

# 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 Ordinary Time  
Year A  
22nd January 2023**

‘The Lord is my light and my help’

Pope Francis has designated today as the **Sunday of the Word of God**, when we are reminded that the Lord is in constant dialogue with his people through his Holy Word. Let us ask to hear the Lord and enter more deeply into relationship with him as we pray.

In the **First Reading** (Isaiah 8: 23–9:3), Isaiah foretells of the Lord coming among his people, describing him as a light who will guide them through darkness, easing their burden and bringing them joy.

The **Second Reading** (1 Cor. 1:10–13:17) is a heartfelt call for unity, made to the early church in Corinth. It is a timely reminder for today’s Church that we are all united though the Good News we are called to proclaim. Christ is one and cannot be divided up: we are all one in him.

Isaiah’s ancient prophecy of the Messiah as a light in the darkness is repeated in today’s **Gospel** (Matthew 4: 12–23), where Matthew links it to the start of Jesus’s mission. On hearing that John the Baptist has been arrested, Jesus sets out and begins to preach, using the same call to repentance as John did. Just as John had gathered a small group of followers, so Jesus invites the first of his disciples.

As we pray, let’s remember that we, too, are called to follow Jesus. We do not pray alone but belong to a community of believers united by our baptism. We share the same hope of which the psalmist sang and are guided by the same light that Isaiah spoke of. May we seek and build the unity that Paul longed for.

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** Next weekend on the 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> January there will be a second collection for the white flower appeal after all masses. Information leaflets are available at the back of the church.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** The allocation of both Year 3 and Year 4 First Holy Communion Masses have been sent out on Friday via email. If you have a child in either Year 3 or Year 4 and have not received this email, please contact the parish office.

**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 (please also provide a phone number so we can get in contact with you).** 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.

**BABY & TODDLER GROUP:** Join us at St Mary's Baby and Toddler Group each Tuesday 2pm in the Parish Hall (Please ring buzzer on school gate for entry.) Term time only. £2 per family. All welcome.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

**FOODBANK:** Please leave your donations for the foodbank at the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**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 REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Abigail (Bina) McCarthy RIP, Kathleen Murphy RIP and Anita Garnier RIP who have died recently. Please keep their families in your prayers.

**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, 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 <i>St Agnes</i>	21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Deceased members of the Ireton & How families RIP / Margaret McNally Int
Sunday <i>Third Sunday in ordinary time</i>	22 <sup>nd</sup> January	<b>8.00am</b>	All Deceased Priests / Johnny Carey RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11:30am</b>	Jack Hughes RIP / Roselyn Young Int
Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Giannine Chorley RIP / Sophie Fitzpatrick Int
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Mary & JJ Corbett RIP / Dennis & Carmel Davin RIP
Wednesday <i>The conversion of St. Paul</i>	25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>7.30pm</b>	Frank McDermott RIP / Colette Dawson Int
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Mrs Stella Dansie RIP / Christine & Eamonn O'Mahoney RIP
		<b>9.45-12 noon</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>8.15am</b>	Mr Stephen Stuart RIP / Terri Webb Int
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Andrew Shanahan RIP / Leo Naughton RIP / Gerolamo Manzoni RIP
Sunday <i>Fourth Sunday in ordinary time</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>8.00am</b>	Chris Redmond RIP / Michelle McKeogh Int.
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Eamon Commings RIP / Ann McNally 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.*