

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, Wed (closed), Thurs & Fri 9am-1pm



Lenten Journey – 40 days

Our Lenten Journey begins this week with Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, when there are two Masses with distribution of Ashes at 9.15am and 7.30pm. It is a day of fasting and abstinence, meaning refraining from eating meat and drinking alcohol.

On Ash Wednesday, receiving the Ashes, reminds us that Lent is a time of repentance. The word repentance comes from the Greek word meaning ‘Change of mind’. To change, to move away from sin, to be genuinely sorry for our sins, to ask for God’s forgiveness, putting Christ firmly at the centre of our lives – to become ‘Christ-Centered’.

The 40 days of Lent leads us towards Holy Week and Easter, when we remember Christ’s Passion, Death and Resurrection. Easter Sunday is the most important day for us as Christians.

During Lent let us avail of the opportunities offered to deepen our prayer life and our relationship with Christ. For example coming to Mass during the week, spending time in adoration before the Blessed sacrament on a Thursday morning, joining the prayer group on Thursday evening at 7.30pm and participating in the Stations of the Cross on Friday’s at 7pm with a Mass that follows.

Let us be resolved to make the most of this Lenten season – prayer, fasting and works of charity, thus ready to celebrate with joy the Lord’s resurrection.

*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.

Pope Francis message on Ukraine: Now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. **Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make next 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace.** I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.

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.

Childrens Liturgy: We are looking for volunteers to help with the Children's Liturgy which will be taking place during 9.30am Mass every Sunday (term time only). We are hoping to start ASAP for children in Year 3. The start date will be confirmed in the next few weeks. If you can help, please contact Jo on 07961037786.

Welcome to Fr Royston Price CSSR: Fr Royston will be with us next weekend and will speak at all the Masses. Father is a member of the Redemptorist Religious order.

Pass it On!: The multigenerational social group bringing older and younger people together is RE-OPENING!!! Starting Saturday 5th March 2pm - 4pm in the Parish hall. This is free monthly group, open to all and refreshments are provided. For further information or if you require any assistance with travel, please contact Joanne on 07985 496196.

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 helpers: We are looking for volunteers to help assist in the running of the Confirmation programme which begins very soon. If you can help please contact the Parish office or see Fr Martin after Mass.

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

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. Everyone welcome.

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

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society: Is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their now-annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit www.bccs.org.uk/fundraising-and-events/all-events/relay-100

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.

Ukrainian Crisis: We have received a letter from Bishop Kenneth, who is the Eparchial Bishop of Ukrainian Catholic community in London, asking for our prayers for the people of Ukraine at this most difficult time. He says "We place the people of Ukraine under the protection of the Holy Family, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the most Holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and the Holy and righteous St Joseph the Betrothed".

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	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
Monday	28 th February	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Patrick McDonagh RIP
Tuesday	1 st March	9.15am	Laurie Brennan & Family RIP / Harry Hurran & Family RIP
<i>St David</i>			
Wednesday	2 nd March	9.15am	John Scott RIP
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>		7.30pm	Eileen Jonas Int / Eileen Collier Int
<i>Day of fasting and abstinence</i>			
Thursday	3 rd March	9.15am	George Butler & Family RIP / Sean Sullivan RIP
		9.45–12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	4 th March	8.15am	John Geary & Family RIP / Frank Mollaghan RIP
Saturday	5 th March	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Roy Grimes RIP / Bridget & John Reilly & Grandchildren RIP
Sunday	6 th March	8.00am	The Cornish Family RIP / Eileen Stone RIP
<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>		9.30am	Wally Ainscough & Family RIP / Mr. Raimondo & Family RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners

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.