

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.



**1st Sunday in Lent
Year A
26th February 2023**

Lord, give me again the joy of your help!

At the beginning of this season of Lent, I try to spend a little more time with the Lord if circumstances allow. I remind myself that this is a time to take stock, a chance to start again, an opportunity for renewal. It is also a time to examine the way we love others, as we try to reflect the way Jesus loves the Father and loves each one of us.

Today's First Reading (Genesis 2: 7–9; 3: 1–7) tells the story of our first parents who, though created in love and for love, fell to the way of selfishness. In response, Christ (the 'new Adam') conquers the tempter (Gospel - Matthew 4: 1–11) and offers us salvation that we could never earn or deserve (Second Reading - Romans 5: 12–19).

God's kindness and compassion, revealed especially in Christ's loving sacrifice, create for us a pure heart and put a steadfast spirit within us (Psalm 50), giving us the power to choose life and to live in freedom.

This week, perhaps I will be drawn to choose one of the traditional Lenten practices: fasting, repentance or almsgiving, to help me to journey with our Lord towards his Passion and his Resurrection.

Fridays in Lent – Stations of the cross at 7pm followed by Mass.

SVP SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend there will be a second collection for the SVP Society. The St Vincent de Paul Society is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need. Please give whatever you can to support the most vulnerable in our local community.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY SECOND COLLECTION: This year the Parish and the school will be supporting CAFOD as our joint Lenten project. CAFOD donation envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Next weekend, on the 4th & 5th March there will be a second collection after all masses.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: We raised £403 for the White Flower appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

TURKEY & SYRIA APPEAL: We raised £1982.27 for the CAFOD & Disasters Emergency Committee – Turkey & Syria appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent, there will be stations of the cross every Friday evening at 7pm followed by Mass.

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.

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 Meenen Room with Liz, Karen & Teresa. For more information call Liz on 07801708017.

DIVINE MERCY LENTEN RETREAT: The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 25 March 2023 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at our church. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome.

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.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: The Catholic Women's League, Upminster, are meeting EVERY FIRST FRIDAY AT THE 9.15 MASS. Our next meeting is on Friday 3 March, we meet afterwards in our Social Centre, on St Mary's Lane for coffee, cake, and a chat. We also have a lunch club - The Ladies of the CWL cook lunch for all every Wednesday. Start time 12.00. Cost £5.00 for two courses, with tea or coffee.

ST JOSEPH'S CANTERBURY WALK: This year the pilgrimage will take place from Wednesday April 12th to Saturday April 15th. Canterbury Cathedral have kindly continued their tradition of welcoming us to celebrate the completion of our pilgrimage with a celebration of Mass in the Cathedral crypt; unchanged since the days of Becket himself and a place where, no doubt, the saint himself will have heard and said Mass in his day! We complete the 70 or so miles on foot, staying overnight in church halls, our luggage carried on our support vans. Anyone thinking about joining us on this, our 35th pilgrimage, are very welcome and are encouraged to attend our information and registration evening on Friday 10th March at 7.30pm. in the St Joseph's Upminster social club. For any enquiries, please contact (our chairman) *Andy Pearce on 07903 654288*

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 Margit (Margaret) Baan RIP, Cheryl Gowan RIP, Kathleen Brown RIP and Jim Carroll 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 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 TURKEY AND SYRIA

We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria.

We pray for everyone who is affected by the earthquake, those who have lost loved ones, and all who have lost their homes.

May they be comforted by so many people reaching out to offer support.

Lord, bless the efforts of rescuers and medical staff, and all agencies trying to help.

Move our hearts with compassion.

May our sisters and brothers know that they are loved and find their hope restored.

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	25 th February	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Pat Harrington RIP / Norah Lenehan RIP
Sunday	26 th February	8.00am	Jenny Phelan RIP / Joe Curtin Int
<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11:30am	Eamon Commins RIP / Helen Ging & her brother Christy RIP / Bridget & John Reilly & grandchildren RIP
Monday	27 th February	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Seamus Herbert RIP / Jim & Andrew Shanahan RIP
Tuesday	28 th February	10.30am	FUNERAL Margit Baan RIP
Wednesday	1 st March	7.30pm	Bina McCarthy RIP / Anne Humphrays RIP / Melvin Michaels RIP
<i>St David</i>			
Thursday	2 nd March	9.15am	Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP / Betty Gemba RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	3 rd March	8.15am	Eamon Fagan RIP / Jim Carroll RIP
		7.00pm	Stations of the cross followed by mass Holy Souls
Saturday	4 th March	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Gary Hughes RIP / Bridget McDonagh RIP / Josie Manning RIP
Sunday	5 th March	8.00am	All Parishioners
<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>		9.30am	Bridie McDonagh RIP / Marcus Oladipupo Olaniyan RIP
		11.30am	Sam Farrugia RIP / Shaila John 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.