

# ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Assistant Priest: Father Jerold Savio

Parish secretary: Laura Stevens

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



## **The Epiphany of The Lord – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Page 49**

The Gospel account of Matthew for the Feast of the Epiphany is particularly striking in its depiction of the visit of the Magi. This event is not just a narrative about wise men from the East bringing gifts to a newborn king; it is a profound theological statement about Jesus' role as the Messiah for all people. The star that guides the Magi symbolizes the divine light leading the nations to Jesus. In contrast to the powerful and paranoid King Herod, the infant Jesus embodies a different kind of kingship – one that is humble, vulnerable, and yet, paradoxically, a threat to the established political power.

Matthew's account, unique among the Gospels, emphasizes the universal scope of Jesus' mission. While some scholars suggest that Matthew may have embellished this story to highlight Jesus' role for the Gentiles, the absence of contrary evidence gives this narrative a significant place in Christian theology. It illustrates that from the very beginning, Jesus' life and mission were marked by miraculous signs that pointed beyond the boundaries of Israel to the wider world. The stark contrast between Jesus and Herod in this account is also noteworthy. Herod's reaction to the news of a newborn king – a brutal decree to murder male children – starkly contrasts with the innocence and helplessness of baby Jesus. This juxtaposition sets the tone for Jesus' ministry, where he consistently challenges and redefines the concept of power and authority. The Epiphany, therefore, is not just about the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles but also a revelation of the nature of God's kingdom – a kingdom where the last are first, the humble are exalted, and true power is found in love and vulnerability.

The Feast of the Epiphany, through its readings, invites us to reflect on the universality of Jesus' mission and the radical nature of God's kingdom. It calls us to recognize the light of Christ that shines for all peoples and to embrace the transformative power of this revelation in our lives and communities.

## **SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON APOSTOLIC ZEAL (10):**

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now turn to the example of the saints of every age, beginning with those who embraced the monastic life. Their witness of following Christ in poverty, chastity and obedience was combined with unceasing intercessory prayer for the spread of the Gospel and the growth of the Church. Today we consider Saint Gregory of Narek, a medieval Armenian monk and Doctor of the Church, whose writings embody the profound Christian tradition of the Armenian people, the first to embrace the Gospel. In the hiddenness of his monastery, Gregory sensed a profound solidarity with the whole Church and her mission of preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations and peoples. Identifying with sinful humanity, he devoted his entire existence to interceding for sinners, the poor and those in need of the Lord's healing and forgiveness. The example of Saint Gregory of Narek reminds us of our responsibility to cooperate, by our own intercessory prayer, in the Church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel message of reconciliation, redemption and peace for the entire human family.

**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:** Next Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January the first meeting for Candidates who are already signed up on the Confirmation Course 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 **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January from 7pm to 8pm** in the church. Please bring with you your child's Baptism certificate.

**VOCATIONS:** Interested in a Vocation to the Priesthood? – The next vocations evening will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at Brentwood Cathedral. Contact Fr Mark Swires - [VocProm@brcdt.org](mailto:VocProm@brcdt.org) – for more information.

**HELPERS OF GODS PRECIOUS INFANTS:** Please join us for our next monthly prayer vigil on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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. Please see the flyer on the noticeboard.

**CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS:** Our young people will be starting their faith journey through Confirmation which will take place on Pentecost Sunday. With this in mind, they need your support, and we ask if you could do this with your prayers. We are looking for members of the parish to become their prayer partners. All that would be required of you is to put your name on the list in the porch; we will then allocate a young person to your name and ask if you would pray for them during this time. Our Confirmation candidates are hoping to host a coffee morning before their Confirmation which you would be invited to. Our young people thank you for your consideration.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Next weekend there will be a second collection for Pax Christi on World Peace Day.

**RECENTLY BAPTISED CHILDREN:** We welcome Katie Viteri, Kylie Viteri & Leon Sobers who have been Baptised recently and are now members of God's Holy Family.

**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, by a regular Standing Order or by scanning the below QR codes. The details are as follows:

Account Name: St. Mary Mother of God

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22

All payments are gratefully received.



To donate £5



To donate £10



To donate £20

### **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.

### **CHURCH EVENTS:**

**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.

**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.

**St Vincent de Paul Society:** Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7pm in the Van Meenen room.

**Foodbank:** Donation box is in the porch of the church. 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:** Contact Angela on 07974417007. The flowers are normally done on a Friday.

## MASS INTENTIONS:

<b>Saturday</b> Vigil Mass	6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>6.30pm</b>	The Mullen Family RIP
<b>Sunday</b> The Epiphany of The Lord	7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>8.00am</b>	John Boon RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Sam Farrugia RIP
		<b>5.00pm</b>	Holy hour with Rosary and Benediction
<b>Monday</b> The Baptism of The Lord	8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP
<b>Tuesday</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Eamonn O'Mahoney RIP
<b>Wednesday</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>7.15pm</b>	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Colette, Paddy & Niamh Cavanagh RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Sean O'Sullivan RIP
<b>Friday</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Kathy Goble RIP
<b>Saturday</b>     Vigil Mass	13 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Gordon Hirst 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>	Tim & Ellen O'Sullivan RIP
<b>Sunday</b> Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>8.00am</b>	Mary McCarthy RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Eamon Commins 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.*

### 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.