

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



CHRISTMAS DAY

Heavenly king, yet born of Mary;
Jesus Son of God, **we** praise and adore you.
Eternal Word, yet child without speech;
Jesus, Son of God, **we** praise and adore you.
Robed in glory, yet wrapped in infant clothes;
Jesus, Son of God, **we** praise and adore you.
Lord of Heaven and earth, yet laid in a manger;
Jesus, Son of God, **we** praise and adore you.

To you, O Jesus, strong in our weakness,
glorious in your humility,
mighty to save, be all praise and glory,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



*Fr Martin wishes you and your families
a Happy Christmas and a Holy New Year*

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.

CRIB OFFERINGS: Once again this Christmas, we will be raising money for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please do give what you can.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING:

May there be harmony in all your relationships. May sharp words, envious thoughts, and hostile feelings be dissolved.

May you give and receive love generously. May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ. May the honour given the Babe in Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

May the hope of this sacred, season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you. May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.

May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide you and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world.

Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp



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.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.



O Come Let Us Adore Him

Mass Intentions:

Saturday <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	24 th December	6pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service
		6.30pm	Don Goggin RIP / Mary Harkins RIP
		8.30pm	Midnight Mass Carol Service
		9pm	All Holy Souls & Unborn children / Alby Edgley RIP / Helen Thomson (nee Taylor) RIP / The Bray Family Int
Sunday <i>Christmas Day</i>	25 th December	8.00am	Father Patrick & Sister Teresa RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11am	Christmas Day Carol Service
		11.30am	Jack Hughes RIP / John Hanley & Family Int
Monday <i>St Stephen</i>	26 th December	10am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Winnie Carpenter RIP
Tuesday <i>St John</i>	27 th December	9.15am	Sarah & Frank Horack RIP / Rev Fr Pascal Marshall CP RIP
Wednesday <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	28 th December	9.15am	Kathy O'Dea Int / Tessy Omwuka Int
Thursday <i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i>	29 th December	9.15am	Mrs Jones RIP / John Daly RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	30 th December	9.15am	Scott Milne RIP / Kathleen & Paddy Mollaghan RIP
Saturday <i>Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas</i>	31 st December	6.30pm	Kevin Hopkins RIP / Hugh Lennon RIP / Patricia Pearce RIP / Mary Coleman Int
Sunday <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	1 st January	8am	George Bickham and family RIP / Johnny Martin and family RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Frank McNally RIP / Chris Redmond RIP / James & Moyra How 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.