

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

Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 8.15am-4.00pm



Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year B

18th March 2018

'If anyone serves me, they must follow me ...'

As our Lenten journey brings us ever nearer to Jerusalem, this week's readings promise us the hope of forgiveness and eternal life as we try to stay alongside Jesus in his suffering. However the people of Israel have behaved in the past, God's new covenant, written on their hearts, will overlook all their sins. They will now know their merciful God as he truly is (**First Reading** - Jeremiah 31: 31-34).

The **Psalm** (50) invites us to bring all our guilt to our compassionate God, in trust that he will utterly blot out our sins. We rejoice to know that God will renew our hearts and keep us steadfast.

The **Second Reading** (Hebrews 5: 7-9) recalls the lonely suffering of Jesus as he might have prayed in Gethsemane. But even here, Jesus is deeply humble and obedient, trusting that the Father is working through him, making him the source of salvation for all who love him.

In the **Gospel** (John 12: 20-33), Jesus describes the grain of wheat that dies and is buried before it bears fruit. In the same way, Jesus himself will die and rise again, drawing all of us to him. Like Jesus, we, too, are made for eternal life, and are united with him as we serve him. This week, let us ask the Lord for strength as we try to follow him in love and obedience. We pray that he will keep us safely by his side when our own path leads us to share in his suffering.

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

Stations of the Cross: Next Friday at 7.00pm followed by **Evening Mass** at 7.30pm
Saturdays in Lent Exposition and Confessions from 11.00am to 12.00 noon. Mass at 12.00pm.

Palm Sunday next weekend: Palms will be blessed at all masses. The 11.30am mass begins in the Parish Hall with blessing of palms and procession.

Palm Sunday Children's Liturgy will start before mass on Palm Sunday. If your child is in year 1/2 please bring your child straight to the Van Meenan room. If your child is in Reception please come into the church where a catechist will be waiting.

Remember that the clocks go forward next weekend!

Reconciliation Service in preparation for Easter on Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Week: Please volunteer to assist on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil by putting your names on the list in the porch.

Eucharistic Ministers & Readers are invited to renew their commitment to their ministries in our Parish at the mass of the Last Supper on Thursday 29th March at 8.00pm.

9.30am Readers: Your new rota is now ready to collect from the sacristy.

Recently Deceased:

John Overton: John's funeral will take place on Friday 23rd March at 12.30pm

Betty Long: Betty's funeral will take place on Thursday 5th April at 12.00pm. Her body will be received into the Church on Wednesday 4th April at 5.00pm.

Please keep John & Betty and their families in your prayers. May they Rest In Peace.

Thanks from the SVP: A sincere thank you to the parish of St Mary's for their continued and generous support. The collection last weekend raised ££915.75. All monies raised will go to assist those less fortunate in our parish.

Quiz night - in the parish hall Saturday 28th April, 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets £5 each, bring your own drinks and nibbles, there will also be a raffle. Max. tables of 10 please and please no children under 10. To book a table or for more details call Joanne on 01708 747026

Children in Year Five: Will the children in year 5 please see Fr Martin after mass.

Lenten Project – StreetInvest: It was good that Duncan Ross (CEO) of StreetInvest was with us at the 9.30am and 11.30am mass last week and spoke of the wonderful work of this charity. We gave out money boxes and money boxes will be available after the 6.30pm Saturday mass and the 8am mass this weekend. Please return your box contributions after Easter. More details to follow but please also see their website www.streetinvest.org. This is a joint Parish & School Lenten project.

Confirmation Meeting DATE CHANGE: The confirmation meeting this week will take place on Tuesday 20th March, starting with the reconciliation mass at 7.30pm in the Church.

FHC - Stations of the Cross: On the 23rd March at 7.00pm the First Holy Communion children will be doing the Stations of the Cross. It is based on the work of CAFOD. We will be having a collection afterwards so that we will be able to send a Lenten donation to CAFOD to support them in their immeasurable work.

Easter Eggs from the Real Easter Egg Company are now on sale in the repository shop.

Memorial Plaques Would you like a memorial plaque placed on one of our pews for a much missed love one? Application forms in the church porch or ring Brenda on 01708 452442. £200 per plaque.

Interested in the Catholic Faith (RCIA) Why not come and see? We meet on ***Mondays at 7.30pm until 9pm*** in the Van Meenan 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.

Can you help? We are looking to build a team of parishioners who are willing to work on a flexible rota basis in helping Fr Martin by carrying out some of the essential but unseen tasks that we all take for granted. These range from putting out new candles and clearing away the old used ones, through to preparing vestments generally and ensuring the altar and sacristy is left tidy after Mass. If you are able to give **any** help, please contact Jack How 0774 0778 723 (john.how@ntlworld.com) for more information. Many hands...

Bishop Alan goes #SiLent!: For 12 hours, from 8am to 8pm, on Tuesday 27th March, the Tuesday of Holy Week, Bishop Alan will be completely silent (except for occasional communication with his cat, Delia). This is part of a national initiative, "Million Minutes," adopted this year by the BCYS, to encourage all of us to (re)discover the peace, tranquility and value of silence: within the stillness, God speaks. Every minute of silence can also be sponsored, raising money for projects led by young people in our Diocese. For more details, and all the resources, look at www.millionminutes.org/Brentwood. To sponsor Bishop Alan go to <https://be.wonderful.org/bishop.alan/2018/staysilent>. To find out more about all our opportunities for young people go to www.bcys.net

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 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, Sharon De Giorgio, Joan Dowding, Leo Duffy, Margaret Faye, William Fernandez, Bernadette Haddle, Kevin Hartie, Baby Nathan Howe, Evelyn Hughes, Mary Hughes, Anne Humphrays, Yvonne Ingham, Sajj 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, Philomena Perry, 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 24th / 25th March 2018:

Readers: Sat. 6.30pm
Sun 8.00am
9.30am
11.30am

Sarah O'Connor / Jane Hull
Alex Rowley / Sergio Cantoni
Michael Olaniyan / Tilly Allen
Ray John / Donna Coy

Bidding Prayers: Brian Rodgers

Coffee Morning Rota: Group 6

Offerings 11.03.18: Envs: £1,093.17

SVP Collection: £915.75

Church Cleaning: Group 3

Loose: £882.03 Total: £1,975.20

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	17 th March	11.00am 12.00pm 12.30pm 6.30pm	NO EXPOSITION OR CONFESSION NO MASS Wedding Mass—James Ramsden & Holly Parsons Margaret Farrell RIP
Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent	18 th March	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Mary & Sean Clarke Int All Parishioners / John O'Neil RIP Patrick Maloney RIP
Monday St. Joseph	19 th March	8.30am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Baby Theodore Bray Int
Tuesday	20 th March	8.30am 7.30pm	Joyce Rafferty RIP / Fr Paul Fox Reconciliation Service for Easter
Wednesday	21 st March	7.30pm	Ann Flower RIP / Philomena Carberry RIP
Thursday	22 nd March	8.30am 2.30pm	Patrick Lenehan RIP / Norah Lenehan RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	23 rd March	8.30am 12.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	NO MASS Requiem Mass - John Overton FHC Stations of the Cross William Elliott RIP / Mr Clifford RIP
Saturday	24 th March	11.00am 12.00pm 6.30pm	Exposition & Confession Patrick Farrell RIP All Parishioners / Jus Mullane Int
Sunday Palm Sunday	25 th March	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Sadie Coyne Int / Susan Kelly Int / Petra Bernandez RIP Alan Fisher RIP Paul & George Compton RIP (Mass begins in the Parish Hall with blessing of the palms)

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