

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 – The Baptism of the Lord Year A – Page 53 8th January 2023

As we begin the New Year we may be full of optimism for the year ahead or perhaps weighed down by troubles, our own, our country or those of our world. Perhaps I ask myself, “What am I really looking for in 2023?” Whatever our thoughts or mood, the readings for this week remind us that God is with each of us, blessing us with His peace. The Lord will bless his people with peace. (**Psalm 28**)

Through his baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus’ identity, Son of God, and his mission is proclaimed in the **Gospel** (Matthew 3: 13-17). Truly he is the Messiah God’s people had been longing for.

The prophet Isaiah (**first Reading** – Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7) describes this mission: Jesus is the chosen one who will bring justice and freedom, God’s Kingdom, through his teaching, healing and forgiveness of sins.

The **second reading** from the Acts of the Apostles (10: 34-38) is the account of the baptism of Cornelius and his household, the first Gentiles to be converted. God loves all people; he has no favourites.

As I slowly pray over the readings, Christ’s baptism may help me reflect afresh on my own baptism. I too am a beloved daughter or son of God. I too am called to make known the love of God, our Father, to all I meet, to heal, to love, to forgive, to spread the peace of Christ.

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.

PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED: 55 of our young people have started their faith journey to their Confirmation at Pentecost, they need your support, and we would ask if you could do this with your prayers. We are looking for members of the parish to become their prayer partners. All that would be required of you is to put your name on the list in the porch. We will then allocate a young person or persons to your name and ask if you would pray for them during this time. Our Confirmation candidates are hoping to host a coffee morning before their Confirmation which you would be invited to. Our young people thank you for your consideration.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS PREFERENCES: Please be reminded that the Mass preference sheet has to be handed in to the Parish office by **Friday 13th January**.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP: St Mary's Baby and Toddler Group reopens Tuesday 10th January at 2pm in the parish hall. (Please ring buzzer on school gate for entry.) £2 per family per session.

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 4th February. If you have any specific queries or if you require any assistance with travel, please contact Joanne on 07985 496196.

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

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.

PRIVATE PRAYER & ADORATION: Every Thursday after the 9.15am Mass until 12 noon.

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 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	7 th January	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Marie Goggin RIP / Clare Brien RIP / Chris Redmond RIP
Sunday <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	8 th January	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Sam Farrugia RIP / Rev Bro Columban Halt CP RIP
		11:30am	Emma & Mary Lowe RIP / Sheila Eastwood RIP
Monday	9 th January	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Diane Geary RIP / Alby Edgley RIP
Tuesday	10 th January	9.15am	Daniel Doody & Family RIP / Mr Tim Sullivan Int
Wednesday	11 th January	7.30pm	Hannah & Dan Falvey RIP / James Reardon Int
Thursday	12 th January	9.15am	Lisa Taylor RIP / Stella Dansie RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	13 th January	8.15am	Daryl Joshua RIP / Brian Palmer Int
Saturday	14 th January	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP / Brigid McNally RIP
Sunday <i>Second Sunday in ordinary time</i>	15 th January	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP / Chris Redmond RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Teresa Woods RIP / Stephen Kennedy 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.