

MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

Tel: 01708 447761

Email: hornchurchstmmg@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Sacramental Coordinator: Jane Tatam - 07415 602774

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year C

19th December 2021

'Blessed is the fruit of your womb'

Christ is coming!

The readings this weekend are full of an expectation. God's promise through Micah is fulfilled in the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, and their faith.

In the First Reading, Micah (5: 1–4) proclaims that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem and lead his flock back to their land in peace.

The Psalm (80) is a plea to the Shepherd of Israel for this return, and for the sending of the Messiah, the chosen one.

The Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (10: 5–10) emphasizes the fact that the Christ who redeemed us took on a human body, like ours.

The Gospel (Luke 1: 39–44) helps us gather all these themes: obedience to God's will; faith in his promises; and especially faith in the Incarnation – Jesus our Saviour, already becoming flesh in Mary's womb.

May we journey through these last days of Advent in Mary's company, so that Christ may be born in us.

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:

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.

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. On Friday 24th December, please meet Michelle in the choir loft at 5.30pm with bells and water.

Crib Offerings: Once again this Christmas, we will be raising money for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please do give what you can.

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.

SVP Food donations at Christmas: Please remember to leave any items for the food bank this Christmas in the baskets at the back of the Church.

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.

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 pray for the sick in our Parish at home and in hospital, especially: Margaret Baan, Ashley Baptist, Grant Cambridge, Martin Chandler, Ann Clarke, 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.

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."

The Magnificat Prayer:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Mass Intentions:

Saturday	18 th December	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Paddy Higgins RIP / Gerald Ruane RIP / Josephine Cilia RIP
Sunday	19 th December	8.00am	Nora Maguire RIP / Maura Shanahan RIP
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11:30am	Doug Wilson RIP / Fredrick Jervis RIP
Monday	20 th December	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Rita Maher RIP
Tuesday	21 st December	9.15am	Mr & Mrs Tarling RIP / Mrs Teresia Shimali RIP
Wednesday	22 nd December	7.30pm	James Robinson RIP / Marie Coughlan RIP
Thursday	23 rd December	9.15am	Deceased members of the Ireton & How Families RIP
		9.45–12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	24 th December	6.00pm	Carol Service
<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>		6.30pm	Christmas Vigil Mass Eileen & Tom Swan RIP / Jack Hughes RIP
		8.30pm	Carol Service
		9.00pm	Midnight Mass Don Goggin RIP / Sophie Fitzpatrick Int
Saturday	25 th December		<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>
<i>Christmas Day</i>		8.00am	Albie Edgeley RIP / Susan Brady RIP / Helen Thomson (nee Taylor) RIP
		9.30am	All Holy Souls / All Parishioners / Sister Teresa RIP
		11am	Christmas Day Carol Service
		11.30am	George & Betty Compton RIP / Father Patrick RIP
Sunday	26 th December	8.00am	Mary C Daly Int / Bruce Waskett RIP
<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11:30am	Margaret Olaniyan Thanks Giving / Winnie Carpenter 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.