

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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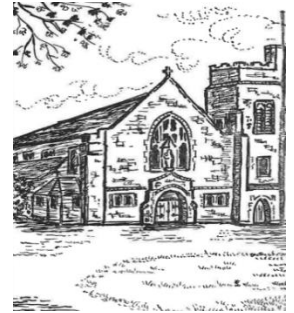
Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

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.



1st Sunday of Advent

Year B – Page 26

3rd December 2023

The gospel for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year B, Mark 13:33-37, is a passage where Jesus instructs his followers to be watchful and alert, drawing an analogy to a man going on a journey who leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their own task, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. This reflection will focus on the themes of vigilance and preparedness that are central to the season of Advent.

On this 1st Sunday of Advent Year B, this scripture invites Catholics to adopt a posture of awareness. As we enter this liturgical season, it's a time to focus on the anticipation of Christ's coming. Just as the servants in the parable are tasked with specific roles, each person has unique responsibilities in their life. The call to be alert reminds us to perform our duties diligently, whether in our family life, work, or community engagement, with the conscious intention that our actions should align with the teachings of Christ.

The doorkeeper's role in the parable underscores the importance of readiness. For Catholics, Advent is not just about preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth but also for his eventual return. This scripture can prompt a reflection on personal spiritual preparedness. Are we actively engaging in prayer, confession, and acts of charity? The anticipation of Jesus' second coming should inspire a reflection on the state of one's soul and how we live out our faith in daily life.

Lastly, the instruction to 'watch' is a powerful reminder of the need for spiritual vigilance. This can be interpreted as staying steadfast in faith amidst life's distractions and uncertainties. The unpredictable hour of the master's return in the parable can be seen as a metaphor for the unexpected nature of events in our own lives. As such, maintaining a strong spiritual foundation ensures that, whatever the hour, one is not taken by surprise but is found living in a way that is pleasing to God.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Reconciliation service	7.00pm
Sunday 24 th December	Christmas Eve carol service followed by Mass	6.00pm 6.30pm
	Midnight Mass carol service	8.30pm
	Followed by Midnight Mass	9.00pm
Monday 25 th December	Christmas Day	8.00am
	Christmas Day	9.30am
	Christmas Day	11.30am

SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON APOSTOLIC ZEAL (9):

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now consider some of the great men and women in the history of the Church whose lives exemplify love for Christ and passion for the spread of the Gospel. We begin, naturally, with the Apostle Paul. Paul's encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus transformed his zeal for the Law, which had led him to persecute Christians, into a consuming desire to proclaim the Gospel of God's loving mercy, revealed in the paschal mystery. Paul's conversion was truly a profound experience of death and resurrection; reborn in Christ, he became a "new creation" (2 Cor 5:17), now filled with zeal to carry the good news of our salvation to all the nations. Paul's example shows us that at the heart of all missionary zeal is a living encounter with the risen Lord. It also shows us that zeal for the Gospel can never justify violence or persecution in the name of the God of mercy, who invites us freely to accept his gift of new life by believing in the Gospel of Jesus his Son.

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.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

On Tuesday 12th December there will a Christmas Reconciliation service at 7pm in the church. All are welcome.

TODDLER GROUP:

Are extending their welcome to everyone. So if you would like to pop in for a hot drink or a chat on Tuesdays during term time at 2pm in the Parish Hall be assured of a warm welcome.

THE BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN:

On Friday 22nd December at 10am, volunteers are needed to clean the church in preparation for Christmas. Please come along and help if you can. Tea and biscuits will be provided!

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL CONCERT:

On Sunday 24th December, Christmas Eve, all children are invited to join Michelle in the choir loft at 5.45pm to sing with the choir. Please bring water and bells!

SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS MESSAGE RE CHRIST THE KING:

The Pope recalled the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - the last Sunday of the liturgical year - when the Gospel speaks to us about the final judgement, telling us it will be based on our care for one another through charity and mercy.

