

# ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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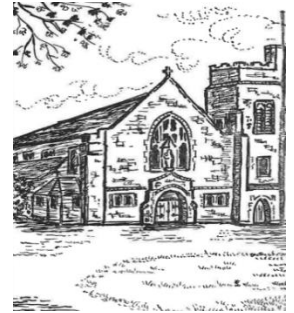
Email: [hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org](mailto:hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org)

Website: [www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk](http://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.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Year B – Page 28

10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

In Isaiah's prophecy in the first reading for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B, the people of Judah, exiled and longing for their homeland, are given a promise of return. This return is not just a physical journey but a spiritual realignment with God. The path back to their homeland symbolizes a return to a life in harmony with God's will, a theme that resonates deeply in our Advent journey.

Similarly, in the Gospel, St. John the Baptist uses language that echoes Isaiah's prophecy. He speaks not only to his contemporaries but to us across the ages. Our exile is not physical but spiritual, caused by our sins. John's message is clear: repentance is the road back from this exile. As John prepares the way for Jesus, he invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

Isaiah's vision of a transformed world and John's call for repentance underscore the need for personal and communal change. The coming of Jesus signifies a profound shift in how we relate to God and one another. This transformation requires a deep introspection to identify what needs change in our lives. However, pride often blinds us to our shortcomings, creating a barrier to true repentance and growth.

**Advent Reconciliation Service** will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. This is a graced opportunity to experience the mercy and healing that only God can give us. There will be a number of priests available to hear confessions.

**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/Morning Prayer/Rosary**- in the midst of all the frantic preparations for Christmas, please set aside some time for your spiritual preparation. *Come and spend some time in quiet prayer before the Lord.*

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES:**

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent Reconciliation service	7.00pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day	8.00am
	Christmas Day	9.30am
	Christmas Day	11.30am

### **NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS:**

The November dead list money has been counted and raised **£2,110** for *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. Thank you for your generosity.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE:**

Last week our First Holy Communion children placed stickers on our Christmas tree at the end of their special focus mass. Each sticker represents a meal given to a family in need. They raised a total of £143.80 for CAFOD. Well done to all of you!

### **THE BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN:**

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve, all children are invited to join Michelle in the choir loft at 5pm to sing with the choir. Please bring water and bells!

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

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now turn to the example of the martyrs, those men and women of every age, nation and tongue who have given their lives in testimony to the Gospel. In an outstanding way, the martyrs bore witness to the love that we celebrate in every Mass: the love that led Christ to lay down his life for us and that we in turn are called to imitate (cf. *1 Jn* 3:16). While all Christians must be prepared to testify to their faith in the face of persecution, martyrdom represents, in the words of the Second Vatican Council, "the highest gift and supreme proof of love" (*Lumen Gentium*, 42). Martyrs for the faith in our own time are even more numerous than in the early days of the Church. We can think, for example, of the two groups of Missionaries of Charity who assisted the elderly and disabled in Yemen, and were brutally killed during the ongoing conflict in that country. May the example of the martyrs continue to inspire our efforts to bear witness to the Gospel as we await the coming of God's kingdom of universal reconciliation, justice and peace.

### **REPOSITORY:**

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!

**SECOND COLLECTION:** The second collection for World Youth Sunday raised £486.64. Thank you for your generosity.

## **PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS:**

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

## **VOCATIONS:**

Interested in a Vocation to the Priesthood? - Vocations Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Contact Fr Mark Swires - VocProm@brcdt.org – for more information.

## **CHRISTMAS EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS:**

The clipboard for readers and Eucharistic ministers to volunteer for Christmas weekend will be in the porch for the next two weekends, first come, first served.

## **SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS MESSAGE- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent:**

Pope Francis emphasized the importance of vigilance at his Sunday Angelus, highlighting this does not mean living in fear, but rather waiting in loving anticipation of Jesus' arrival.

