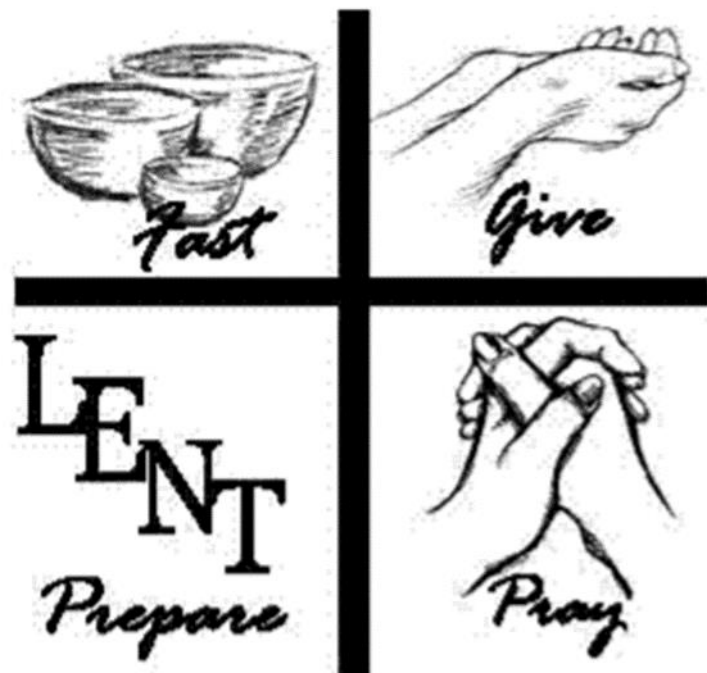


LENT 2024



St Mary Mother of God Hornchurch

LENT 2024

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart, as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. And we recall the waters of baptism in which we were baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Jesus Himself, of course, accompanies us on this Lenten journey, encouraging us with his word, strengthening us through the Eucharist and forgiving our sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us journey together.

EMBRACING THE CROSS: Fr Mark will give a talk on Thursday 14th March at 7pm entitled 'Embracing the Cross' as he explores 'how' we should respond to the suffering in our lives, as well as looking at the 'why' of suffering.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Will take place twice a week during Lent, on Tuesdays after the morning Mass as well as Fridays at 7pm. On some Fridays, Stations of the Cross will be led by different groups within the Parish. Please make a very special effort to attend at least one *Stations of the Cross* during Lent.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Will take place on Tuesday 19th March at 7pm. This is a graced opportunity to experience the mercy and healing that only God can give us, especially during this season of Lent. There will be a number of priests to hear confessions.

HIGHLIGHTS

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: On Friday, 23 February thousands of women and men around the world face the same question: without a way of getting enough food throughout the year, how do you make sure your family can eat today and tomorrow? This was the question that James, a fisherman in Liberia, found himself asking. And he wasn't alone. Your support for CAFOD this Fast Day helps hardworking people like James to return home safely and feed their families for good. Use the envelope or give online at cafod.org.uk/lent.

WALK WITH ME: Lenten Booklets are a simple and helpful way to focus our attention on the Lord every day during the season of Lent. Plus a Lenten Calendar for the children.

EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT: During the weeks of Lent, why not come and pray before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. On Thursdays we have exposition after Mass until 12noon and Saturdays after Mass until 11.15am, as well as every other Sunday (5-6pm including Rosary and Benediction).

MORNING PRAYER/ ROSARY/ MASS: At other times during Lent, please take advantage of Morning Prayer, the Rosary, and indeed Mass, as detailed in the Newsletter. Please note that there will be additional evening Masses on some Tuesdays and on all Fridays after Stations of the Cross.

SVP SECOND COLLECTION: On Sunday 10th March there will be a second collection for the SVP. Money will go towards supporting them in their ongoing work within the parish.

Palm Sunday- 24th March 2024

Masses at 6.30pm (Vigil), 8am, 9.30am and 11.30am.

Wednesday in Holy Week- 27th March

11am Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral

Maundy Thursday- 28th March

8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday- 29th March

12noon Children's Stations of the Cross

TBA Ecumenical Walk of Witness

3pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

7pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday- 30th March

9.30am Office of Readings

8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday- 31st March

Masses at 8am, 9.30am and 11.30am.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE