

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



Baptism of the Lord Year C 9th January 2022

Today marks the end of the Christmas season, as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It heralds the beginning of Jesus's public mission: the work of teaching, preaching and healing. God's great love and mercy offer salvation to all through Jesus, by the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel (Luke 3: 15–16, 21–22), God proclaims Jesus as his beloved Son at his baptism in the Jordan. St Luke draws our attention to the descent of the Holy Spirit while Jesus is at prayer.

The First Reading (Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11) offers hope and joy. God has seen his people repent and will bring them home across the desert. He is both their defender and their shepherd, who gathers, guides and nourishes. The Lord renews with his Spirit all who look to him. St Paul (Second Reading Titus 2: 11–14, 3: 4–7) tells us it is entirely due to God's mercy, love and compassion that we are offered salvation; not for anything we have achieved. God's loving kindness is revealed through 'the cleansing water of rebirth' and renewal with the Holy Spirit in Christ.

Today is an opportunity to reflect on the gift of baptism. We remind ourselves that the words spoken at Jesus's baptism also apply to us. We, too, are beloved daughters and sons of God, called to make known the love of God to all we meet. Let's pray this week, and in the weeks ahead, for whatever grace God feels we need to help us.

***Year of St. Joseph
Patron of the Universal Church***

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.

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

The closing date for September 2022 admissions is 15th January 2022.

Completed application forms can be handed into St Mary's School on Friday 14th January 2022 from 9.30-11.00am, in the Parish Hall.

Please visit our website at www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk and click on 'Admissions' for further information, relevant documents and to view our virtual tour."

Youth club: All membership lists & entry cards have now been prepared. However, there will be a delayed start for a few weeks in light of the various restrictions & high numbers of Covid cases. We will reassess the situation again at February half-term & the exact start date tba after then.

Children in Year Five: Will the children in year 5 please see Fr Martin after mass.

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.

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.

Be part of the Walsingham House Team 2022/23: If you are 18+ and looking for an exciting gap year opportunity, then a year on the Walsingham House Team could be for you. Spend a year as a volunteer in a thriving young Catholic Community, working with thousands of young people from Essex and East London. We are looking for inspiring individuals who want to share their faith with other young people and are also looking to learn new skills, grow deeper in their own faith and enjoy a challenge. For more information please contact Joseph Beattie, manager of Walsingham House, by emailing josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org or calling 01277 373959. There is more information about our work on our website (www.bcys.net) and social media @Brentwoodcys

Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis and Youth Ministry: The Bishop's Certificate is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. The course is online and taught through engaging, short videos with expert interviews. The course will begin on the evening of 24th February, with an introduction and welcome evening, held at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. For more information please see our website: <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/> or email your expression of interest to bishopscertificate@dioceseofbrentwood.org by Monday 22nd February.

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.

Bishops Pastoral Visit: Our Bishop, Alan Williams, is making a Pastoral visit to the Parish on Wednesday 9th February. At the evening Mass he will be Confirming some young people of our Parish.

Please remember in your prayers Sean Finan RIP, Patricia Payne RIP and Clifford Poulley 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, Ann Clarke, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Betty Gemba, Sharon De Giorgio, Victor Guy, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, Anne Humphrays, Yvonne Ingham, Sajy Joseph, Cathy Lennon, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, John Lostus, Bina McCarthy, Carly Menon, Mary Pickton, Phil & Tony Read, Paul Ridley, Susan Squires, Elaine Sullivan, 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."

Mass Intentions:

Saturday	8 th January	6.30pm	Dennis Fallon Int / Lena Ferguson RIP
Sunday <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9 th January	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP / Michael, Maria & Clive Judge RIP
		9.30am	Mary Pegman RIP / Sheila Vaulbert de Chantilly RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners
Monday	10 th January	10.00am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Marie Goggin RIP
Tuesday	11 th January	9.15am	Bruce Waskett RIP / Kay & Family Int
Wednesday	12 th January	7.30pm	Ellen & James Lenehan RIP / The Ward Family Int
Thursday	13 th January	9.15am	Frank Goxon RIP / Hazel Goudy RIP
		9.45–12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	14 th January	8.15am	Mary & Kennedy Davin RIP / Kathleen Conway RIP
Saturday	15 th January	6.30pm	Helen Ann Thompson RIP / Paul Carroll RIP
Sunday <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	16 th January	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	James Cody RIP / Yvonne Kieran RIP
		11.30am	Angela & Tony Bennett Int / Bruce Waskett 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.