

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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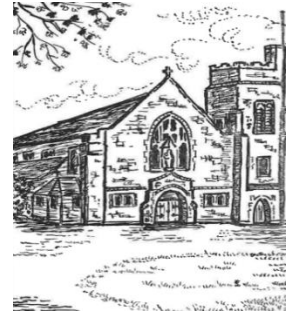
Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Parish secretary: Laura Stevens / Assistant secretary: Charlie Taplin

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



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A – Page 88

5th November 2023

Jesus, in his time, was a devout Jew who didn't shy away from addressing concerns with religious leaders, much like Malachi did. He emphasized the importance of faithfulness among these leaders, as their actions could influence others. Leaders must set a positive example and maintain a strong connection with God's love.

The readings for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, particularly the first reading from Malachi and the Gospel from Matthew, highlight this message. Malachi's admonition for religious leaders to uphold their faith and Matthew's caution against hypocrisy resonate with Jesus' teachings.

In simpler terms, Jesus, being a faithful Jew, urged leaders to walk the talk and stay true to their beliefs. He wanted them to avoid leading people astray. This lesson applies to leaders today as well: be genuine in faith, lead by example, and nurture your connection with God's love.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November is the month when we remember and pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Catechism teaches: "All who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030). So, November is an ideal time to help the Holy Souls in Purgatory through prayer and acts of love and charity. Our prayers will assist them on their journey to heaven, where they will assuredly pray us on our journey to God as well. November is also a good time to remember that we are sinners and that by God's grace we must strengthen our own souls so that we too may enter heaven.

SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS' WEDNESDAY AUDIENCE ON APOSTOLIC ZEAL (5):

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, the burning desire to share the joy of the Gospel, we now turn to the role of the Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus on the day of Pentecost to inaugurate the mission of the Apostles to make disciples of all nations. In the early Church's great missionary outreach, the Holy Spirit appears as the driving force, preparing hearts to receive the Gospel and confirming the Apostles in their witness to the risen Lord. The momentous decision of the Council of Jerusalem not to require converts to observe the Mosaic law was the fruit of prayerful discernment and communicated with the formula, "it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (*Acts 15:28*). In every age, the Spirit illumines and guides the Church's proclamation of the Gospel. Today, Ash Wednesday, invites us to invoke the light of the Spirit upon our individual lives as followers of Christ and on the Church's mission of bringing the consolation of Jesus to the desolation of a world that thirsts for the justice, peace and reconciled unity which are the fruit of the Lord's passover from death to life at Easter.

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.

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!

MASS REGISTERS – YEAR 5, HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:

There are registers in place for Year 5 children, Holy Communion children and Confirmation candidates. Please can the children along with their parents (in respect of Year 5 and First Holy Communion) present themselves to the designated person at the end of Mass who will then mark them as present at that Mass, and the young people for Confirmation present themselves to their designated person also.

MASS COUNT:

Our recent October average Mass count for Sunday Masses was 810.

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.

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.

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.

UNITED SINGERS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CONCERT:

On Sunday 12th November at 7.30pm, United Singers Remembrance Sunday music concert will be held at Upminster Methodist Church, Hall Lane, Upminster, RM14 1AE. Tickets are £12 for adults, concessions £10 and under 16s are free.

MEMORIAL MASS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK:

The Friends of Abbotswick Memorial Mass for those with loved ones remembered within the grounds at Abbotswick will be held at 3pm on Sunday 12th November. If you wish to attend please email Claire at clairebailey@brcdt.org or phone 01277 373959.

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!

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.

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.

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.

CHILDRENS LITURGY:

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

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

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE - AN EXCERPT FROM THE BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY:

‘Divorce is not in itself a bar to receiving Holy Communion and the Church accepts that in some circumstances Catholics may need to initiate divorce proceedings to protect their rights in civil law. However, the Church presumes that all marriages are valid and bind until death, unless and until nullity is proven, or a dissolution of the bond on the grounds of non-consummation, or in favour of the Faith is granted (where one or both parties was not baptised). A Catholic who marries outside the Church, without permission from the Bishop (dispensation from the canonical form of marriage), is still free in the eyes of the Church, because the Church’s law has not been observed, but the appropriate documents must be produced to show this. However, Register Office marriage does bind non-Catholics (apart from Eastern Orthodox Christians). A priest cannot book a marriage when one of the parties has been divorced without proof that he or she is now canonically free.

Equally the Church cannot bless a marriage which she regards as invalid, and those who are in a marriage the Church considers irregular are not free to receive Holy Communion or absolution. A recent letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith states: ‘In fidelity to the words of Jesus Christ, the Church, affirms that a new union cannot be recognised as valid if the preceding marriage was valid. If the divorced are remarried civilly they can find themselves in a situation that objectively contravenes God’s law. Consequently, they cannot receive Holy Communion as long as this situation persists.’ The letter also recognises that this is a heavy burden, one that needs the support of the Catholic community including personal contact with one’s parish priest. Anyone, Catholic or non-Catholic, wishing to enquire about the possibility of a declaration of nullity, or dissolution with regard to a former marriage, should initially contact the Brentwood Diocesan Tribunal Office for further information and help – 01277 265283.’

Please feel free to come and speak to Fr Mark if you need any advice.

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.

TREE OF ANGELS:

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society is pleased to re-launch their virtual Tree of Angels which will allow you to light up a symbolic angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of BCCS. Please visit www.bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see ‘Tree of Angels’. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Damian ddillon@bccs.org.uk.

PARISH SECRETARY- RAYLEIGH:

To provide administrative support services to the parish office by implementing and maintaining office systems, processes and procedures and delivering a welcoming, appropriate service to those attending the parish office. Hours: 10 hours per week (to be negotiated) Start Date: February 2024. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) rayleigh@brcdt.org Closing date for applications is 1 December 2023

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Marie Edgley 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, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Anna Gawlik, Malcolm Hilton, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Eileen McCaffery, 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.

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	4 th November	6.30pm	Roy Pook RIP
Sunday Thirty-first Sunday in ordinary time	5 th November	8.00am	Sam Farrugia RIP / Cecilia Hope RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Jack Hughes RIP / Helen Ging RIP / Shaila John RIP
Monday	6 th November	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Betty Barker RIP / Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
Tuesday	7 th November	9.15am	Michael Healy RIP / Tony Stickland RIP
Wednesday	8 th November	7.30pm	Mr & Mrs Claude Chinnon 60th Wedding Anniversary
Thursday Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9 th November	9.15am	Patrick Shanahan RIP / Brian Spicer RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday St Leo the Great	10 th November	9.15am	The Lenehan Family RIP / Nora Maguire RIP
Saturday St Martin of Tours Vigil Mass	11 th November	9.15am	Scott Cheesman RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP Ndidi Wood Int
Sunday Thirty Second Sunday in ordinary time Remembrance Sunday	12 th November	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP / Mia Int
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Fr Maurice Gordon Int
		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.