

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



7th Sunday in Ordinary time
Year C
20th February 2022

My Soul give thanks to the Lord.

Today's readings invite and challenge us to live generous, kind-hearted lives of compassion, mercy, love.

In the **First Reading** (1 Sam. 26: 2.7–9.12–13.22–23), David, the future king of Israel, shows great magnanimity in sparing the life of his persecutor Saul. The dramatic incident in the camp highlights David's ingenuity and his sense of honour and indicates that Saul's days as king of Israel are numbered. These events prepare us for today's challenging **Gospel** (Luke 6: 27–38), where we hear Jesus urging us to show forgiveness even to our enemies, and to be 'compassionate as your Father is compassionate'. However, the last verses make it clear that the demands of the kingdom can only be understood in the light of our relationship with God.

St Paul teaches that though there is much of the 'earthly Adam' in all of us, our desire and yearning must be to live and love as did Jesus Christ – the 'heavenly Adam' (**Second Reading** 1 Cor. 15: 45–49).

This week, I may like to pray for the grace to be open both to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and also to the life of the risen Lord working in, with and through me. We pray, too, that our sisters and brothers everywhere may be open to God's compassion and love.

Year of St Joseph
Patron of the Universal Church

The 2nd March is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It is a day of fasting and abstinence. There will be Mass and distribution of the ashes at 9.15am and 7.30pm. Fridays in Lent – Stations of the Cross at 7pm followed by Mass.

Ash Wednesday 2nd March: Mass & distribution of the Ashes at 9.15am and 7.30pm.

Stations of the Cross: During Lent there will be stations of the cross every Friday evening at 7pm followed by Mass.

Lenten Project: This year the Parish and the school will be supporting CAFOD as our joint Lenten project. Collection boxes and envelopes are available to collect at the back of the Church.

Confirmation Going Forth Party: A reminder to all Confirmed recently of a get together on Saturday 5th March at 5pm in the Hall at which we have a guest speaker, followed by the Going Forth Mass at 6.30pm.

Confirmation (new group): The Confirmation group who will be preparing to be Confirmed in June – reminder your first meeting in the Parish Hall on Saturday 26th February at 5pm.

Youth Club: Will re-start on Friday 11th March at 7.30pm. Membership cards will be given out on arrival.

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

Food Bank: A reminder to please donate non-perishable food in the basket in the porch of the Church and we will take it to Rainham food bank.

Repository: We are now open after each Sunday morning Mass. Do come and have a browse through our selection of cards and gifts for all occasions, especially Confirmation and First Holy Communion, as well as Mass cards, sympathy cards, children's books, rosaries, crucifixes, etc.

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.

Sponsored Sleepout 2022: Caritas Diocese of Brentwood are inviting people from the night of April 8th to the morning of April 9th, to join the 2022 Sponsored Sleepout; Raising awareness and money to help our local homeless charities and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. All information can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/sleepout or by emailing sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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 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, Victor Guy, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes,

Anne Humphrays, Yvonne Ingham, Sajy Joseph, Cathy Lennon, Bill Lodge,

Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, John Loftus, Bina McCarthy, Carly Menon, Mary

Picton, Phil & Tony Reed, Paul Ridley, Susan Squires, Elaine Sullivan, Paddy 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	19 th February	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Tom (Chris) Murphy RIP
Sunday	20 th February	8.00am	Teresa Woods RIP
<i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time</i>		9.30am	Vi Fegan RIP / Charlie Ginty RIP
		11:30am	All Parishioners
Monday	21 st February	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Rosie Young Int
Tuesday	22 nd February	9.15am	Ken Blackwell RIP / Beau Duffield RIP
<i>The Chair of St Peter</i>			
Wednesday	23 rd February	7.30pm	Hannah & Dan Falvey RIP / Muriel Gargano RIP
<i>St Polycarp</i>			
Thursday	24 th February	9.15am	Stan Smith & Family RIP / Ted White & Family RIP
		9.45–12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	25 th February	8.15am	Pat Harrington RIP / Lorcan Cogan RIP
Saturday	26 th February	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Mary Jim Int / Katelyn Donovan Int
Sunday	27 th February	8.00am	All Parishioners
<i>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary time</i>		9.30am	Sean Finan RIP / Donie Connel RIP
		11.30am	Eddie Grange & Family RIP / Eamon Commins RIP / Bernard Lenehan Int

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.