

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A – Page 84 22nd October 2023

The Gospel for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Matthew 22:15-21, presents a scenario where the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with a question about taxes. They asked if it was right to pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus' response was both astute and revealing: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." This interaction highlights a distinct separation between earthly obligations and spiritual commitments. Paying taxes, as unpleasant as it might be, is an earthly duty. It's a part of living in a society, and everyone must contribute.

However, Jesus' answer also alludes to a deeper truth. While we owe certain things to our governments or leaders, our ultimate allegiance is to God. Everything we are and everything we have originates from Him.

This passage challenges us to consider where our true loyalties lie. It reminds us that while we have duties in this world, our primary duty is to our Creator. Balancing our earthly and spiritual commitments is key, but remembering to whom we ultimately belong provides clarity in decision-making and action. We belong to God.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS:

The Feast of All Saints on 1st November is a Holy Day of Obligation and there are 2 Masses here in the church at 9.15am and 7.30pm. November is the month of the Holy Souls – it begins with the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed on Thursday 2nd November with Masses at 9.15am and 7.30pm.

WORLD MISSION DAY:

This weekend we celebrate World Mission Sunday, when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. Please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Join in on this special day, that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer and celebration of our Church's mission to share God's love with all people.

There will be a second collection after all weekend Masses, or you can donate by scanning the QR code below or envelopes are at the back of the Church to send directly to Missio.

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE ROSARY:

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on 7th October. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. So, may we turn to our Lady of the Rosary as we look for her protection in our lives and in the lives of others.

SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS' WEDNESDAY AUDIENCE ON APOSTOLIC ZEAL (3):

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, the desire to share with others the joy of the Gospel, we now consider how Jesus himself, our Teacher and Master, chose to present his message. In the synagogue of Nazareth, at the very beginning of his public ministry, the Lord revealed that, in fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah, he came to proclaim good news to the poor and a year of favour from the Lord (cf. *Lk* 4:16-21). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is thus, as the prophet foretold, a saving message that brings contagious joy, authentic freedom, the promise of spiritual rebirth as God's beloved sons and daughters, and definitive healing from the oppression of sin and death. We who, by God's grace, have put our faith in Jesus and experienced the transformative power of his word, are called not only to give thanks for this wondrous gift, but also to share it freely and joyfully with others. For Christ's followers, every day is thus a "time of grace" and a new opportunity to bear witness to the "good news" of God's gracious offer of mercy, forgiveness and new life in Jesus his beloved Son.

ENVELOPES FOR HOLY SOULS:

The Envelopes for the Holy Souls are now available at the back of the church ready for the month of November when we remember and pray for all our loved ones who have gone before us. Please write the names of your loved ones who have died on a piece of paper and then place them in the envelope. Any money that you put in the envelope will be given to *Aid To The Church In Need* who will ensure that Masses for the Holy Souls are said in different churches around the world who are struggling financially. The lists of your loved ones will be placed in a basket at the foot of the altar during November. **Please hand the envelopes to Fr Mark or to the Parish office but please do not put them directly in the basket – as the money in them may be stolen.**

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL:

If you would like the latest newsletter delivered right to your screen every week, simply email hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org and we will add you to our mailing list.

YEAR 5 CHILDREN- MASS ATTENDANCE:

A register is now in place, so can the children with their parents, present themselves to the designated person at the end of the Mass, who will then mark them as present at that Mass.

CONFIRMATION:

If your child is in Year 9 or above and they would like to make their Confirmation in 2024, please email the parish office to **register your interest by Sunday 29th October at the latest.** After this date, a register will be in place for Mass attendance from the weekend of 4th/5th November. A preparatory meeting for parents and young people will take place on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Hall and the course will begin in January. Only those who sign up by 29th October and are present at weekly Mass from then will be eligible for the course. The maximum number of young people that we can have on the course is 90 and if applications exceed that number, we will prioritise those in Year 10 or above.

When registering your interest, please include your child's full name, a contact number and a picture of their Baptism & First Holy Communion certificates.

We will then be in contact with you directly once full programme details become available.

PRAYER PARTNERS:

Our young people will be starting their faith journey through Confirmation which will take place on Pentecost Sunday. With this in mind, they need your support, and we ask if you could do this with your prayers. We are looking for members of the parish to become their prayer partners. All that would be required of you is to put your name on the list in the porch; we will then allocate a young person to your name and ask if you would pray for them during this time. Our Confirmation candidates are hoping to host a coffee morning before their Confirmation which you would be invited to.

REPOSITORY SHOP:

We have lots of new bits such as Advent calendars & candles, Christmas cards, Christmas tree ornaments, children's Nativity sets and lots more – come and see!

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!:

We are looking to build a vibrant and diverse group of catechists that truly represent our Parish family to help our teenage Confirmation candidates grow in their faith, could this be for you? If so, please contact Jo Luxton on 07961037786

PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS:

Father Mark will be signing Certificate of Practice for Primary school applications at the beginning of January- dates to be advised. Please ensure you are coming to Mass and saying hello to Father Mark, so he knows who you are and so as to avoid disappointment.

