

# 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.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A Page 152 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

As this joyous season of Easter draws to a close, we are reminded that eternal life is to know the Father and Christ, and the intimate relationship they share. The glory belonging to Jesus and to the Father will be offered to all who believe.

The **First Reading** (Acts 1: 12–14) follows on immediately from the Ascension. Mary, the disciples, and Jesus's extended family gather in the upper room, praying continuously as they await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The **Gospel** John 17: 1–11 also takes us to a special upper room (perhaps the same one) where the Last Supper was shared. Here, Jesus prays that the disciples will be consecrated in the truth. Jesus has given them the teaching the Father gave to him, and his task now is to make known the name of the Father. Jesus prays for the gift of eternal life: to know the Father as the one true God, and the Son as the one who has been sent.

In the **Second Reading** (1 Peter 4: 13–16), Peter encourages the community as they endure challenges and hard times. He assures them of a special blessing if they live the values of Christ.

This week, we ask God to help us to be people of continuous prayer, and for a deepening trust in his loving care. We pray for peace for all those with troubled hearts, and for all places where there is war and violence.



**Prayer & Healing service at St Mary Mother of God,  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 7pm-9pm.**



**PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE:** St Mary's is hosting a service of prayer & healing on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 7-9pm. It will be led by a renowned Catholic lay Evangelist, Dr. D. Jayanand, from Bangalore, India. The evening includes praying, scripture teaching & a healing service. All are welcome.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Please pray for the children of our Parish as they celebrate their First Holy Communion.

**CONFIRMATION:** Please keep in your prayers our young people of the Parish who will be Confirmed this weekend.

**ST MARYS PARISH SCHOOL 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June from 1pm, there will be a party to celebrate St Marys school turning 90!. Food, drink, music, inflatables and entertainment will all be available on the day. Everyone is welcome.

**Weather permitting, 6.30pm Mass on this day will be said outside in the back playground with all of the community.**

**CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS:** 45 of our young people received the sacrament of Confirmation this weekend and they would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to their prayer partners, who they know have been praying for them during their time of preparation. In a appreciation of your prayers and support the Confirmation candidates have arranged with Fr Martin to have a Mass to be said for your intentions and this will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 6.30pm. Thank you once again for all the prayers and kindness you have shown the candidates during this time.

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

**CHURCH CLEANERS:** If you are available on a Friday morning, please come and help clean the church from 9am – 9.30am. More hands make light work.

**THE CAMPION SCHOOL OPEN EVENING:** For the admission of boys (in current Year 5) in September 2024 will be held at the school on Thursday, 29th June 2023 from 4.30 pm to 7 pm. Talks from the Headteacher will be at 5.15 pm and 6.30 pm. Admissions forms, including The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) will be available online.

**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.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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** Patricia Quinlan RIP who has died recently. Please keep her family 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, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Carly Menon, Bridget O'Sullivan, Phil & Tony Reid, 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 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.

**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."

# MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confirmation</b> All Parishioners
Sunday <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	21 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>8.00am</b>	Nelson DeSouza RIP / John DeSouza RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	Ollie Gilsenan RIP / Ann Cahill Int
		<b>11.30am</b>	<b>First Holy Communion</b> Rev James Hawes RIP / Ollie Gilsenan RIP / Michael & Susanna O'Donnell RIP
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Sheryl Gowan RIP
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>9.15am</b>	Rev Fr Finbarr Leahy CP RIP / Marie & Peter Sheehan RIP
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>7.30pm</b>	Helen Ging RIP / Mike Simmons Int
Thursday <i>St Bede the Venerable</i>	25 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>9.15am</b>	The Allegri Family RIP / Wally Ramsay RIP
		<b>9.45-12noon</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday <i>St Philip Neri</i>	26 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>8.15am</b>	Peggy & David Walsh RIP / Bill Lewis RIP
Saturday <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	27 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Neil O'Shea RIP / John Farrell RIP
Sunday <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	28 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>8.00am</b>	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP / Kathleen Mollaghan RIP / Evelyn & Andy Int
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Eamon Commins RIP / Michael Lee RIP / Mary Barrell 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.*