls Eamon Commings RIP
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent			
Monday	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>8.30am</b>	Douglas Wilson RIP
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>8.30am</b>	Nora Maguire RIP
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>7.30pm</b>	William Cunningham RIP / Johnny Caden RIP
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b>9.00am</b>	Francis Wilson RIP
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	<b>9.00am</b>	Kathleen McDonagh RIP
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	<b>12.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>NO MASS</b> Joe Joyce RIP
		<b>8.00am</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>9.30am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	Mary Harkin RIP <b>NO MASS</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent			

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday		<b>6.00pm</b>	Carol Service
<b>Christmas Vigil</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>6.30pm</b> <b>10.00pm</b>	Bray Family Int Private Intention
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>8.00am</b>	Selby Tweedie RIP / Albert Edgley RIP
<b>Christmas Day</b>		<b>9.30am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	Sister Teresa RIP Carol Service Fr Patrick / Tom Swan RIP