

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Parish secretary: Laura Stevens / Assistant secretary: Charlie Taplin

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



2nd Sunday of Easter Year A – Page 137 16th April 2023

Today, with Thomas, we hail Christ as our Lord and God. We, too, ask to be filled with the joy and peace of the disciples in seeing the risen Lord. The **First Reading** (Acts 2: 42–47) tells how effectively the lives of the first Christians are encouraged and transformed by their Spirit-filled faith. Their devout, generous sense of community is an inspiration to all who meet them.

Peter, who was an eye-witness to the events of Easter (**Second Reading** 1 Peter 1: 3–9), praises and encourages the faith of the new converts, even though they have never seen Jesus. Although they are persecuted and plagued by trials because of their new-found faith in Christ, they still love him deeply and are filled with a glorious joy.

The **Gospel** (John 20: 19–31) recounts the events of the first Sunday after Easter Day. Thomas is absent when the risen Lord appears to the other frightened disciples, offering them the resurrection gift of the Spirit of peace. But a week later, Jesus seeks out the doubting Thomas personally: an encounter that enables Thomas to proclaim Jesus as ‘My Lord and my God!’.

This week, we pray for a deepening personal relationship with the risen Lord that can change our lives ... and for an openness that inspires us to take our active, living faith into our suffering world.

A BIG THANK YOU!: Fr Martin would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to prepare for Easter – church cleaners, stewards, altar servers, musicians, flower ladies and readers. Also, a big thank you to everyone for their most generous Easter offerings. God bless you.

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

COFFEE MORNING: Sunday 23rd April the confirmation children are hosting a coffee morning after the 9.30am mass to raise funds for their chosen charity, cancer research.

We would like to invite everyone in the parish to come along but especially their prayer partners who have been praying for the confirmation children throughout their journey.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:

The Divine Mercy Novena will be said this Sunday 16th April at 3pm.

ST JOSEPH'S UPMINSTER CENTENARY CELEBRATION: St Joseph's Upminster is celebrating its centenary year with a community afternoon in Upminster Park from 1pm-5pm on Sunday 23rd April, with live music, real ale, cream teas, and fun inflatables. All welcome. For more information visit stjosephschurchupminster.com/centenary

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER BUDD RIP: Born in Romford & a parishioner of St. Joseph's parish, Upminster, Bishop Budd was educated at St. Mary's primary school, Hornchurch. He later became a priest of our Diocese. He became Bishop of Plymouth in 1986 and retired in 2013. His cousin, Father Basil Peason is a priest of our Diocese. Please keep Bishop Christopher Budd RIP and his family in your prayers.

PARISH CHOIR: Please come and join us at 11.30am mass, all are welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Van Meenen Room. New members always welcome. If you, or anybody you know, would like/need a visit or help from the SVP please contact us through the church office.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023: Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangey Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/brentwood-lourdes Of course, you may wish to make your own travel/hotel arrangements for Lourdes, while still participating fully in the Diocesan pilgrimage. Just inform me if this is your plan. What matters most is this opportunity to make this pilgrimage as a diocese with our Bishop.

CHURCH EVENTS: For more information on any of the events listed below please contact the Parish office.

Children's Liturgy: Sundays in term time for children in years 1 & 2 at the 9.30am mass.

Baptism course: Our next course will be on 1st & 9th of May.

Exploring Your Faith: Tuesday 25th April 8-9.30pm in the Van Meenen room. All welcome.

RCIA Journey in Faith: Mondays at 7.30pm in the Van Meenan room. See Fr Martin.

Rosary: After all weekday masses and on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in church. All welcome.

Confession: Saturday evenings at 5.30-6pm in the church.

Pass it on!: First Saturday of every month. Next session is on 6th May in the parish hall from 2-4pm.

Parent & toddler group: Tuesdays during term time in the parish hall 2 – 3pm.

Coffee morning: After 9.30am mass during term time in the parish hall. All welcome.

Youth Club: Friday evenings 7-9pm in the parish hall. (members only).

Children's choir: During 9.30am mass – meet in the choir loft. All children welcome.

Adult choir: Please come and join us during 11.30am mass. All welcome.

Catholic fellowship: Saturdays 9-1pm in the parish hall. (members only).

St Vincent de Paul Society: Meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm in the Van Meenen room.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Thursday 9.45am -12 noon in church.

Foodbank: Donation box is located in the porch of the church. All donations go to Rainham foodbank.

Church cleaning: Every Friday morning at 9am during term time. Helpers needed.

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 Bishop Christopher Budd RIP, Ollie Gilsenan RIP and Vince Janicki 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 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.

Divine Mercy 3pm prayer

You expired, O Jesus,
but the source of life gushed forth for souls
and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.
O Fount of Life,
unfathomable Divine Mercy,
envelop the whole world
and empty Yourself out upon us.
O Blood and Water,
which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus
as a fount of mercy for us,
I trust in You.
Amen.



God our Father, by raising your Son you conquered the power of death and opened for us the way to eternal life. Let our celebration today raise us up and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday <i>Within the Octave of Easter</i>	15 th April	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	William Elliott RIP / Josephine Mojirola Babayo Int (thanksgiving)
Sunday <i>Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	16 th April	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Joe Geary RIP / Michael Olaniyan Int (thanksgiving)
		11.30am	Patrick Hanbury RIP / KSC Vocation to Priesthood & Religious Life
Monday	17 th April	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Philip & Ann Mace RIP
Tuesday	18 th April	9.15am	George Bertie RIP / Mr. Harvey RIP
Wednesday	19 th April	7.30pm	Helen Thomson RIP / Frank McDermott RIP
Thursday	20 th April	9.15am	Eileen Sheehan RIP / Mr & Mrs Raleigh RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	21 st April	8.15am	Peter Franklin RIP / Imelda Leonard RIP
Saturday	22 nd April	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Bridie Maher RIP / Ann Maher RIP / Sheryl Gowan RIP
Sunday <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	23 rd April	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	James Kane RIP / Ollie Gilsenan RIP / Bridget Gilsenan Int
		11.30am	Jack Hughes RIP / Bing McCarthy 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.