

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am-1pm – Wednesday closed



First Sunday of Advent Year A 27th November 2022

This Sunday we enter into the beautiful season of Advent. Our attitude at this time is one of watching and waiting, and the graces to pray for are joy and hope. Our weary world is in so much need of this spirit, and of the light and peace of the coming Christ.

The First Reading from Isaiah (Isaiah 2:1–5) looks forward to the time when the whole world will be gathered together in the peace of God's kingdom.

The Psalm (122) – one for pilgrims going joyfully up to Jerusalem – picks up this theme. They pray for peace: peace in the city, in their homes, and among all whom they know.

The Second Reading from the letter to the Romans (13: 11–14) is a reminder to 'wake up', for salvation is near. It is also an encouragement to live in the light.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel (Matthew 24: 37–44) to stay awake – we must not become so engrossed in our daily lives that we are unprepared when the Lord comes.

Let us renew our spirit of joyful hope this week. We also place the needs of our world before Jesus as we prepare for his coming.

CONFIRMATION 2023: Application forms for our 2023 Confirmation programme are now available at the back of the church. There will be a meeting for all young people of our Parish, in Year 10 or above, along with their parents/guardians who wish to enroll on the course on **Wednesday 7th December at 8pm** in the Parish Hall. A list of what you need to bring with you to this meeting is in the application pack.

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!: We are looking to build a vibrant and diverse group of catechists that truly represent our Parish family to help our teenage Confirmation candidates grow in their faith, could this be for you? If so, please contact Jo Luxton on 07961037786

CHURCH CLEANING: Church cleaning takes place every Friday morning, 9am-10am. We could really do with a couple more people to help with this. If you think you could help, please speak to Fr Martin or the Parish office.

REPOSITORY SHOP: We are looking for volunteers to help run the shop after weekend Masses. Please contact the Parish office or speak to Fr Martin if you can help. We also have lots of new bits such as Advent calendars & candles, Christmas cards, Christmas tree ornaments, children's Nativity sets and lots more – come and see!

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH: On Tuesday 29th November, 8pm- 9.30pm in the Van Meenan room. Please message Liz or Karen if you are interested in coming along. Liz- 07801708017
Karen- 07876753029

PASS IT ON!: This is a multigenerational social group, bringing older and younger people together. The group meets monthly in St Mary's Parish Hall, Hornchurch on a Saturday 2pm - 4pm. This is free group, open to all and refreshments are provided.

The next meeting is Saturday 3rd December. If you have any specific queries or if you require any assistance with travel, please contact Joanne on 07985 496196.

GIFT AID: As a Parish we have raised an amazing total of **£16,387.50** through gift aid in the 2021/2022 financial year. Thank you to all of you who donate through gift aid. Gift Aid is a tremendous way for any taxpayer (including pensioners who pay tax) to support the parish. It is really simple: you complete just one form (located at the back of the church), and after that 25% of whatever you give is added to your donation. It is like free money, from your taxes, directly to the parish. So, you give £1, and the tax office give 25p, and so your donation is £1.25.

No extra cost to you – but a massive extra benefit to the parish.

If you wish to join the Gift Aid scheme, there are forms available at the back of the church or you can contact the Parish office.

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.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES 2023: Applications are now open for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 23rd – 30th July 2023! Open to anyone in school year 10 and above, all information and details on how to apply can be found at www.bcys.net/events/sl23

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.

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Laura Spicer RIP who has died recently. Please keep her family in your prayers.

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 Cornish, John Dawson, David Donovan,

Arturo Garzon, Anna Gawlik, Betty Gemba, Victor Guy, Fr Bob Hamill,

Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, Anne Humphrays, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph,

Pauline Joyce Bertha Samuels, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Bina McCarthy,

Carly Menon, Bridget O'Sullivan, Phil & Tony Reed, Paul Ridley, Susan Squires, Anne 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	26 th November	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Tom Millar RIP / Kevin Rogers RIP
Sunday <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	27 th November	8.00am	Kathy & Michael O’Dea Int / Peter & Sarah Finch Int / Evelyn O’Neill Int
		9.30am	Holy Souls / All Parishioners
		11.30am	Fredrick Jervis RIP / Eamon Commins RIP
Monday	28 th November	9.15am	Holy Souls / Norah Lenehan RIP / Fr Patrick Okoye RIP
Tuesday	29 th November	9.15am	Holy Souls / Paul Galler RIP / John Carpenter RIP
Wednesday <i>St Andrew</i>	30 th November	7.30pm	Holy Souls / Eileen Jonas Int
Thursday	1 st December	9.15am	Ellen & Billy Delahunty RIP / George Finch Int
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	2 nd December	8.15am	Barbara & Philip Brown RIP / Kathleen & Victor Payne RIP
Saturday <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	3 rd December	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Helen Miranda Int / Myles Doody RIP
Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	4 th December	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Mary O’Connell RIP / Ann Cahill Int / Angelina Juma Mondoh RIP
		11.30am	Maureen O’Connell RIP / Shaila John RIP – months mind Mass

Hospital: If you are going into 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.