

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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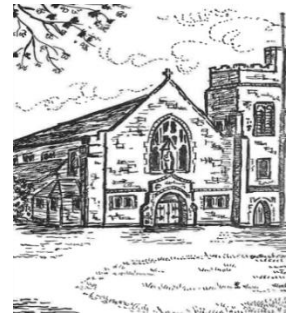
Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

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.



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A – Page 93

19th November 2023

The passages from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 and Matthew 25:14-30 both stress the importance of being proactive and alert in different aspects of life, especially in spirituality. 1 Thessalonians warns about the unpredictability of the “Day of the Lord,” highlighting the need for preparedness. Similarly, the Parable of the Talents in Matthew advises against complacency in using one’s gifts and abilities.

Both messages for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A encourage a state of readiness. They tell us that just as you wouldn’t ignore your health or finances, you shouldn’t neglect your spiritual well-being. Being “sober and alert” means you are aware of your responsibilities and are taking steps to fulfill them.

In summary, these texts prompt us to maintain a proactive approach to spiritual growth. They caution against getting too comfortable and underscore the importance of continual self-assessment and action.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Thoughts of Pope St John Paul II.

“The Church,” said the Pope, “has always urged us to pray for the dead. She invites believers to regard the mystery of death not as the last word on human fate but as a journey toward eternal life.”

Explaining a key element of the doctrine of Purgatory, the Pontiff said, “It is an important duty of ours to pray for the dead because although they may have died in grace and in friendship with God, they may still be in need of a last purification in order to enter into the joy of heaven.”

“Prayer for the souls of the dead can be expressed in various ways, including a visit to the cemetery. Going to these sacred places provides an auspicious occasion to reflect on the meaning of earthly life and to nourish, at the same time, hope in the blessed eternity of paradise,” he concluded.

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.**

SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON APOSTOLIC ZEAL (7):

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on missionary zeal, we now consider the apostolic dimension of evangelization. In the Creed, we profess that the Church is “apostolic”. An “apostle” is literally one who is “sent”. In the Scriptures, we read that Jesus chose the twelve Apostles, called them to himself and then sent them forth to proclaim the Gospel. After his resurrection, he appeared to the Twelve and said: “As the Father has sent me, so now I send you”, breathing upon them the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins (*Jn 20:21-22*). Within the diversity of ministries and charisms in the Body of Christ, all the baptized are called and sent forth to advance the Church’s apostolate. Those who are ordained have received the mission of teaching, governing and sanctifying in Jesus’ name and authority, yet all the members of the faithful, as sharers in the Lord’s priestly, prophetic and regal office, are called to be missionary disciples, “apostles in an apostolic Church”. May the recognition of our common dignity and equality inspire us to ever greater unity and cooperation in proclaiming, by word and example, the good news of our salvation in Christ.

CAMPION SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY:

As the Christmas season approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to invite your parishioners to our annual Senior Citizens’ Party at The Champion School on Sunday, 17th December 2023 between 12.30 pm and 5.00 pm, with lunch served at 1.30pm. As you may be aware, the party has become increasingly popular and unfortunately, we have had to limit the number of guests to fifteen per parish. If you are interested in attending, a list is on the table in the entrance of the Church for you to put your name and telephone number on and the parish office will be in touch with you to confirm your place.

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY: – 26th November 2023

There will be a second collection for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, and any money raised on will go towards supporting those in need of financial support to go on pilgrimages and to events, as well as allowing the BCYS to continue running events, such as the monthly Youth Masses, provide support and training to those working with young people and so much more. You will also see posters around the church with details on how you can get involved or donate online, and please pray for all our young people and those who work with them. To find out more about the work of the BCYS, please visit www.bcys.net

PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS:

Father Mark will be signing Certificates of Practice for Primary school applications on Tuesday 2nd January from 7pm to 8pm in the church and on Monday 8th January from 7pm to 8pm in the church. 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.

SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS MESSAGE ON 31st SUNDAY OF YEAR (A):

Pope Francis has called on faithful to nourish the 'oil of the soul' daily, in order to be prepared for the Lord and for others. He did so during his Sunday Angelus address in St. Peter's Square at noon, as he reflected on today's Gospel reading according to St. Matthew, which centers on the parable of the ten virgins called to go out to meet the bridegroom. The reading, the Pope said, offers us a parable regarding the meaning of life of each person.

Ten virgins and their lamps

In the passage of the ten virgins awaiting a bridegroom, five brought enough oil for their lamps for the wait, while the oil of the other five runs out. The five virgins who are prepared for the bridegroom's arrival are rewarded. While acknowledging that all those bridesmaids are there to welcome the bridegroom, as they are "there with their lamps, waiting," the Pope said the difference between the wise and the foolish ones is tied to "preparation." The wise ones, the Holy Father observed, "took flasks of oil with their lamps," that is to say "the unseen element that generates the light." However, the foolish ones, on the other hand, did not. "Here is the difference: the oil," the Pope stressed, adding, "And what is the characteristic of the oil? That it cannot be seen: it is inside the lamps, it is not conspicuous, but without it the lamps give no light."

Stewardship of inner life

The Pope urged faithful to see the relevance of this parable in their own lives. "Let us look at ourselves, and we will see that our life runs the same risk," he noted, recognizing that often we are concerned about our appearance, taking good care of one's image, and making a good impression in front of others. "But Jesus says," he insisted, "that the wisdom of life lies elsewhere: in taking care of what cannot be seen, but is more important, caring for the heart." The Pope called this wisdom, the "stewardship of the inner life," which knows how to stop and listen to one's heart, to keep watch over one's own thoughts and feelings, and make room for silence and listening.

