

# 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



## **Feast of Mary, Mother of God Year A – Page 46 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

Today's Feast of Mary, the Mother of God is a very appropriate way to begin a new year. It reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. We remember with joy and gratitude how Mary and her Divine Son Jesus transformed a hopeless, joyless and sinful world into a place of joy and happiness.

We are blessed as Mary, Mother of God is Patron of our Parish. Today is our Feast Day!

In the First reading (Numbers 6:22-27) we hear part of the story of Hebrews' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, the priests blessing the people: "May the Lord bless you and keep you." These words of blessing, of strength, courage and hope will accompany us as we journey through the year. The message of hope contained in this blessing was fully realized in a woman, Mary, who was destined to become the Mother of God, and it was fulfilled in her.

Today's Gospel (Luke 2:16-21) tells us that the first people who came to adore the Baby Jesus were the shepherds. They were told by the angels not to be afraid and on this Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, the Church tells us that we should not be afraid. We should enter the new year asking Our Blessed Mother, to help us and the whole world.

I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich each of your lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings.

*Fr Martin*

**A BIG THANK YOU:** Fr Martin would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to prepare for Christmas – church cleaners, altar servers, choir, musicians, flower ladies, stewards, crib builders etc. It was truly a wonderful Christmas celebration. Also, a big thank you to everyone for their most generous Christmas offerings, plus cards and gifts. God Bless You.

**CRIB OFFERINGS:** Many thanks to those who have donated to the crib offerings so far. A reminder that the money will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:** Holy Day of Obligation, Masses will be said at 9.15am and 7.30pm.

**CONFIRMATION MASS OF ACCEPTANCE:** Next Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January the first meeting for candidates will be in the Parish Hall at 5pm, followed by Enrolment Mass at 6.30pm in the church with your parents.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** We can only have a certain number of intentions per Mass, so to avoid disappointment, please book well in advance!

**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.

**UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY WINTER APPEAL – BISHOP ALAN WRITES:** Ukrainians remain resilient despite the circumstances of the war, but they are in the throes of a harsh winter. For that reason a new Emergency Winter Appeal was launched to provide food packages for the most vulnerable on the frontlines and in recently liberated regions in East and South Ukraine which is suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis. The cost of one food parcel, providing enough food for two people for a week costs approximately £16. Each package contains the basics (grains, flour, pasta, meat and fish preserves, oil, canned vegetables, sugar, tea coffee, biscuits, etc.) It is hoped that £160,00 can be raised allow the supply of 10,000 food parcels to those most in need and I ask that you and your parishioners will consider supporting this Emergency Winter Appeal.

Funds can be remitted to:

Account Name: Ukrainian Catholic Church Central Fund

Account Number: 20927317

Sort Code: 20-92-60

Or by cheques made payable to Ukrainian Catholic Church referencing *Winter Appeal* in both cases. The address for cheques is Ukrainian Catholic Church in Great Britain, 22 Binney Street, London, W1K 5BQ

**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:

<b>Saturday</b> <i>Seventh day within the Octave Of Christmas</i>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Kevin Hopkins RIP / Hugh Lennon RIP / Patricia Pearce RIP / Mary Coleman Int
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	George Bickham and family RIP / Johnny Martin and family RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11:30am</b>	Frank McNally RIP / Chris Redmond RIP / James & Moyra How RIP / Michael Shean RIP
<b>Monday</b> <i>SS Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Rita Kyrou RIP
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Dennis Paschal Donelan RIP / Catherine Lennon RIP
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Frank Mollaghan RIP / Georgina Compton Int (16 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Shaila John RIP / Bill Adams & Family RIP
		<b>9.45-12 noon</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Friday</b> <i>The Epiphany of The Lord</i>  <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP / Les Wiggan & Family RIP
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Peace in Ukraine
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Marie Goggin RIP / Clare Brien RIP / Chris Redmond RIP
<b>Sunday</b> <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>9.30am</b>	Sam Farrugia RIP / Rev Bro Columban Halt CP RIP
		<b>11.30am</b>	Emma & Mary Lowe RIP / Sheila Eastwood 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.