

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



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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29th January 2023

This Sunday's readings invite us to see our lives and values through God's eyes, rather than judging by human standards. Even when life hurts, we feel inadequate, or others disregard us, God's promised kingdom of justice and gentle compassion gives us cause for great hope and rejoicing. In the first reading, the humble and lowly—those who hold fast to faith and integrity—are promised rest and tranquillity in the Lord. The psalmist, too, praises the Lord for his unfailing care for all the oppressed: the hungry, the captive, the blind, and the stranger.

The Corinthians are reminded that they were not chosen because they were exceptional people. Instead, God picks the ones others often dismiss, rather than the ones we might expect. None of us can boast in our own achievements, for as 'members of Christ Jesus', all of our gifts are God's own work within us. Jesus shows us the true heart of Christian living in the Gospel. In God's kingdom, it is not the rich, the successful and the powerful who are truly happy and fortunate, but the 'poor in spirit': the compassionate, the gentle, the persecuted, and the bereaved.

This week, then, I might ask God to help me see what being truly 'poor in spirit' means in my own daily life, and to recognise more and more my total dependence on him.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: This weekend there will be a second collection for the white flower appeal after all masses.

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 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!

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH: A monthly drop in group for tea, biscuits and chatting about your faith, all are welcome! Next session is on Tuesday 31st January, 8-9.30pm in The Van Meenan Room with Liz, Karen & Teresa. For more information call Liz on 07801708017.

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.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: 23rd July - 30th July. Travel alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage to assist the elderly and infirm, as well as joining them for social time, retreat, reconciliation, the baths, a trip to the stunning mountain town of Gavarnie, social nights and party as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession. Open to all those in school year 10 and above. For all information and to apply, visit our website www.bcys.net/events/sl23 - Applications open until the end of January!

BCYS YOUTH MASS WITH CARTIAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD: On Thursday 2nd February, join us in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm for pizza, refreshments and a chance to hear from guest speakers from Caritas and the SVP, helping us to think about charitable giving as we begin to prepare for the season of Lent. Youth Mass is in the Cathedral at 7:30pm, and will be celebrated by Fr Dan Kelly. Everyone is welcome! See www.bcys.net or email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information.

CYMFed FLAME: On Saturday 4th March at OVO Arena, Wembley. With incredible speakers Cardinal Tagle, Salesian Archbishop of Melbourne and many more, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols this promises to be an incredible and inspiring day for young people! Passes cost just £24/person if you book before 31st January, and the BCYS has a limited number left so please email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org to reserve yours! All information at www.bcys.net/events

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 Bridie McDonagh RIP, Abigail (Bina) McCarthy RIP, Anne Humphrays 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, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, Mary Devlin, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Anna Gawlik, Betty Gemba, Victor Guy, Fr Bob Hamill, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, 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	28 th January	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Andrew Shanahan RIP / Leo Naughton RIP / Gerolamo Manzoni RIP
Sunday <i>Fourth Sunday in ordinary time</i>	29 th January	8.00am	Chris Redmond RIP / Michelle McKeogh Int
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11:30am	Eamon Commins RIP / Peter Yetton RIP / Ann McNally Int
Monday	30 th January	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Vincent Shannon RIP / Doreen Hart RIP
Tuesday <i>St John Bosco</i>	31 st January	11am	Funeral Anita Garnier RIP
Wednesday	1 st February	7.30pm	Martin Keane RIP / Gerry Lowler RIP / The Bray Family Int
Thursday <i>The presentation of the Lord</i>	2 nd February	9.15am	Mary Picton RIP / Barry Welch RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday <i>St Anne Line</i>	3 rd February	8.15am	Josie & Jim McCardle RIP / John Codling RIP
Saturday	4 th February	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Brigid McNally RIP / Johanna Walshe RIP
Sunday <i>Fifth Sunday in ordinary time</i>	5 th February	8.00am	Frank McDermott RIP / Evelyn & Andy Int
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Sam Farrugia RIP / Shaila John RIP / Rita Thompson 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.