

# MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Sacramental Coordinator: Jane Tatam - 07415 602774

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9am-1pm



## First Sunday of Advent Year C 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

*'Stay awake, praying at all times'*

Today marks the beginning of Advent, a time of watchfulness, waiting and renewed hope, as we get ready to welcome the Lord into our hearts and lives this Christmas.

The **First Reading** (Jer. 33:14–16) focuses our gaze on God's promise to David to raise up a 'virtuous branch'. God fulfils that promise by sending his only Son, Jesus, into the world: our Saviour and King in whom we can have total confidence, who rules with honesty and integrity.

We wait for the Lord. Jesus foretells the end times in the rather ominous-sounding **Gospel** (Luke 21: 25–28, 34–36), telling his disciples to 'stay awake' and not get distracted by the 'cares of life'. But he has a message of hope too: we don't need to be afraid, for we will see the Son of Man coming to save us. God keeps his promises, so we can hold our heads high and stand confident in his presence. Meanwhile we can pray and try to lead good lives.

St Paul tells us how we can do this in the **Second Reading** (1 Thess. 3:12–4:2) We are to live as Jesus teaches, 'loving one another and the whole human race', and putting Jesus and his values at the centre of our daily lives. This week as I wait for the Lord, I may like to spend some time each day prayerfully taking stock of how ready I am to receive Jesus, however, wherever, and whenever he comes to me.

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.**

**Mass bookings:** We no longer require you to book in for Mass.

Please remember at all masses in the Church **you need to wear a face mask.**

### **St Mary's Catholic Primary School - Reception Intake - September 2022**

To make an application to St Mary's Catholic Primary School, you will need to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which is returned to the school and complete the on-line local authority form. The closing date for September 2022 admissions is 15th January 2022. Please visit our website at [www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk) and click on 'Admissions' for further information, relevant documents and to view our virtual tour. For those people who do not have access to e-mail, we will also accept completed application forms brought into school on the following dates only:

|                          |              |             |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Monday 6th December 2021 | 9.30-11.00am | Parish Hall |
| Friday 14th January 2022 | 9.30-11.00am | Parish Hall |

**Certificate of Catholic Practice – Reception Intake:** Father Martin will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice **in the Church** on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 7.15pm-8.30pm, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 7.15pm–8.30pm and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 3.45 – 5.30pm. Please bring your child with you, along with their Baptism certificate and proof of your address and a pen.

**Adoration:** The church will be open for private prayer and adoration between 9.45 – 12 noon on Thursday's. Please remember to wear a face mask.

**Rosary Thursday 7.30pm:** The Rosary will be said in the Church. Please enter through the side door of the Church by the Van Meenan room. All are welcome to come and join us.

**Confirmation 2021 - 2022:** There will be a meeting for all young people of our Parish with their parents / guardians who wish to be Confirmed and are in Year 10 and above. This will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in the Parish Hall. There will be an enrolment Mass on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm. Application forms are available in the porch of the Church. We look forward to seeing you all.

**Help needed:** If anyone can help to wash and iron Church linen once a fortnight / monthly please see Father Martin or contact the Parish office.

**Children's Christmas Eve choir practice:** On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 5pm-6.30pm all children are invited in to the Church for choir practice in preparation for the Christmas Eve Mass.

**Year 5 Mass attendance cards:** Mass attendance cards will be available from this weekend. Those children in Year 5 please see Father Martin after Mass.

**YOUTH CLUB:** We are currently preparing the membership lists, entry cards, & helpers' rota for the Year 7's, 8's, 9's, etc & above who signed up recently at the two registration evenings. The start date is likely to be the 2nd or 3rd Friday in January '22, but the exact date tba in the new year. There is a short extension left for youngsters in Year 7 (& above) who wish to apply. The deadline is 6pm Tuesday 30th November '21. Collect an application form from the Parish Office anytime between 9am & 1pm Mon & Tuesday. You can complete there if preferred, & to register you'll need the £3 cash membership fee & 2 x passport type photos - NOTE: they do NOT need to be passport photos, just that size, & be a headshot of the youngster. It will take approx 10 mins to complete or take the form away & return by the deadline. Any Late registrations will be dealt with after all other applications have been processed & a waiting-list will be set-up if numbers dictate.

