

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

Tel: 01708 447761

Email: hornchurchstmmg@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am-1pm – Wednesday closed.



4th Sunday in Lent
Year A – Page 86
19th March 2023

Before we enter the darker days of Holy Week, we celebrate Laetare (‘Rejoice!’) Sunday. Today we are reminded of the joy of the presence of Jesus, the light of our world, and of the love of God shining through our lives.

The First Reading (1 Samuel 16: 1.6–7, 10–13) speaks of the shepherd caring for the flock. Despite David’s youth and outward appearance, the Lord sees the strength of his heart, which will enable him to lead God’s people.

In the Second Reading (Ephesians 5: 8–14), St Paul reminds the Ephesians (and us) that God’s light in us shines out for others when we live in goodness and right living and truth.

In the Gospel (John 9: 1–41), the blind man’s sight is restored and he comes into the light. Not only is he physically able to see for the first time, but he also recognises Jesus as the Son of Man. In contrast, those around him remain in the darkness of un-belief, trapped by their unwillingness to see Jesus as he really is.

This week, we pray for those who have yet to allow the light of Christ into their lives. We pray that we will carry Christ’s light to others as we walk beside them, sharing their hardships and sorrows.

Happy Mothers Day!

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

Easter Offertory Collection: Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Easter Masses is your personal gift to your Priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Christmas this provides a major part of his income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

Easter Mass times:

Monday 27 th March	Lent Reconciliation Service	7.30pm
Saturday 1 st April	Palm Sunday Vigil	6.30pm
Sunday 2 nd April	Palm Sunday	8.00am
Sunday 2 nd April	Palm Sunday	9.30am
Sunday 2 nd April	Palm Sunday	11.30am
Wednesday 5 th April	Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral	11.00am
Thursday 6 th April	Holy Thursday – Last Supper Mass Followed by watching until 12 midnight	8.00pm
Friday 7 th April	Good Friday Children’s Stations of the Cross	12.00pm
	Commemoration of the Lords’ Passion	3.00pm
Saturday 8 th April	Easter Vigil	8.00pm
Sunday 9 th April	Easter Sunday	8.00am
Sunday 9 th April	Easter Sunday	9.30am
Sunday 9 th April	Easter Sunday	11.30am

Please note palms will be distributed at all the Palm Sunday Masses

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

EASTER MASSES ROTA: The rota for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers for the Easter masses is at the back of the church. Please help if you can.

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.

EASTER RECEPTION: Please keep in your prayers those who are being prepared to be received into the Church at Easter

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS: All Eucharistic ministers and readers of the Parish are invited to renew their commitment to their ministry at the Mass of The Last Supper on Thursday 6th April at 8pm.

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.

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 Emily Anderson who was Baptised recently and is now a beloved member of God’s Holy Family.

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 Margaret French RIP & Kevin McNamara 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, Ruth Carroll, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, Mary Devlin, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Anna Gawlik, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, 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	18 th March	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Joyce Rafferty RIP / Pauline McGlade RIP William & Gerald Curtin RIP
Sunday	19 th March	8.00am	Sheila & Hector Brunton RIP / George & Joaquina DeSouza RIP
<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>		9.30am	Patrick Hanbury Int / The Slawek's Family Int
		11.30am	All Parishioners
Monday	20 th March	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Patrick Hanbury RIP / Joe Curtin Int
<i>St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			
Tuesday	21 st March	11.00am	FUNERAL Margaret French RIP
Wednesday	22 nd March	7.30pm	Tom Carpenter RIP / Terry Thompson RIP / Susan O'Regan RIP
Thursday	23 rd March	9.15am	Rev Bro John Mary Watters CP RIP / Josie & Julie Int
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	24 th March	8.15am	Joseph Woods RIP / Elizabeth Gormley RIP
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross followed by mass Jack Hughes RIP / Clare Williamson RIP / Archie & Linda Erlina RIP
Saturday	25 th March	1pm-4pm	Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat (in church)
<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>		5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday	26 th March	8.00am	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP / Patrick & Frances Lenehan RIP
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>		9.30am	Harry Doyle RIP / Chris Murphy RIP
		11.30am	Eamon Commins RIP / Angela Doherty 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