

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



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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5th February 2023

Our readings this Sunday lead us to focus on what Jesus considers to be the qualities of his disciples. In following his teaching, we can become silent witnesses to his kingdom in our world.

Isaiah, in the First Reading (Isaiah 58: 7–10), tells the returned exiles that their prayer and observance are not just for themselves, but for action – and for sharing with their neighbour. They, in turn, will be healed by the way they live.

The Psalm (112) is a prayer of praise for the ‘good man’, who acts with generosity, mercy and justice. The good person reveals something of God to others. Their good deeds will be rewarded with glory.

St Paul, in the Second Reading (1 Corinthians 2: 1–5), tells how he went about humbly to preach a crucified Christ, so that his hearers should build their faith not on human philosophy, but on the power of God.

In the Gospel (Matthew 5: 13–16) Jesus tells us that we are to be salt of the earth and light of the world. This is how we give the Father praise.

Let us strive this week to remember that in the darkness of today’s world, we are called to be Christ-like in everything that we do, and in the way we live.

PRAYER PARTNERS: On behalf of our candidates for Confirmation a BIG THANK YOU for all of those who offered to be Prayer Partners. Please find an envelope addressed to you, placed in the church porch, which contains the name and brief information of your candidate. Thank you once again for your support and prayers.

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 March. 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 28th February, 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!

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: 5th – 12th September 2023, with All Saints Travel Ltd and Fr John Moloney. Be face to face with the world of Jesus and His Gospel, lived out before your eyes. The beautiful, tried and tested 8-day itinerary promises to bring the faithful pilgrim an unforgettable and life-changing experience. This pilgrimage will include a non-stop return flight from the UK to Tel Aviv Aviv with Israel's national airline, EL AL (in-flight meals included), all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner every day), an executive touring coach, a professional local Christian guide, all entrance fees, all tips and gratuities (paid directly to the guide, driver and hotel staff), as well as luxurious 5* en-suite accommodation. You will stay at a 5-star hotel in Jerusalem for 4 nights and in a 5-star hotel set on the Sea of Galilee with stunning views and private beach access for 3 nights. Full details are online <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/HL0756/>

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, Betty Gemba RIP, Margaret Baan RIP, and Anne Humphrays 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: Ashley Baptist, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, Mary Devlin, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Anna Gawlik, 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	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
Monday <i>St Paul Miki & Comps</i>	6 th February	9.15am	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP / Norah Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	7 th February	9.15am	Mr & Mrs O'Donnell RIP / John Codling RIP
Wednesday	8 th February	7.30pm	Catherine Cody RIP / Eileen Jonas Int
Thursday	9 th February	9.15am	Bernadette Curley RIP / Brian Maguire Int
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday <i>St Scholastica</i>	10 th February	8.15am	Des O'Brien RIP / Richard Mokler RIP
Saturday <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	11 th February	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP / Madge McNally Int
Sunday <i>Sixth Sunday in ordinary time</i>	12 th February	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP / John Dennehy RIP
		9.30am	Frank McDermott RIP / Mr & Mrs Medley RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners

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.