

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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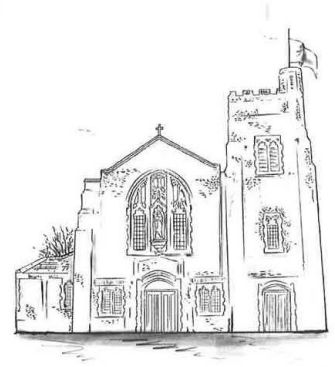
Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Assistant Priest: Father Sabu Pariyadan

Sacramental Coordinator: Jane Tatam – 07972 280734

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.30-6.00pm and by appointment



The Epiphany of the Lord Year A 8th January 2017

We saw His star as it rose and have come to do Him homage

The Feast of the Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas Season. Christ our light has come into the world and shines in the darkness. On this feast of Epiphany he manifests himself to us in a unique way.

In the **first reading** (Isaiah 60:1-6) a prophet encourages the people to stand up and welcome a new day. They have become a light to the nations. They will see all the good things God has in store for them.

In the **second reading** (Ephesians 3:2-3a.5-6) Paul refers to the great mystery of God revealed to him, namely that God desires to save both Jews and gentiles in Christ.

The **Gospel** (Matthew 2:1-12) tells us about the wise men from the East. Three men who were foreigners, outsiders (not Jews) who followed a brilliant star in search of the new born king of the Jews. To them, the light of the star was a symbol of hope, of joy and of peace. When they find him, they worship him and pay him homage as they offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Today's feast is telling us that for God there are no foreigners, no outsiders. From his point of view, all are equally his beloved children. We all, whatever external physical or cultural differences there may be between us, belong to one single family which has one Father.

The same star will also lead us to Jesus our King and Lord.

A big thank you Fr Martin and Fr Sabu would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to prepare for Christmas – church cleaners, altar servers, choir, musicians, flower ladies etc. Also, a big thank you to everyone for their most generous Christmas offerings. God bless you.

Second Collection Next Week for Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver who will make an appeal and there will be a second collection for their work.

First Holy Communion Welcome Sunshines to your session.

Confirmation Candidates who wish to go on the retreat to Walsingham House in March can return their application forms to Fr Martin beginning the weekend of 7/8th January when they are signing in. The retreat is based on first come, first served.

Communion Parents Meeting Tuesday 10th January at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.

St Mary's Youth Club reopens on Friday 13th January 2017.

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 18th January at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

Newspaper Wall Racks The church newspapers are now displayed on wall racks in the church porch. The money should still go in the wall safe.

Children's Liturgy We are looking for new helpers! Would you like to be part of this great experience to help young children understand the gospel at a level they can understand, we're currently looking for helpers and a group leader. The group leader role involves reading the gospel to the children, asking them questions and leading a small discussion and also preparing a little activity for them. Or if you would like more information, please call Jo on 07961 037786.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 29th May - 2nd June. By air. Staying at the fabulous 4* Grande Moderne Hotel (Closest to the Sanctuaries). Full board. Spiritual Director Fr. Joseph Whisstock. Based on two people sharing £545pp. A coach will be available from Westcliff to airport and return for a small charge. Please contact Sue Baillie on 07979 746707 for further details. £100 deposit secures place. All welcome.

Pilgrimage to The Holy Land 26th June – 5th July. Visit the major shrines of Our Lord & Lady including a visit to the School of Joy (where olive wood items are made by disadvantaged children). Hotel stays in both Galilee and Jerusalem. Cost £1,745 half board. Interested? Please let Fr Paul Fox know in writing including your full contact details - email, telephone and address. Thank you. Tel: 01268 742229. Email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Address: Our Lady of Ransom, 50 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 7HP.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Bishop Alan will lead our annual pilgrimage from Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th July. We will 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. For more information or for a brochure, please contact the pilgrimage administrator Cathy O'Connor on 01206 735623.

Study Day on the Gospel of John The next Study Day at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park will take place on Saturday 18th March from 11.00am until 3.00pm. The theme is 'The Journey of Faith in the Gospel of John'. The day will be led by Fr Victor Darlington, Professor of Scripture at St John's Seminary, Womersley. The day will include exploration of the Lenten Sunday Gospels from the Gospel of John.

