

ST 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



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Year C

8th May 2022

Mass book P137-138

I know them and they follow me.

On this 'Good Shepherd Sunday', the Gospel verses are taken from the tenth chapter of St John (10: 27–30). Here Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd, who brings life, love and protection to those within his flock.

In the First Reading (Acts 13: 14, 43–52) we follow Paul and Barnabas to Antioch, where their message is rejected by the Jewish leaders. Undeterred, they turn their preaching to those termed pagans. To the joy of the disciples, these people readily hear and receive the message of eternal life offered by the Lord, fulfilling the commission given by Jesus himself.

The Second Reading (Apocalypse 7: 9, 14b–17) recounts John's vision of heaven. Amid countless souls robed in the whitest of garments, we see Jesus as the Lamb, standing at the throne of God. We hear of the gifts of protection from hunger, thirst and sorrow which come to those who stand before God's throne.

This week, perhaps we can pray especially for those who, for whatever reason, may feel lost and without the protection of the shepherd they once knew. We also remember those who are searching for a flock in which to make their home.

We continue to pray for peace across the world, and especially for the people of Ukraine and eastern Europe.

Day trip to Walsingham: The Parish Pilgrimage to our National Catholic Shrine in Walsingham is this coming Friday 13th May. The coach will be leaving St. Mary's at 8am. There is still time to join, so if you would like to join us, please write your name on the sheet at the back of the Church or contact the Parish office.

Retiring Collection: This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday when we are invited by the Church to pray in a particular way for a vocation to the priesthood. Please pray for Vocations and for those who are training for the priesthood. There is also a retiring collection to support the promotion of vocations at next weekend's Masses.

Gift Aid: If you wish to join the Gift Aid scheme, please contact the Parish office.

Michael Hebron RIP funeral: Michael's funeral will be held in Brentwood Cathedral on Wednesday 11th May at 11am. Michael was well known to many parishioners here at St Mary's. May he rest in peace.

Readers and Eucharistic ministers: Would anyone who was on the Pre-Covid rota and is not yet on the Post-Covid rota, but would like to be, please contact Brian on 07790 321845 or brianjr1948@gmail.com. We particularly need more readers, especially for 9.30am Mass. Thank you

CAFOD boxes: We are now collecting the CAFOD Lenten appeal boxes. Please leave them at the back of the church on the table near the repository after weekend Masses or pop them in to the Parish office.

Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life: On Saturday 16th July at Brentwood Cathedral, Bishop Alan Williams will be celebrating Mass for couples or individuals who may be celebrating significant wedding anniversaries, are recently married, couples preparing for marriage, or individuals or couples who are involved in delivering marriage preparation. It is followed by a reception in the hall. If you wish to attend, please speak to Father Martin or contact the Parish office.

Baby and Toddler Group: The Baby and Toddler Group has been running in the Parish Hall for over 30 years and now lockdown is over we would like to open up again. However, without volunteers this will not happen. We need any adult, with or without young children, to help put out the toys and equipment before the group starts and to tidy up and put away after the group finishes. This involves coming at 1.30 every Tuesday during school term and leaving just as the school finishes at 3.10 which fits in very nicely to pick up older children. Also, we need one person to make tea for the adults during the session, preferably with no young children.

Please support this group and let the legacy started by Sister Teresa continue into the future. Give your name and phone number into the Parish office or ring Brenda on 07958 605039.

Many Thanks from Rainham Foodbank for your generous donations!: Specific non-food items currently needed are TOILET ROLLS (they never have enough!), size 5 and 6 nappies and shower gel. They also ask for food items such as pasta sauces and tins of fruit and rice pudding. They are very grateful for whatever you can donate, just one item is wonderful! *(there is a basket in the Church porch for donations)*. They said "Thank You for the Easter Eggs and for everything you give."

Well done, St. Mary's! (SVP)

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 Yvonne Ingham RIP, Grant Cambridge RIP, Brenda Bailey RIP Josephine Fahy RIP and Michael Hebron 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, Ruth Carroll, Martin Chandler, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Anna Gawlik, Betty Gemba, Sharon De Giorgio, Victor Guy, Fr Bob Hamill, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, Anne Humphrays, 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."

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace,
Whose son Jesus Christ taught us
To love our neighbour as ourselves,
Give your strength to the people of Ukraine,
Give your wisdom to the leaders of the world,
Give your love to all of us who pray for peace –
Peace that will transform,
Peace that will heal,
Peace that will last,
For the sake of the same Jesus Christ,
The Prince of Peace,
Amen.

Mass Intentions:

Saturday	7 th May	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Sally Goggin RIP / Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP
Sunday <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	8 th May	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP / Alayne Bone RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11:30am	Sam Farrugia RIP / Eddie Parr RIP / Michael McDonagh RIP
Monday	9 th May	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	10 th May	9.15am	Maureen Shannon RIP / Patrick Lenehan RIP
Wednesday	11 th May	7.30pm	Maisie & Frank Donovan RIP / Fr Joseph Farrell Int
Thursday <i>St John Houghton</i>	12 th May	9.15am	Irene Ball & Family RIP / Aidan Donovan RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday <i>St Erconwald</i>	13 th May	8.15am	The Jackson Family RIP / David Ruddiman RIP
Saturday <i>St Matthias</i>	14 th May	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Grant Cambridge RIP / Edward Walsh RIP
Sunday <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	15 th May	8.00am	Jim & Andrew Shanahan RIP / John Prior RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Bernard Lenehan Int / Helen Ging 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.