

# 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



## **Third Sunday of Advent Year A Page 31 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

On this ‘Gaudete’ Sunday, the liturgy begins with an invitation to ‘rejoice!’ Just as in the darkness of midwinter we long for light, so in the darkness of a world suffering the consequences of war and human greed, we long for the transforming light of Christ. But all around us are prophetic signs of God’s love at work, bringing us hope in darkness, and reminding us of the joyful life we are called to live.

Today the Scriptures encourage us to listen, and to see the prophetic voices and signs of our times. In the First Reading, Isaiah (35: 1–6.10) acclaims a joyful vision of Christ’s coming. Dimmed eyes will be opened; the lame will leap for joy; and we can have courage because the Lord is near.

The Second Reading (James 5: 7–10) is a letter of encouragement, counselling us to be watchful and patient. The Lord is close at hand.

The Gospel (Matthew 11: 2–11) describes a meeting between Jesus and the followers of the imprisoned John. Jesus encourages John’s disciples not to lose faith. Jesus himself is the one of whom the ancient prophets spoke. As followers of Christ, let us take courage, and prayerfully support one another to be patient and faithful to the liberating message of the Good News.

We belong to a loving community that longs for, and trusts in, the light of Christ, even in the midst of long winter nights and during these challenging times.

**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 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Reconciliation service	7.30pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve carol service	6.00pm
	followed by Mass	6.30pm
	Midnight Mass carol service	8.30pm
	Midnight Mass	9.00pm
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day	8.00am
	Christmas Day	9.30am
	Christmas Day carol service	11.00am
	followed by Mass	11.30am

**CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9.45am, volunteers are needed to clean the church in preparation for Christmas. Please come along and help if you can.

**CHRISTMAS EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS:** The clipboard for readers and Eucharistic ministers to volunteer for Christmas weekend will be in the porch for the next two weekends, first come, first served.

**TODDLER GROUP:** Santa is visiting the baby and Toddler's group on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in the parish hall. Please bring your child a gift wrapped named present for Santa to give to them. Lots of photo opportunities. £2 per family. Under 5's only.

**RECENTLY BAPTISED CHILDREN:** We welcome Riches Emenike Onuoha, Majesty Chizihere Emenike Onuoha, Pearl Emenike Onuoha, Callie Capaloff-Williams, Sophie Brown, Kit Cubitt, Oliver Duffy, Harry Agor, Theodore Hitchman, Liam Perpepaj & Mollie Kenton who were Baptised recently and are now beloved members of God's Holy Family.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks, SVP Foodbank Team

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH** at home and in hospital, especially:

Margaret Baan, Ashley Baptist, Jim Carroll, 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	10 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Joyce Rafferty RIP 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary / Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP
Sunday <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>8.00am</b>	Mary McCarthy RIP / Colette, Paddy & Niamh Kavanagh RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11:30am</b>	PJ Reilly RIP / Charlotte Flynn RIP / Mike Wigley & Veronica Whitworth Int
Monday	12 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Robert Edgley RIP / Rev Fr Edward Daly RIP
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Christmas Reconciliation Service
Tuesday <i>St Lucy</i>	13 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Frankie Lunney & Family RIP / The Gallagher Family RIP
		<b>7.00pm</b>	School Advent service
Wednesday <i>St John of the Cross</i>	14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>7.30pm</b>	Dermot Donoghue RIP / Rory Maguire Int
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Annie McDermottroe RIP / V R Thomas RIP
		<b>9.45-12 noon</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>8.15am</b>	Eileen & Frank Murphy RIP / Eileen Sheehan RIP
Saturday	17 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Sally Goggin RIP / Doug Wilson RIP
Sunday <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>8.00am</b>	Jim & Andrew Shanahan RIP / Cecilia Hope RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Sam Farrugia RIP / Eamon Commins RIP / Pilar Leon Werle RIP

**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.