BCYS YOUTH MASS:

Takes place on the first Thursday of every month at Brentwood Cathedral, beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, an hour of input, workshops, youth led prayer and formation from different organisations each month, and Youth Mass celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome - no need to book!

CHURCH CLEANING:

If you are available to help clean the church on a Friday morning at 9.45am please pop along and lend a helping hand.

CATECHISTS TRAINING AND RESOURCES DAY:

Saturday 4th November at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School in Upminster. This training and resources day is open to all First Holy Communion and Confirmation Catechists, as well as those who look after the children's liturgy. It includes input from David Wells and is a superb opportunity to hear about fresh resources. Reserve your place at www.bcys.net/events/catechistday23

FLOWER ARRANGING:

If you are able to help with the flower arranging for the Church, please contact Angela on 07974417007. The flowers are normally done on a Friday morning/afternoon.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP:

Join us at St Mary's Baby and Toddler Group each Tuesday 2pm in the Parish Hall (Please ring buzzer on school gate for entry.) Term time only. Free for all.

CHILDRENS LITURGY:

Every Sunday at 9.30am Mass for children in Years 1 and 2 to learn and understand the Gospel through activities.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENING:

St. Mary's Primary School will be holding their open evening on Tuesday 14th November 5.30pm-7pm for reception intake 2024.

CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP DISABILITY NETWORK:

Each Saturday morning, in the Parish Hall, we hold a social gathering for people with special needs. Where necessary we arrange transport for those attending. We have a rota of drivers who kindly offer to pick up or return individuals, all of whom live locally. We are looking to supplement our pool of drivers, if you can help kindly contact Helen Wilson on 07368316716 or email wilsonhdp12@gmail.com

If you know anyone with special needs who would like to join us each Saturday morning, please contact us, as above, all are very welcome.

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDRENS SOCIETY (BCCS) CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR:

Christmas Craft and Gift Fair will be held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on Sunday 5th November from 10.30am - 4pm. There is free parking at the venue and admission is only £1.50 for adults and free for children under 14. There will be over 40 stalls selling many unique crafts, gifts and handmade fare so come along and pick up some early Christmas presents. BCCS will have its own stall selling donated gifts, crafts, books, puzzles and sweets and there will be a fundraising raffle during the event.

NEWHAM PARTNERSHIP YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR:

A successful applicant will build and develop a Partnership Youth Leadership Team. Hours: 35 hours per week (to include evening and weekend work) Salary: £25,000 – £30,000 pa (depending on experience) Contract is a fixed 3 year. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to frdanielkelly@brcdt.org. Closing date for applications is 28th October 2023.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

John (Sean) O'Sullivan 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, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, David Donovan, Marie Edgley, Arturo Garzon, Anna Gawlik, Malcolm Hilton, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Eileen McCafferty, Carly Menon, Gina Mifsud, 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."

PRAYER FOR PEACE:

God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help
for the people of the Middle East.
Quiet the clamour of war
and guide us towards peace.
Where there is hatred and division
sow seeds of calm and openness.
Where there is destruction
help us to rebuild.
Where children are crying
bring an end to tears.
Shelter your people and protect them
Guide them and keep them from harm.
Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope.
Amen.

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.

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.

WORLD MISSION DAY:

To donate to World Mission Sunday, simply scan this QR code using your phone. To give a gift, you can also visit Missio's website: missio.org.uk/wmsdonate



SCAN ME

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 take a Baptism form at the back of the church.

Exploring Your Faith: Last Tuesday of every month. 8-9.30pm in the Van Meenen room. All welcome.

RCIA Journey in Faith: Thursdays 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

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

Pass it on!: First Saturday of every month in the parish hall from 2-4pm. Free to all.

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

Coffee morning: After 9.30am mass during term time in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

Youth Club: Friday evenings 7.30-9.30pm 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 For people with special needs Saturdays 10-12pm in the Parish Hall
new members welcome

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, and Saturday from 9.45am – 11.15am.

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

Church cleaning: Every Friday morning at 9.45am during term time. Helpers needed.

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

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	21 st October	6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday 29th Sunday in ordinary time	22 nd October	8.00am	Eileen Jonas 80th Birthday Int
		9.30am	Sheryl Gowan RIP
		11.30am	Patricia Church RIP
Monday	23 rd October	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	24 th October	9.15am	Mr Harrington RIP
Wednesday	25 th October	7.15pm 7.30pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i> Grant Cambridge RIP
Thursday St Cedd	26 th October	9.15am	Martha Sheridan RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	27 th October	9.15am	Charles Ferry RIP
Saturday SS Simon and Jude Vigil Mass	28 th October	9.15am	Ged Corbett RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	Marie Lynskey RIP / Thomas Fay RIP
Sunday Thirtieth Sunday in ordinary time	29 th October	8.00am	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP / Mary Devlin RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Eamon Commins RIP
		5.00pm	Holy hour with Rosary and Benediction

Hospital: If you are going into hospital this week for surgery Fr Mark 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 let Fr Mark know or contact Helen Miranda on 01708477890

Morning Prayer will be said before all weekday morning Masses at 9am as well as the Rosary after Mass.

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies. Please note the location of the fire exits.