

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Parish secretary: Laura Stevens / Assistant secretary: Charlie Taplin

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



4th Sunday of Easter **Year A** **29th April 2023**

In the Gospel today Jesus speaks of himself as a Good Shepherd (John 10: 1–10), Jesus is comparing and contrasting himself with those religious leaders who lack any real commitment or sense of responsibility to the ones in their care. The sheep do not recognise such leaders, but they do know, and are ready to follow, the Good Shepherd who alone enters by the gate. Jesus is warning his listeners to be discerning about those they listen to and those they follow.

The Psalm, ‘The Lord is my Shepherd’, tells us that God is always caring for us. In the First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2: 14, 36–41), we hear Peter calling all to conversion, while the Second Reading (1 Peter 2: 20–25) is a reminder that when we do stray, we can always return to the Lord. Today is also known as Vocations Sunday.

So perhaps this week, I could ponder the following questions: On what am I spending my energies? Who do I listen to and follow? How am I giving witness to my faith? What contribution am I making to the building up of truth, love, justice and tolerance? How, and from where, do I hear the Good Shepherd in my daily life? Let’s pray for the grace to trust the gift of the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us, that we might have faith in the One who has called and is calling us. Amen.

GOOD SHEPARD SUNDAY: This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, or the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese and for those currently training for the priesthood. The second collection next weekend will support the education and formation of our seminarians.

PASS IT ON!: The next meeting is Saturday 6th May. The session will be a special Coronation party in honour of the Kings Coronation. 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.

If you have any specific queries or require any assistance with travel, please contact Joanne on 07985 496196.

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

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

FLOWERS: We are looking for some more volunteers to help with flower arranging for the church. Full training is given. Everyone welcome. Please contact Angela on 07974417007.

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!

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.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: The Dioceses and Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster invite you to a celebration of the annual Mass for Migrants on Monday, 1st May 2023, at 12pm. Banner bearers are invited to gather at St Bonaventure's Secondary School at 11:15am for refreshments and preparations ready for the banner procession at 12pm.

The Mass will be hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood at St Antony of Padua Church, Forest Gate E7 9QB with Bishop Alan Williams, sm as celebrant and Fr Dominic Howarth preaching. You are kindly invited to attend in person to celebrate the significant contribution made by migrants to the life of our Dioceses.

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

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: Please contact the Parish office for more information.

Exploring Your Faith: Last Tuesday of every month. 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 (closed in August) in the parish hall from 2-4pm. Free to all.

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.

Repository: Beautiful gifts and cards available. Open after all weekend Masses.

FINANCES: 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 Name: St. Mary Mother of God

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22

If you have a gift aid number, please use that as a reference when you make your donation. Any donations are very gratefully received.

STANDING ORDERS: It is becoming increasingly hard to bank cash. If at all possible, please support the work, running and mission of the parish by setting up a standing order via your online banking or by picking up a standing order form from the back of the church.

If you are part of the parish Gift Aid scheme, please quote your Gift Aid box number as a reference when making the payment.

The parish account details are listed at the top of this page. If you have any queries, please contact the parish office.

CASHLESS DONATIONS: You can also donate by scanning a QR code below on your phone. Open the camera on your smart phone, hold the camera over the QR code and click on the link that appears. Please note Gift Aid cannot be used when donating through the QR codes.



To donate £5



To donate £10



To donate £20

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 Ollie Gilsean 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.

VOCATIONS PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, You have chosen the Apostles and their successors, the Bishops and priests of the Catholic Church, to preach the true Faith throughout the whole world. We earnestly beseech You to choose from among us in this Parish, priests and religious who will gladly spend their entire lives to make You better known and loved.

Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us.

St Joseph pray for us, St John Vianney pray for us.

A PRAYER FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III:

O God, to whom every human power is subject, grant to your servant our sovereign Charles success in the exercise of his high office, so that, always revering you and striving to please you, he may constantly secure and preserve for the people entrusted to his care the freedom that comes from civil peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	29 th April	5.30-6pm 6.30pm	Confession Bridget McDonagh RIP / Dinkie Burke RIP
Sunday <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	30 th April	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP / Kay Conway RIP All Parishioners Eamon Commins RIP / Patricia Saterlay RIP
Monday	1 st May	10.00am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Breda & Larry Ryan RIP
Tuesday <i>St Athanasius</i>	2 nd May	1.15pm	Funeral Vincent Janicki RIP
Wednesday <i>SS Philip & James</i>	3 rd May	11.00am 7.30pm	Funeral Ollie Gilsenan RIP Donald McDiarmid RIP / Peter Franklin RIP Elizabeth Manning Int
Thursday <i>The English Martyrs</i>	4 th May	9.15am 9.45-12noon	Ania Wigley RIP / Peter Franklin RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	5 th May	8.15am	Shaila John RIP / James Manning RIP
Saturday <i>St John Payne</i>	6 th May	5.30-6pm 6.30pm	Confession King Charles & Queen Camilla Int / Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
Sunday <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	7 th May	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Alayne Bone RIP / Rita Maher RIP All Parishioners Sam Farrugia RIP / Bridie McDonagh RIP / Michael McDonagh 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.