

MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

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Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

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



Third Sunday of Advent Year C 12th December 2021

'The Lord is very near: Rejoice!'

This Third Sunday of Advent is often called 'Gaudete Sunday' from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin: 'Gaudete!' – that is, 'Rejoice!' It is as though, like small children, we can barely wait to celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas, the coming of Christ Jesus into our world. Indeed, we rejoice now because he is already here in the midst of us.

We see that God exults in us, his people, renewing us by his love (**First Reading** Zeph. 3:14–18). We might want to pray using the words of the **Psalm**: 'The Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour'. 'Give thanks to the Lord, Praise his name!'. 'Sing and shout for joy!'

St Paul (**Second Reading** Philippians 4: 4–7) encourages us to have confidence in God, to be happy in the Lord. We do not need to worry, because if there is anything we need, we can ask God for it. God will give us a peace of heart and mind that is far greater than we can grasp or understand, keeping us safe in Christ Jesus. In the **Gospel** (Luke 3: 10–18), the people come to John the Baptist to ask him, 'What must we do?' to prepare for the coming of the Christ. The answer is not the same for everyone, but all are asked to share with those who have less than themselves.

Perhaps I ask the Lord: What must I do to prepare for your coming this Christmas?

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.

Christmas Masses:

Monday 13th December	Christmas Reconciliation service	7.30pm
Friday 24th December	Christmas Eve Carol service followed by Mass	6.00pm 6.30pm
	Carol service followed by Midnight Mass	8.30pm 9.00pm
Saturday 25th December	Christmas Day	8.00am
	Christmas Day	9.30am
	Christmas Day Carol service followed by Mass	11.00am 11.30am
Sunday 26th December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8am, 9.30am & 11.30am

Government regulations: The government has said it is mandatory for everyone from the age of 12 to wear a face covering in Churches. Therefore, we ask everyone to wear a face covering in Church and to sanitize their hands as they come in.

Christmas reconciliation service: Monday 13th December at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Church cleaning for Christmas: Volunteers are needed to clean the church for Christmas. If you can spare 30 minutes, please come along and help on Saturday 18th December at 9am.

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

Parish choir: The Parish choir are looking for new members. Everyone is welcome. Choir practice is on Monday evenings at 8pm in the Church.

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

SVP: The SVP are looking for volunteer drivers to help deliver the food we collect at St Marys to the Rainham Foodbank depot. If you can help, please contact Paul on 07778 031489. Thank you

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.

Private Prayer and Adoration: Every Thursday after the 9.15am Mass until 12 noon.

Youth Club: We are currently preparing the membership lists, entry cards, & helpers' rota for the new intake. The start date is likely to be the 2nd or 3rd Friday in January '22 - the exact date tba in the new year.

Havering Singers 'Music for Christmas' Concert: Saturday 18th December 2021 at 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church, 260, Hornchurch Road. Start time 7.30pm. Ticket prices: £12 Adult, £5 Children. Tickets available on 01708 341265, www.haveringsingers.org.uk or you can also buy on the door that evening.

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.

Please remember in your prayers Beatrice Akwaboah RIP, John Carpenter RIP, Wendy Durack RIP and Patricia Johnson RIP who have 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, 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.

Dear Jesus,

Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others; The light, O Jesus will be all from You; none of it will be mine; It will be you shining on others through me.

Abridged: St John Henry Newman

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.

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."

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	11 th December	5.30-6pm 6.30pm	Confession Joyce Rafferty RIP / Josephine, Anthony & Paula Camilleri RIP / Angela & James Int
Sunday <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	12 th December	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Helen Thomson (nee Taylor) RIP / Jim & Andrew Shanahan RIP / Martha Sheridan RIP All Parishioners Eamon Commins RIP / Lena Ferguson RIP / Angela & Tony Bennett Int
Monday <i>St Lucy</i>	13 th December	9.15am 7.30pm	Norah Lenehan RIP / Maurice & Rachel Hart RIP Christmas Reconciliation Service
Tuesday <i>St John of the Cross</i>	14 th December	9.15am	Rory Maguire & Family Int / Mr & Mrs Wyatt RIP
Wednesday	15 th December	7.30pm	In honour of St Anthony of Padua / Ann & Grant Cambridge Int
Thursday	16 th December	9.15am 9.45–12 noon	Timothy Sullivan RIP / John Carpenter Int Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	17 th December	8.15am 11am	Doug Wilson RIP / Sally Goggin RIP Funeral Beatrice Akwaboah RIP
Saturday	18 th December	5.30-6pm 6:30pm	Confession Paddy Higgins RIP / Gerald Ruane RIP / Josephine Cilia RIP
Sunday <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	19 th December	8.00am 9.30am 11:30am	Nora Maguire RIP / Maura Shanahan RIP All Parishioners Doug Wilson RIP / Fredrick Jervis 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.