

# 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.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
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**5<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Today's readings encourage us to think about our journey of faith in the company of the transfigured Lord, and the importance of trusting in the call and grace of God our Father.

The First Reading (Genesis 12: 1–4) tells of God's astonishing call to Abram to abandon his land, his family and his nation, and Abram's generous response. With divine blessing and guidance, Abram (who becomes Abraham) finds a new home and a new life, serving as an example to us all.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul makes it clear that we are called to holiness: a holiness not of our own making, but of God. We are invited to rely on the divine power and grace revealed by the life and death of Christ Jesus. Like Abraham, we, too, must learn to live by trusting in God's grace and his calling of us. (Second Reading Timothy 1: 8–10)

Trust in God the Father is exemplified above all in the life of Jesus. Today's Gospel (Matthew 17: 1–9) shows him transfigured on the mountain top, radiant with divine light. The Father proclaims Jesus as his Beloved Son and adds the all-important invitation: 'Listen to him'.

This week, we may like to pray for a deepening personal relationship with Christ Jesus. We ask to listen to his voice, to hear his call to personal ministry, and to feel his touch in our daily lives. We also continue to pray for peace in our troubled world.

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

**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. **This weekend there will be a second collection after all masses.**

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

**ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED:** If anyone would like to be an altar server, please see Fr Martin or contact the Parish office.

**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 – St Mary's. 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. Everyone 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 1<sup>st</sup> April.** 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 March 8-9.30pm in The Van Meenen Room with Liz, Karen & Teresa. For more information call Liz on 07801708017.

**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.

**HIT THE ROAD:** The Champion School's annual fundraising walk for the Teenage Cancer Trust takes place on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. The 20-mile walk from Woolwich starts off along the River Thames before heading through parks and woodlands to Charlton and Eltham and then making our way back to the river at Greenwich. We then follow the Thames to Tower Bridge, finishing our walk at the Brewdog, Tower Hill. The 10-mile walk starts near Grove Park Station and then follows the second half of the 20-mile route. The entry fee of £15 adults/£10 concessions includes a t-shirt and certificate. Further information, including online entry, is available on our school website.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM:** On Saturday 27th May 2023 join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come, please contact the Parish office.

**ST JOSEPH'S CANTERBURY WALK:** This year the pilgrimage will take place from Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup> to Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 35<sup>th</sup> pilgrimage, are very welcome and are encouraged to attend our information and registration evening on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. in the St Joseph's Upminster social club. For any enquiries, please contact (our chairman) *Andy Pearce* on 07903 654288

**WOMENS GLASSES FOUND:** If you have lost a pair of short-sighted glasses, please get in touch with the Parish office.

**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** Sheryl Gowan RIP, Margaret French 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.

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

# Mass Intentions:

Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Gary Hughes RIP / Bridget McDonagh RIP / Josie Manning RIP
Sunday <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>8.00am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>9.30am</b>	Bridie McDonagh RIP / Marcus Oladipupo Olaniyan RIP
		<b>11:30am</b>	Sam Farrugia RIP / Shaila John RIP
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>9.15am</b>	Eucharistic Service
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>7.30pm</b>	Rex Pearce RIP / Mr & Mrs Conway RIP
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>9.15am</b>	Martina Parker RIP / Anne Humphrays RIP
		<b>9.45-12 noon</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	10 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>8.15am</b>	Betty Gemba RIP / Bridget McDonagh RIP
		<b>7.00pm</b>	Stations of the cross followed by Mass Betty Gemba RIP / Margaret Doran RIP
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP / Roy Buck RIP / Bridget Lynch RIP
Sunday <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	12 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>8.00am</b>	Mary McCarthy RIP / Frank McDonagh RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Mr & Mrs Dodkins RIP / Chris Murphy RIP / KSC Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

**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.*