

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.



3rd Sunday in Lent Year A 12th March 2023

The readings for this Sunday centre around the themes of water and life, helping us to reflect on our true desires. As they thirst in the desert, the chosen people of Israel begin to lose their trust in God. God responds to Moses's urgent cry for help by providing water from a rock, thus satisfying their thirst. (First Reading Exodus 17: 3–7)

In the long Gospel (John 4: 5–42), Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. He brings her to new life by showing her respect and compassion. Jesus invites her to trust in him and drink from the 'living water' that only he can give her, revealing himself as the Messiah. She responds by rushing back to her hometown: a new disciple excitedly sharing Jesus's message.

The Second Reading (Romans 5: 1–2,5–8) reminds us how great is the depth of God's unconditional love for us: though sinners, we are forgiven. The 'living water' promised in the Gospel is God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us at our baptism. Our faith in Jesus quenches our thirst and brings us hope. During Lent, let's pray that in listening and responding with open hands and hearts to Jesus's invitation to draw and drink deeply from his well of 'living water', we may see ourselves and each other through eyes of love.

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

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 Mother of God. 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.

CHURCH CLEANING: Volunteers are needed to clean the church for Easter. If you can spare 30 minutes, please come along, and help on Monday 4th April at 9.45am.

SVP COLLECTION: We raised £1115.94. Thank you all for your generous donations.

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 1st 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 Meenen room. All are welcome to come and join us.

FIRST COMMUNION / CONFIRMATION: We have beautiful gifts and cards on display: pop into the Repository and have a look! But if you don't see what you want you can browse through our catalogue, and we can order it for you!

RECENTLY BAPTISED CHILDREN: We welcome Florence Rogers who was Baptised recently and is now a beloved member of God's Holy Family.

EVENTS AT ST. CEDD'S: 17 March – St Patrick's Night Dance, 8pm till late in the lower hall with music by Billy & The Northwinds and Irish Dancing display by Maguire O'Shea. Admission £7.50 per person. Bar open – bring your own nibbles. 18 March – Family Karaoke Night, 8pm onwards in the Club. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 25 March – Monthly Music Night, 8pm till late in the lower hall with music by Declan Gaynor. Admission £5 per person.

9 April – Easter Sunday Music Night – 8pm till late. Lower Hall – Music by Ramling Pete. Admission £5 per person. 21 April – Family Bingo Night – 8pm onwards. Lower Hall - £5 for 4 games plus bonus game. All welcome.

BCCS: The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> and click on 'Relay 100 Sponsored Walks' to read more about this event.

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."

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.

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	11 th March	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP / Roy Buck RIP / Bridget Lynch RIP
Sunday <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	12 th March	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP / Frank McDonagh RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Mr & Mrs Dodkins RIP / Chris Murphy RIP / KSC Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
Monday	13 th March	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / John O'Shea RIP / Marie & Selby Tweedie RIP
Tuesday	14 th March	11.00am	FUNERAL Kathleen Brown RIP
Wednesday	15 th March	7.30pm	Holy Souls / Pamela Williams RIP / Jacky Fisher RIP
Thursday	16 th March	11.00am	FUNERAL Sheryl Gowan RIP
Friday <i>St Patrick</i>	17 th March	11.00am	FUNERAL James Carroll RIP
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross followed by mass Ollie & Bridget Gilsean 50-year anniversary Pat & Annie Coleman RIP / Nancy Giagiabarbaree RIP
Saturday	18 th March	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Joyce Rafferty RIP / Pauline McGlade RIP William & Gerald Curtin RIP
Sunday <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	19 th March	8.00am	Sheila & Hector Brunton RIP / George & Joaquina DeSouza RIP
		9.30am	Patrick Hanbury Int / The Slawek's Family Int
		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.