

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



Second Sunday of Advent Year A - Page 28 4th December 2022

As we take another step into Advent, the First Reading (Isaiah 11: 1–10) introduces one of the main themes of this period of the year: Peace. Isaiah paints a picture of the whole world, of people and animals living together in harmony, led by a King who has all the qualities to rule justly.

St Paul, when he writes to the Romans, also mentions the hope that can be found in Scripture. All the more reason, then, for us to be tolerant of one another, so we can all give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Second Reading Romans 15: 4–9)

In this week's Gospel (Matthew 3: 1–12), John the Baptist appears by the River Jordan to entreat people to repent and prepare a way for the one who is to come. He tells them that being a son or daughter of Abraham will not be enough to be sure of being saved. There is no room for complacency. People are to repent; to change their way of life.

Mindful of this week's readings, we can perhaps look around us and, by word or deed, encourage people to set out on their journey to meet Jesus at Christmas. We continue to pray for all those who live in countries where there is no peace.

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Christmas Masses is your personal gift to your Priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Easter this provides a major part of their income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Monday 12 th December	Christmas Reconciliation service	7.30pm
Saturday 24 th December	Christmas Eve carol service followed by Mass	6.00pm 6.30pm
	Midnight Mass carol service	8.30pm
	Midnight Mass	9.00pm
Sunday 25 th December	Christmas Day	8.00am
	Christmas Day	9.30am
	Christmas Day carol service followed by Mass	11.00am 11.30am

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.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE: On Monday 12th December there will a Christmas Reconciliation service at 7.30pm in the church. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR AT 6.30PM MASS: On Saturday 24th December, Christmas Eve, children are invited to join Michelle in the choir loft at 5.45pm to sing with the choir. Please bring water and bells!

CHURCH CLEANING AT CHRISTMAS: On Monday 19th December at 9.45am, volunteers are needed to clean the church in preparation for Christmas. Please come along and help if you can.

CAMPION SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING: On Wednesday 7th December at 6.30pm there will be an open evening for all external students for entry in September 2023.

FOOD BANK: The Rainham Foodbank closes for Christmas from 19 December. If you would like to make any Christmas or normal food donations, please let us have them by Sunday 11th December. Many thanks, SVP Foodbank Team

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!

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 7th January. If you have any specific queries or if you require any assistance with travel, please contact Joanne on 07985 496196.

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.

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.

GIFT AID: Gift Aid is a tremendous way for any taxpayer (including pensioners who pay tax) to support the parish. It is 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Sheila Robinson 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 <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	3 rd December	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Myles Doody RIP / Helen Miranda Int
Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	4 th December	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Mary O'Connell RIP / Angelina Juma Mondoh RIP / Ann Cahill Int
		11:30am	Maureen O'Connell RIP / Shaila John RIP – months mind Mass / Evelyn Ward Int
Monday	5 th December	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Mary McCarthy RIP / Shaila John RIP months mind Mass
Tuesday	6 th December	9.15am	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP / Mary Loughlin RIP
Wednesday <i>Vigil of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	7 th December	7.30pm	Sheila Brunton RIP / Patrick Lenehan RIP / Margaret Irwin RIP
Thursday <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	8 th December	9.15am	Larry Farrell RIP / Amanda Flanery RIP / Thomas Maguire Int
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	9 th December	8.15am	Ellen Lenehan RIP / Myles Doody RIP / Kitty O'Shea RIP
Saturday	10 th December	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Joyce Rafferty RIP 10 th anniversary / Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP
Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	11 th December	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP / Colette, Paddy & Niamh Kavanagh RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	PJ Reilly RIP / Charlotte Flynn RIP / Mike Wigley & Veronica Whitworth Int

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.