

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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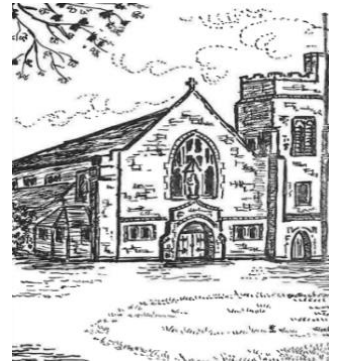
Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Assistant Priest: Father Jerold Savio

Parish secretary: Laura Stevens

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-2pm



The Holy Family Year B – Page 41 Sunday 31st December

In the readings of the Feast of the Holy Family Year B, we encounter a profound invitation to transform our homes into sanctuaries of God's love and faithfulness. The Gospel of Luke, detailing the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, not only showcases the devotion of the Holy Family to religious observance but also underscores their deep-seated obedience to God's will.

This narrative is a vivid portrayal of a family wholly committed to God, where each action and decision is rooted in faith and love. This example sets a high standard for us: to make our families not just units of societal function but embodiments of divine love, where every interaction is steeped in the virtues of faith and obedience exemplified by Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

Similarly, the first reading for the Feast of the Holy Family Year B from Sirach reinforces this by emphasizing the respect and honor owed to parents, linking family life to spiritual obedience and reverence. It shows us that the familial bond is not just a social construct but a sacred covenant. The Holy Family, in their simple yet profound acts of faith, becomes a model for us, guiding us to see our family relationships as opportunities to practice God's commandments, to foster virtues, and to grow in holiness.

As we meditate on these scriptures, we are called to assess and realign our family dynamics. Are we cultivating an environment where God's word is not only revered but lived? Are we, like the Holy Family, putting obedience to God's will at the forefront of our family life? These readings thus serve as a blueprint, urging us to build our domestic churches on the firm foundation of love, faith, and obedience to God, much like the Holy Family did.

A BIG THANK YOU:

Fr Mark & Fr Jerold would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to prepare for Christmas – church cleaners, altar servers, choir, musicians, flower ladies, stewards, crib builders etc. It was truly a wonderful Christmas celebration. Also, a big thank you to everyone for their most generous Christmas offerings, plus cards and gifts. God Bless You.

CRIB OFFERINGS:

Many thanks to those who have donated to the crib offerings so far. A reminder that the money will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

CONFIRMATION MASS OF ACCEPTANCE:

Saturday 13th January the first meeting for candidates will be in the Parish Hall at 5pm, followed by Enrolment Mass at 6.30pm in the church with your parents.

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? – The next vocations evening will be on Tuesday 6th February at Brentwood Cathedral. 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.

HELPERS OF GODS PRECIOUS INFANTS:

Please join us for our next monthly prayer vigil on Saturday 13th January at Our Lady of The Rosary Church in Brixton. We will begin with Mass at 10am, 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 the flyer on the noticeboard.

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.

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.

FINANCES:

You can make a payment into our bank account, either as a one off or by a regular Standing Order. If you have a gift aid number, please use that as a reference.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

The details are as follows:

Account Name: St. Mary Mother of God

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22

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

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer.
Amen. (Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 325)

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	30 th December	6.30pm	Marie & Albey Edgley RIP
Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	31 st December	8.00am	Matthew Hickey RIP
		9.30am	Francis Olumide Oluyemi RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners
Monday Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	1 st January	10.00am	Norah Lenehan RIP & Ray Grant RIP
Tuesday SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	2 nd January	9.15am	Mary & Emma Lowe RIP
Wednesday	3 rd January	7.15pm	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
		7.30pm	S. Alphonse Fernandez RIP & Mr & Mrs TB Fernandez RIP
Thursday	4 th January	9.15am	Joseph Ma RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	5 th January	9.15am	Sean Sullivan RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	6 th January	9.15am	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	The Mullen Family RIP
Sunday The Epiphany of The Lord	7 th January	8.00am	John Boon RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Sam Farrugia RIP
		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.