

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 Lent
Year A – Page 89
26th March 2023

Today's readings are a reminder of how God wishes to release us from all that holds us back from him, whether it be sin, despair or the grave itself. God desires to carry us from the emptiness of death, in all its forms, to new life in the Spirit.

In the First Reading (Ezekiel 37: 12–14), the prophet Ezekiel tells how God will call us, even from the very grave, to offer us the Spirit of life. We will be brought back home to ourselves and settled on our own soil.

The Second Reading (Romans 8: 8–11) reveals how this new life is possible – only by Christ living in us. We, ourselves, will be home to the Spirit of God.

The Gospel (John 11: 1–45) recalls the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus is Resurrection and life and we will see God's glory when we have faith in him.

Perhaps, this week, I might feel called to renew my belief in the one who is Resurrection and fullness of life, and to ponder anew the gifts of life, freedom and joy which the Lord freely offers. What might life in his Spirit look like in the coming week?

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.

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

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 3rd April at 9.45am.

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

NEW YEAR GIFT AID BOXES: If you are a member of the gift aid scheme, please collect your box of envelopes for the new financial year 2023-24 – they are in alphabetical order on the table near the entrance to the church. Please collect soon as these are to be used for first time on Easter Weekend. For any issues or if you wish to join, please contact our Parish Office. Thank you to **ALL** donors – your support is very much needed and appreciated.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA – GOOD FRIDAY – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:

The Divine Mercy Novena will be said each day from Good Friday 7th April to Divine Mercy Sunday 16th April. Good Friday after 3pm service. Saturday 8th April at 3pm. Easter Sunday 9th April after 11.30am Mass. Monday 10th April – Friday 14th April after morning Mass. Saturday 15th April at 10am. Sunday 16th April at 3pm.

RAINHAM FOODBANK: – Please donate one item – a tin of meat, vegetables or fruit to the foodbank for Easter. Either put it in the box in the Church porch or any Supermarket. Thank you for your help.

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!

PARISH CHOIR: Please come and join us at 11.30am mass, all are 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 1st April. If you have any specific queries or if you require any assistance with travel, please contact Joanne on 07985 496196.

LONDON MARATHON 2023: PJ McEvoy is running the London Marathon on Sunday 23rd April for Children with Cancer UK Charity. If you would like to donate please see his just giving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/PJMcevoy?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=PJ-Mcevoy&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=9924021d29b143c4b179a94a43f1563e

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 Kevin McNamara RIP who has died recently. Please keep his family 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 safeguard 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.

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	Chrim 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
Friday 7 th April	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

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	25 th March	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	26 th March	8.00am	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP / Patrick & Frances Lenehan RIP
		9.30am	Harry Doyle RIP / Chris Murphy RIP
		11.30am	Eamon Commins RIP / Angela Doherty RIP
Monday	27 th March	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Paddy & Joan Dowding RIP
Tuesday	28 th March	9.15am	Ronald Lands RIP / George Finlayson RIP
Wednesday	29 th March	7.30pm	Tony Adams RIP / Partick Brennan RIP
Thursday	30 th March	9.15am	Anna Hickey RIP / Peter Franklin RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	31 st March	8.15am	Rev Bro Columban Holt CP RIP / Lucille & William Waskett RIP
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross followed by mass Alma O'Sullivan RIP / Lily & Anthony Dass RIP
Saturday	1 st April	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Paula McGovern RIP / Helen Bray Int
Sunday <i>Palm Sunday of the passion of the Lord</i>	2 nd April	8.00am	Jim & Andrew Shanahan RIP / Janet Barrow RIP / Nora Maguire RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	(Mass starts in Parish Hall) John Irwin RIP / Sam Farrugia 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. If a loved one is in hospital and would like pastoral care, please contact Helen Miranda on 01708477890

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.