

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



First Sunday of Advent

Year B

3rd December 2017

Stay Awake!

We begin Advent with a call to prepare – and to stay awake! We are called to wake up to our true reality: to become alive to God at work in our lives, and to be ready to greet Jesus Christ as he comes to us in every moment. We are reminded, too, of our hope of Christ's second triumphant coming.

In the **First Reading** (Isaiah 63: 16–17; 64: 1, 3–8), the prophet tells – despite us being God's children – of how we lost our way. Isaiah yearns for the time when God will come down to his people. He reminds us that we are all the work of God's hand.

The **Psalmist** (79) also longs for God's help and care. Using images of a shepherd and farmer, we are encouraged to recognise how tender God's love is for us – the love that became incarnate, the light which shines upon us and saves us.

The **Second Reading** (1 Cor. 1: 3–9) reminds us of the blessings and graces we have received from God. It is God's spirit that gives us hope as we wait for Christ coming again into our lives.

In the **Gospel** (Mark 13: 33–37), Jesus teaches us to be ready and alert to God coming into our lives. We have each been given a task, and Jesus wants us to be prepared to receive Him.

Throughout this Advent season, let us remember each other in prayer, and ask for the grace to be able to make time to become silent and still.

In the silence, let us watch and wait for the Lord.

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.

The Rite of Welcome: For those enquiring about the Catholic Faith (RCIA), will be at the 11.30am mass on the First Sunday of Advent. Please pray for them.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers: Your new rotas are available for collection from the Sacristy.

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 9th Dec & 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.

St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar Many thanks to those who came along to the Bazaar and special thanks to all those who worked so hard to help make it such a success!

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.

The Champion School Open Evening for parents and students seeking admission to the Sixth Form of the School in September 2018 to take place in the School Hall at **6.30 pm** on **Wednesday, 6th December 2017**. Visits to Departments will be followed by a presentation by the Headmaster and Senior Staff at 7.30pm.

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

Advent Service: Saturday 9th December at 8.00pm here in St. Mary's Church, United Singers proudly presents An International Journey to Christmas with carols from around the world and reflections for Advent. Tickets £6 / Concessions £4 / Under 5s free. Tickets available from Donna Coy 07710 926297 or available on the door.

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.

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.

Goodbye Walsingham House, Canvey Island and thanks for the memories: On **Saturday 9th December** we will be saying goodbye to Walsingham House at Canvey Island, before we move to Abbotswick in January. There will be Adoration in the Chapel, an exhibition of Walsingham House over the years from Chingford and Canvey and refreshments available in the dining room. The house will be open from 12-4pm and all are warmly invited to attend.

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 Crudgington, 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 9th / 10th December 2017:

Readers:

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

Kathleen Brooker / Maureen O'Brien
Sergio Cantoni / Alex Rowley
Emma McMillan / Ella Donald
Eddie Allen / Philip Rodgers

Bidding Prayers: Susan Squire

Coffee Morning Rota: 100 Club

Offerings 26.11.17: Envs: £1,286.13

Second Collection:

Church Cleaning: Group 3

Loose: £1,220.18 Total: £2,506.31

Total: £421.21

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	2 nd Dec	12.00pm 6.30pm	John & Peggy Dawson RIP June Sampayo RIP / Carmena, Giovanni & Francesco Oliva & Antonia Mango
Sunday	3 rd Dec	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Ursela Koehane RIP Richard Hogben RIP Sam Farrugia RIP
1 st Sunday of Advent			
Monday	4 th Dec	8.30am	The Ward Family RIP / Norah Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	5 th Dec	8.30am	Dr & Mrs Oganwu & Family RIP
Wednesday	6 th Dec	7.30pm	Jisma Joseph RIP / Joe Gallagher RIP
Thursday	7 th Dec	8.30am 2.30–5.30pm	Tom Kileen & Family RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
St. Ambrose			
Friday	8 th Dec	8.30am	Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP / Joan Prior Int
The Immaculate Conception			
Saturday	9 th Dec	11.00am 12.00pm 6.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions 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			

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