Heavenly vs. worldly criteria Recalling the scene described in the Gospel of a great hall where Jesus is seated on a throne and all the peoples of the world are gathered at His feet, he said "the blessed" are shown to be the friends of the king. They are the ones who fed the hungry, took care of the sick and needy, and visited prisoners. This stands in stark contrast, the Pope observed, to the empty "criteria of the world" which would value those seeking personal advantage through increasing the king's power, wealth, fame, and being feared and envied.

Helping others The "criteria of Jesus" places importance on those serving the needy, the weakest, those who need our help. *"This is because the Son of man is a completely different King, who calls the poor 'brethren', who identifies with the hungry, the thirsty, the outsiders, the sick, the imprisoned, and says: 'As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'"* The Lord, our King, is concerned about the hungry, the homeless, the sick, and the imprisoned, the Pope observed. And these are realities that are all too present today: the poor crowd our streets, as the Lord remembers the sick and those in prison paying the consequences of their mistakes.

Compassion and mercy The Gospel underscores that the "blessed" are those who show loving mercy through their service to people needing our help and companionship, by not ignoring them or turning them away, but by providing food, drink, clothing, shelter, and accompaniment. They are the friends of the King, as they distinguish themselves by following His example through "compassion, mercy, tenderness." *"And this is because Jesus, our King, who calls himself the Son of Man, finds His favourite sisters and brothers in the most fragile women and men. His "royal court" is held where there are those who suffer and need help."*

The Pope in his reflections recommended we examine our own lives and how much we recognize and believe in the centrality of mercy, the power of love, how charity is indispensable for believers, and if we are a "friend of the King" in being "personally involved in the needs of the suffering people I find on my path." *"May Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, help us to love Jesus our King in the least of his brethren."*

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

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.

SAHARA DESERT RETREAT IN MOROCCO:

26 February – 11 March 2024. Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony's in Forest Gate. Designed for young adults, open to all adults able to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). www.desert-retreat.com or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

PARISH CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR AT ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CATHOLIC CHURCH, ROMFORD:

A wonderfully refurbished parish centre is due to open in early 2024; could you be the person to co-ordinate bookings, keep the centre clean and tidy, and welcome those interested in hiring the place? 7 hours/week, £11.95/hour, with the potential for additional hours as usage grows. For more information email frdominic@brcdt.org, call 01708740308, or look at <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/>. Start: January 2024. Closing date for applications: 8th December 2023.

OFFICE CLERK – CATHEDRAL HOUSE:

To provide effective and efficient support in relation to administration requirements at Cathedral House. 21 hours per week 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Start date December/January £13 per hour. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to hr@brcdt.org

PARISH SECRETARY – RAYLEIGH:

To provide general administrative support. 10 hours per week. Start date February 2024. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to rayleigh@brcdt.org

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Eileen McCaffery 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, , 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 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.

ADVENT PRAYERS:

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. Amen.

O God, who gladdens us by the annual expectation of our Redemption, grant that we, who now receive with joy Your only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may behold him without fear when He comes as our judge, even the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of Your Only begotten-Son, that we may attain to serve You with purified minds, through His advent. Who with You lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. 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.

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.

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.

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	2 nd December	6.30pm	Catherine & Hugh Lennon & Rita Kyrou RIP
Sunday First Sunday of Advent	3 rd December	8.00am	Marie Edgley RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Sam Farrugia RIP
Monday	4 th December	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP & Frank Burke RIP
Tuesday	5 th December	9.15am	Shaila John RIP / Mary McCarthy RIP
Wednesday	6 th December	7.15pm 7.30pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i> Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
Thursday St Ambrose	7 th December	9.15am	Sheila Brunton RIP / Peggy Irwin RIP
Friday The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary	8 th December	9.15am	Zbigniew Zebroski RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	9 th December	9.15am	Phillip Oates 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
Sunday Second Sunday of Advent	10 th December	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Ania Wigley RIP
		11.30am	Kathleen & Victor Payne Int

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.