He was referring to this Sunday's Gospel passage, in which Jesus issued a simple exhortation three times: 'Keep watch'. The Holy Father noted that we sometimes think of this virtue as an attitude motivated by the fear of imminent punishment, but quickly assured the faithful that “this is certainly not the meaning of a Christian vigilance”.

As he is currently recovering from an inflammation of the lungs, the Pope's catechesis was streamed live from the Chapel at Casa Santa Marta where he resides, and was read by Bishop Paolo Braida, an official at the Vatican's Secretariat of State

### ***Vigilance means keeping the heart ready***

Jesus illustrates this with a parable, in which servants eagerly wait for their master's return. These servants have a close, affectionate relationship with the master and are not fearful, but eagerly anticipate his return out of love. They prepare diligently, wanting to welcome him warmly and joyfully when he comes back, like a happy family awaiting a special reunion. Reflecting on this parable, Pope Francis noted that “it is with this affection-filled expectation that we also want to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus at Christmas”. So, Pope Francis continued, in the weeks leading up to the special day, “Let us carefully prepare the house of the heart, so that it may be orderly and hospitable”. Vigilance, he explained, means keeping the heart ready.

### ***Share what you can***

The Holy Father then invited the faithful to plan to use Advent to share with their brothers and sisters in need, giving listening, time, concrete help. Dear friends, the Pope concluded, let us cultivate His expectation without being distracted by so many useless things “and without complaining all the time, but keeping our hearts alert, that is, eager for Him, awake and ready, impatient to meet Him”.

## **CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL:**

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://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.

### **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](http://www.desert-retreat.com) or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

### **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.

### **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](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl24)

### **BCYS YOUTH MASS – First Thursday of the Month, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral**

Beginning with pizza & refreshments with a workshop or speaker in the Parish Hall from 6pm, 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! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming – just email [info@bcys.net](mailto:info@bcys.net)

### **YOUNG ADULT RETREAT – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

A full day retreat for those aged 18 – 27 (having left school), at our beautiful retreat house Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Explore your faith, be inspired to put your faith into action, learn, ask questions and pray, all with other young adults. There is a small cost of just £10 to cover the day, with lunch and refreshments provided. For more information and to apply, please visit [www.bcys.net/events/youngadults/](http://www.bcys.net/events/youngadults/)

### **VOLUNTEER AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE:**

for the academic year 2024/2025 – applications are now open for anyone currently in year 13 or above and we are happy to answer any questions that young people or parents might have. All information for the above can be found on our website – [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)

### **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Nine Lessons and Carols at Brentwood Cathedral. With Bishop Alan and the Cathedral Choir at 4pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. A beautiful, uplifting service in word and music.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Dympna Bowes 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, Fr Francis Coveney, John Dawson, David Donovan, Anna Gawlik, Malcolm Hilton, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Lyndsey McCauley, 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](mailto: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 7.00pm 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 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, 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	9 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>6.30pm</b>	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri RIP
Sunday Second Sunday of Advent	10 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>8.00am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>9.30am</b>	Ania Wigley RIP
		<b>11.30am</b>	Kathleen & Victor Payne Int
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Joyce Rafferty RIP
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Eleanore & Gerald Rackman RIP / Helen Ging RIP
		<b>7.00pm</b>	Advent Reconciliation Service
Wednesday St Lucy	13 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>7.15pm</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<i>Evening Prayer</i> Kathy Mills RIP
Thursday St John of the Cross	14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Rory Maguire Int
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Tom Meyer Int
Saturday    Vigil Mass	16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Deceased members of the Curtin Family RIP
		<b>9.45-11.15am</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		<b>10.30-11.15am</b>	Confessions
		<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confessions
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Denis O'Sullivan RIP
Sunday Third Sunday of Advent	17 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>8.00am</b>	Mary McCarthy RIP / Cliff Glasscock RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Eamon Commins RIP / Doug Wilson 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.*