

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

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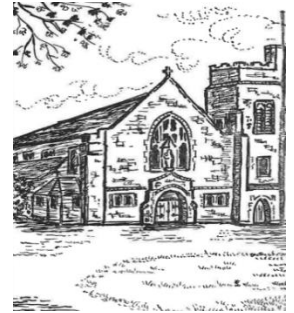
Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

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.



3rd & 4th Sunday of Advent Year B 17th & 24th December 2023

Considered together, the readings for the 3rd Sunday in Advent Year B intertwine to create a rich tapestry of anticipation and illumination. In Isaiah, we hear the jubilant proclamation of good news, liberty, and divine favor, a vivid depiction of the joyous fulfillment that comes with the Messiah's arrival. This joy, as echoed in Thessalonians, is not a fleeting emotion but a state of being, sustained by continuous prayer and gratitude, deeply rooted in the promise of Christ's transformative presence. Just as Isaiah speaks of being clothed in the garments of salvation and righteousness, so too are we invited to clothe ourselves in the joy and thanksgiving that come from God.

In John's Gospel, we encounter John the Baptist, the herald of the Light, embodying the role of a witness to the one true Light, Jesus Christ. This Light, which John testifies to, is the same Light that Isaiah foretells will bring freedom and renewal. The call in Thessalonians to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances is a response to this Light that illuminates our path, revealing the way to truth and salvation.

As we journey through Advent, we are reminded that our preparation for Christ's coming is not only a remembrance of a historical event but an active participation in the unfolding of God's redemptive plan. The convergence of joy from Isaiah, the testimony of John the Baptist, and Paul's exhortation to continual prayer and thanksgiving, shapes our Advent season as a time of deep spiritual renewal and expectant waiting for the fullness of God's salvation.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

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

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.*

FR JEROLD SAVIO:

This week, ahead of Christmas, we welcome to our Parish Father Jerold Savio of the Archdiocese of Trivandrum, India. Father Jerold has very kindly been sent to us by Bishop Alan Williams, so that he can provide some extra pastoral assistance. Fr Jerold was Ordained in 2007 and has served as a Parish Priest in his home Diocese before coming to Brentwood where he has offered his services for a number of years. He will remain with us probably until the Summer. We welcome him warmly and look forward to helping him integrate into our Parish and Diocesan life.

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 5pm to sing with the choir. Please bring water and bells!

PARISH OFFICE:

Charlie will be leaving us on the 19th December as she returns to teaching. We wish her the best of luck and are so grateful for the help she has given us over the last year.

Starting in January, the parish office will be open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-2pm. During the Christmas period, the office will be open on the 18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd and 29th December. The office will reopen on 3rd January.

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.

VOCATIONS:

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

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.

RAINHAM FOODBANK:

Pass on a huge THANK YOU to St Mary's parishioners who since 2015 have donated an amazing 12239.41kg of food. We just know that all is right with the world when St Mary's rings our doorbell each week. So many thanks, we are eternally grateful to everyone who gives so freely to Rainham Foodbank. Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year.

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.

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

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

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT – Saturday 6th 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/

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

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Dympna Bowes RIP who has died recently. Her funeral will be on 29th December at 11.30am at St Joseph's Church in Bishops Stortford. 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 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 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 16th – 31st DECEMBER:

Saturday Vigil Mass	16 th December	6.30pm	Denis O’Sullivan RIP
Sunday	17 th December	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP / Cliff Glasscock RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Eamon Commins RIP / Doug Wilson RIP
		5.00pm	Holy hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday	18 th December	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Jim & Andrew Shanahan RIP
Tuesday	19 th December	9.15am	Nora Maguire RIP / Julia Higgins Int
Wednesday	20 th December	7.15pm 7.30pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i> Rita Maher RIP
Thursday	21 st December	9.15am	Reginald Smith & Family RIP / Timothy Joseph Sullivan RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	22 nd December	9.15am	Sheryl Gowan RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	23 rd 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	Martha Sheridan RIP
Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent The Nativity of the Lord Midnight Mass	24 th December	8.00am	Mary Harkins RIP / Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Helen Thomson RIP / Christine Franklyn Int
		6.00pm 6.30pm	<i>Christmas Eve carol Service</i> The Goggin & McMillan Family RIP
		8.30pm 9.00pm	<i>Midnight Mass carol service</i> Alby & Marie Edgley RIP

Monday Christmas Day	25 th December	8.00am	Fr Patrick & Sister Teresa RIP
		9.30am	All Holy Souls / The Bray Family Int
		11.30am	Jack Hughes RIP / Pat Mossman RIP
Tuesday St Stephen	26 th December	10.00am	John Hanley RIP
Wednesday St John	27 th December	7.15pm 7.30pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i> Margaret Oluwatosin Olaniyan thanksgiving
Thursday The Holy Innocents	28 th December	9.15am	George Butler RIP / Ron Edgson & Family RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday St Thomas of Canterbury	29 th December	9.15am	Eddie Grange & Family RIP / Jimmy Moloney RIP
Saturday Sixth day within in the Octave of Christmas Vigil Mass	30 th December	9.15am	John O’Sullivan RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	Marie & Albey Edgley RIP
Sunday The Holy family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	31 st December	8.00am	Matthew Hickey RIP
		9.30am	Francis Olumide Oluyemi RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners

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.