**Finances:** Please feel free to drop an offering into the presbytery or alternatively, you can make a payment into our bank account, either as a one off or by a regular Standing Order.

The details are as follows:

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Name: St. Mary Mother of God

If you have a gift aid number, please use that as a reference when you make your donation. Any donations are very gratefully received.

**RCIA Journey in Faith:** For those that are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, please speak to Father Martin or contact the Parish Office.

**Please remember in your prayers** Wendy Durack RIP who has died recently. Please remember the sick and housebound of the parish and those in hospital in your prayers. If anyone is seriously ill and needs the priest, please ring the Presbytery.

**Please pray for the sick in our Parish** at home and in hospital, especially: Margaret Baan, Ashley Baptist, Grant Cambridge, Martin Chandler, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Betty Gemba, Sharon De Giorgio, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, Anne Humphrays, Yvonne Ingham, Patricia Johnson, Sajy Joseph, Cathy Lennon, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Bina McCarthy, Carly Menon, Mary Pickton, Phil & Tony Read, Paul Ridley, Susan Squires, Josie Walsh, Evelyn Ward 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.**

### **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

"Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen."

### **Prayer to Our Lady – The Memorare Prayer**

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

# MASS INTENTIONS

|                                |                           |                     |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Saturday                       | 27 <sup>th</sup> November | <b>5.30-6pm</b>     | Confession   |
|                                |                           | <b>6.30pm</b>       | Bruce Waskett RIP /<br>Raleigh Family RIP                  |
| Sunday                         | 28 <sup>th</sup> November | <b>8.00am</b>       | Joshua Darryl RIP /<br>Allegri Family RIP                  |
| <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>  |                           | <b>9.30am</b>       | Holy Souls<br>All Parishioners                             |
|                                |                           | <b>11:30am</b>      | Ann Lamb RIP /<br>Deceased brothers of Romford Council KSC |
| Monday                         | 29 <sup>th</sup> November | <b>9.15am</b>       | Norah Lenehan RIP /<br>Wally Ramsay RIP                    |
| Tuesday                        | 30 <sup>th</sup> November | <b>9.15am</b>       | Holy Souls<br>David Donovan Int /<br>Bill Lewis RIP        |
| <i>St Andrew</i>               |                           |                     |  |
| Wednesday                      | 1 <sup>st</sup> December  | <b>7.30pm</b>       | Ron Edgson RIP /<br>James Robinson RIP                     |
| Thursday                       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> December  | <b>9.15am</b>       | Bill Hillary Int /<br>Ron Downey RIP                       |
|                                |                           | <b>9.45–12 noon</b> | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament                        |
| Friday                         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | <b>8.15am</b>       | Kathleen & Victor Payne RIP /<br>Arthur Shillingford RIP   |
| <i>St Francis Xavier</i>       |                           |                     |  |
| Saturday                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> December  | <b>5.30-6pm</b>     | Confession   |
|                                |                           | <b>6:30pm</b>       | Holy Souls<br>All Parishioners                             |
| Sunday                         | 5 <sup>th</sup> December  | <b>8.00am</b>       | Mary McCarthy RIP /<br>John Gormily RIP                    |
| <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> |                           | <b>9.30am</b>       | Mass of thanksgiving<br>Elaine Yellop RIP                  |
|                                |                           | <b>11:30am</b>      | Sam Farrugia RIP /<br>Ernie Annesley RIP                   |

***Hospital: If you are going in to hospital this week for surgery Fr Martin will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick after all Sunday Masses.***

***The Rosary will be said after all weekday morning Masses***

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*The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies. Please note the location of the fire exits.*