Nourish attentively 'oil of the soul'

Moreover, he continued, it is capable of "giving up some of the time passed in front of the telephone screen" to "look at the light in the eyes of others, in one's own heart, in God's gaze upon us." For everyone, the Pope said, it requires "not falling into the trap of activism," but "devoting time to the Lord, to listening to His Word." The Gospel, the Pope highlighted, warns us against neglecting the "oil of inner life," or the "oil of the soul," underscoring how important it is to prepare it.

A little time to prepare each day

The inner life, the Pope said, cannot be improvised, but requires constancy, and a little preparation each day. For this reason, the Pope asked the faithful to ask themselves how they are "preparing." "So, we can ask ourselves: what am I preparing at this moment in life? Perhaps I am trying to put aside some savings, I am thinking about a house or a new car, concrete plans... They are good things. However, the Pope highlighted, "am I also thinking about dedicating time to the care of the heart, to prayer, to service to others, to the Lord who is the destination of life?" With this in mind, the Holy Father said we each must examine the state of the "oil" of our souls, asking, "Do I nourish it and keep it well?"

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.

CAR PARK:

The Church car park will be closed to all cars on Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th and possibly Friday 8th due to having the potholes repaired. Masses will be said as normal – but you will not be able to park in the car park on these days.

HELPERS WANTED TO WRAP PRESENTS!:

Every year the school PTA gives each child at the school a selection box for Christmas and these are lovingly wrapped by members of our parish. This year we would like to bring back the old tradition of wrapping them together. If you are willing and able to help, we will be meeting in the Van Meenan room on Wednesday 29th November at 9am. Hot drinks, biscuits, and Christmas music will be provided. No need to bring anything other than your good selves.

HELPERS OF GODS PRECIOUS INFANTS:

Please join us for our next monthly prayer vigil on Saturday 9th December at Holy Trinity School Woodford. We will begin with mass at 10am celebrated by FR. Tansi CFR, followed by a peaceful, prayerful procession to Marie Stopes, abortion facility. There we will hold a vigil of prayer whilst trained counsellors offer help to women entering the clinic. Return procession around 1pm with prayers and hymns. Refreshments afterwards. Please see flyer on noticeboard.

BCYS YOUTH MASS – Thursday 7th December 2023, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral:

Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, and an Advent Reconciliation service in the Cathedral before Mass.

Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! Email info@bcys.net

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE – July 2024 (exact dates TBC)

Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. The week is spent serving the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assisting the elderly and infirm, alongside times of retreat, reconciliation, visiting the baths, taking part in the beautiful Processions, an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese. The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 – 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend) www.bcys.net/events/sl24

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL:

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

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. Help badly needed to help put out toys and pack away or to make teas etc. Ring Brenda on 01708 452442 and leave a message and contact details.

RAINHAM FOODBANK:

We will be distributing Christmas items with our food parcels during December. If you are able to donate items such as Christmas cake, mince pies, Christmas sauces, crackers, gravy granules, Christmas biscuits and chocolates. Please leave your donations in the box at the back of the Church.

ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHET ISAIAH:

In preparation for the beginning of Advent Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and Scripture scholar, will be giving a talk on the Prophet Isaiah at 7 pm on Wednesday 29th November in the parish hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is free and is in person, and it will also be live-streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org. No booking necessary.

CALAIS LIGHT:

This will be the 25th time a volunteer convoy has been organised by Mary Stretch, who founded the charity over seven years ago. "We've asked each volunteer for this milestone trip to ask family, friends and colleagues to sponsor them with donations via GoFundMe on the Calais Light website. It all takes cash and effort – and we really need people to show their faith in this work." If you would like to donate to the charity, please go to www.calais.light.com

SILENT WEEKEND RETREAT FRI 8TH - SUN 10TH DECEMBER:

Organised by Allegra Mutanda. Venue: Sion Community, Brentwood. Our theme focuses on the need to learn the 'art' of being still and at rest in the midst of a busy and noisy society. Guest speaker: Grace Nowakowska, full-time lay missionary member of Sion Community. This silent weekend retreat during Advent offers us the opportunity to spend time with the Lord in quiet prayer and reflection. 40-HOURS of CONTINUOUS Adoration, spiritual guidance & prayer ministry included. For more information or to book, visit <https://sioncommunity.org.uk/adults/> or email allegra.mutanda@gmail.com

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 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Marie Edgley RIP, Pat O'Shea RIP, Sylvia Harris RIP and James Hiles 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, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, Martin Cornish, Fr Francis Coveney, John Dawson, David Donovan, 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.

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.

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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	18 th November	6.30pm	Lucy Folorunsho Olaniyan RIP
Sunday Thirty Third Sunday in ordinary time	19 th November	8.00am	Thelma Alayne & Clive McDonagh RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Deceased members of the KSC Romford Council
		5.00pm	Holy hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday	20 th November	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Jim & Andrew Shanahan RIP
Tuesday Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary	21 st November	9.15am	Marie Abeasager RIP / Mr Brokenshire & Family RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday St Cecilia	22 nd November	7.15pm 7.30pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i> Sheryl Gowan RIP
Thursday	23 rd November	11.30am	FUNERAL – Requiem Mass Sylvia Harris RIP
Friday St Andrew Dung-Lac & Co	24 th November	9.15am	John McMillan & Family RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	25 th November	9.15am	John Hanley RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	Stanley & Annie Crow RIP
Sunday Our Lord Jesus Christ the King	26 th November	8.00am	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Eamon Commings RIP

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.