Admission is free, tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample free parking is available at the church, which is three minutes' walk from Gidea Park Station. It is essential to book your place and this should be done by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com.

Meeting the "Living God" Seminars Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood. Seminar 1: The unspoken genocide: Christian persecution in the twenty first century. Speaker: Fr Martin Boland, Dean of Brentwood Cathedral. Date: Saturday 21st January, 10.30am-12.00noon.

Vocations Weekend for young women (20s and 30s) Theme: Discerning God's Call. Dates: 27th - 29th January. Location: New Cross, London. The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus. There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact Sr Lynne at lynnefcj@hotmail.com.

Iona Social Club Members 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: Tuesdays at 8.00 – 9.30pm 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, Dympna Bowes, Winifred Carpenter, Ann Carroll, Phil Clerkin, Joyce Cougill, Maureen Crow, Patricia Crudgington, Tony De Lucia, Sharon De Giorgio, Joan Dowding, Leo Duffy, Alan Fisher, Joseph Gregory, Kevin Hartie, Nancy Hayes, Baby Ethen Hough, Evelyn Hughes, Mary Hughes, Josie Humphreys, Yvonne Ingham, Sajy Joseph, Cathy Lennon, Bill Lodge, Mary Loftus, Betty Long, Joanne McCann, Mary McCarthy, Fr Brian McGilloway, Dinah McMahan, Patrick Medlin, Joseph Mifsud, Patricia Mills, Sheila Murphy, Grady O'Neill, Maureen O'Neill, Tricia Owens, Theresa Parr, Kathleen Payne, Molly Peters, Anthony Picton, Paul Ridley, Hazel Roberts, Oliver Roome, Maura Shanney, Elizabeth Smith, Len Smith, Tom Smith, Bridget Stapleton, Jane Stevenson, Anne Sullivan, John Sullivan, Alex Taylor, Fr. John Taylor, Pat Taylor, Marie Tweedie, Maria Wallace, Mary Wallace, Josie Walsh, Bernadette Watts, David Wells, Maureen Williams, Alan Woodford 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 14TH/15TH JANUARY 2017:

Readers:	Sat. 6.30pm	Pat Martin/Tracey Howard
	Sun. 8.00am	Alex Rowley/Seb Hough
	9.30am	Alan & Albert Sabu Mathew
	11.30am	Philip Rodgers/Maureen Boorman

Bidding Prayers:	Jackie Donald	Coffee Morning Rota: Group 9
		Church Cleaning: Group 2

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	7 th Jan	6.30pm	Catherine Winders RIP/Lesley Boyall RIP
Sunday Epiphany	8 th Jan	8.00am	All Parishioners/Rowley Family Int
		9.30am	Eamon Commins RIP/P J Jennings RIP
		11.30am	Sam Farrugia RIP/Joseph Camilleri RIP
Monday The Baptiam of the Lord	9 th Jan	8.30am	Norah Lenehan RIP/Teresa Nolan RIP
Tuesday	10 th Jan	8.30am	Ketchley Family RIP/Rita Gormley RIP
Wednesday	11 th Jan	7.30pm	Joyce Cougill & Maureen McMahon Int The Brennan Family Int
Thursday	12 th Jan	8.30am	Jade Loughnane RIP/Annie Barrett RIP
		2.30–5.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	13 th Jan	8.30am	Norah Lenehan RIP/Sandro Pelay RIP
Saturday	14 th Jan	12.00	Tom Long RIP/Jim Shanahan RIP
		6.30pm	John & Brigid Cody/Len Mead RIP
Sunday	15 th Jan	8.00am	All Parishioners/Thanksgiving Int
		9.30am	Stephen Kerby RIP/Dick Collins Int
		11.30am	Dawson Family Int/Derry Lydon RIP Ann

***Hospital Are you going into hospital this week for surgery?
Fr Martin and Fr Sabu will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick
after all Sunday Masses. Please see either of them.***