

# ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

Tel: 01708 447761

Email: [hornchurchstmmg@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:hornchurchstmmg@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Website: [www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk](http://www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

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



## Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Arriving at the climax of Advent, today's readings show God asking for our love and our trust. They also demonstrate God's faithfulness to us, sending Jesus to save us. Isaiah is sent to comfort King Ahaz (**First Reading** Isaiah 7: 10–14), who has turned away from God. Isaiah sees through the false humility of Ahaz, but still gives him a sign: a maiden will give birth to a son, Emmanuel – 'God-is-with-us'.

This same prophesy is echoed in the **Gospel** (Matthew 1: 18–24). Joseph also faces a difficult situation, but God speaks through an angel in Joseph's dreams, reassuring him that his son is a gift of the Holy Spirit destined to be the Saviour. Joseph follows the angel's command, placing his whole trust in God.

St Paul emphasises both the human and divine aspect of Jesus, who is both a descendant of David and the Son of God. It is Jesus alone who can bring us grace and peace. (**Second Reading** Romans 1: 1–7)

As we wait in expectant hope for the Lord's coming, let's pray for the grace that, like Joseph, we might listen with the ear of faith, and respond obediently to the Lord's call. We also pray especially for peace throughout the world. Just as we welcome Jesus into our own hearts, we ask the Lord to help us embrace and welcome all those whom we encounter.

**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:**

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve carol service followed by Mass	6.00pm 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 followed by Mass	11.00am 11.30am

**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.

**SVP:** The SVP would like to thank you all for the generous food offerings this year and the anonymous person who very kindly donated money for the Rainham foodbank. They are very grateful.

**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.

**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 REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Chris Redmond RIP who has died recently.

Please keep his 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, Jim Carroll, Ruth Carroll, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, David Donovan, Anita Garnier, 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	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 / Anita Garnier Int
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11:30am</b>	Sam Farrugia RIP / Eamon Commins RIP / Pilar Leon Werle RIP
Monday	19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Nora Maguire RIP / Timothy Joseph Sullivan RIP
Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Rita Maher RIP / Peggy & David Walsh RIP
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>7.30pm</b>	Bruce Waskett RIP / Bill Waskett RIP
Thursday	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Joseph Ma RIP / Rev Bro John Mary Watters CP RIP / Margaret Andrews RIP (Catherine Orchard's Mum)
		<b>9.45-12 noon</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Doley & Gerry Gallagher RIP / Christine Franklyn Int / Christine Johnson Int
Saturday <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>6pm</b>	Christmas Eve Carol Service
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Don Goggin RIP / Mary Harkins RIP
		<b>8.30pm</b>	Midnight Mass Carol Service
		<b>9pm</b>	All Holy Souls & Unborn children / Alby Edgley RIP / Helen Thomson (nee Taylor) RIP / The Bray Family Int
Sunday <i>Christmas Day</i>	25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>8.00am</b>	Father Patrick & Sister Teresa RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11am</b>	Christmas Day Carol Service
		<b>11.30am</b>	Jack Hughes RIP / John Hanley & Family 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.