

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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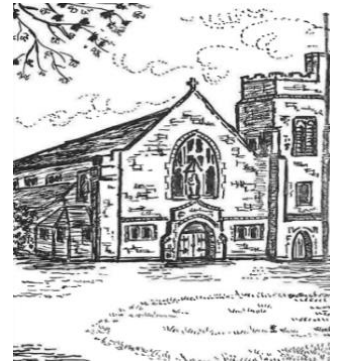
Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Assistant Priest: Father Jerold Savio

Parish secretary: Laura Stevens

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



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday 24th March 2024 – Page 88

The reading for the procession for Palm Sunday Year B tells the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where he is greeted with shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The people were excited and hopeful that Jesus would be the one to liberate them from Roman rule and restore the glory of Israel. However, when we get to the Passion reading, we see that things did not turn out as they had hoped.

In these later passages, we witness Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. He is betrayed by one of his own disciples, denied by another, and abandoned by most. He is mocked, beaten, and ultimately killed on a cross.

As we reflect on these two passages together, we are reminded of the fickle nature of human beings. The same people who welcomed Jesus with open arms in Mark 11, were the ones who turned on him in Mark 14-15. They allowed their own expectations and desires to cloud their judgment, and they failed to see the true mission and message of Jesus.

This can serve as a warning to us as well. It is easy for us to get caught up in our own desires and expectations, and to lose sight of the bigger picture. We may think that we know what is best for ourselves and for the world, but in reality, our knowledge and understanding are limited.

The readings for Palm Sunday Year B remind us that God's ways are not our ways, and that sometimes we must be willing to let go of our own expectations and trust in God's plan. Jesus' death on the cross was not the end, but rather the beginning of a new hope and a new life. It was through his sacrifice that we are saved, and it is through our own willingness to surrender our own desires and follow him that we can experience true freedom and salvation.

Let us reflect on these passages for Palm Sunday Year B with humility and openness, recognizing our own limitations and weaknesses, and trusting in the infinite wisdom and love of God. May we be willing to let go of our own expectations and desires, and follow Jesus with faith and courage, even when the road ahead seems uncertain or difficult.

HOLY WEEK IS UPON US. Today on Palm Sunday, we process with Jesus into Jerusalem. Jesus is getting nearer to Calvary, to be lifted high on the Cross, offering Himself to the Father as a sacrificial lamb *for us and for our salvation*. Holy Week is the week in which the earthly life of Jesus Our Lord and Saviour comes to a climax when on Good Friday He dies on the Cross for us and on Easter Sunday, rises gloriously from the tomb. All the events we hear about in the Gospel accounts of the Passion play out this week. On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem. On Monday, He goes to Bethany where with costly oil Mary will anoint His feet. On Tuesday, we see Jesus at supper, troubled that one of The Twelve will betray Him and another deny Him. On Wednesday, Judas enters a deal to hand Him over. Then on Thursday, we begin the Triduum, the Sacred Three Days: the Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by the Agony on the Garden, the celebration of the Crucifixion on Good Friday, the Lord's descent into hell on Holy Saturday and the glory of the resurrection at the Easter Vigil.

I'd like to encourage you to treat Holy Week as a kind of spiritual retreat. Jesus invites us to go with Him to the Father, carrying with us the Cross of our sickness, suffering and sadness. True, most of us won't be able to create the peace, quiet and prayerful solitude of a retreat house. But let's do our best in Holy Week at least to get to the liturgies of the week. Try to spend time each day in prayer, maybe creating a simple schedule. Study and reflect on the Readings of Mass. Why not visit church to make the Stations of the Cross? Look out for a chance to do an act of kindness and charity to someone in need. Let's bombard heaven with our petitions for an end to the war in Ukraine and in the Middle East. And above all, while there's an opportunity, do your best to avail yourself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, making a good confession in preparation for Easter.

LAURA STEVENS I am very sorry to inform you that our Parish Administrator Laura Stevens is moving on to pastures new, and so, we are advertising for someone to fill her position. We are obviously very sad to lose her, as she has been such a gift to the Parish, but we wish her every success for her future employment.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR – St Mary Mother of God– Hornchurch

St Mary Mother of God in Hornchurch are looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community and also carry out some financial duties. The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills as well as financial experience. Hours: 20 hours per week working three or four days per week. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to hr@brcdt.org. Closing date for applications is 7th April 2024. Job description: Parish Administrator www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us

GIFT AID BOXES: This year's new gift aid boxes are now available for you to collect at the back of the Church. If you pay online, your box will only include second collection envelopes.

EASTER EGG HUNT: On Easter Sunday after the 9.30am Mass (weather permitting) we will be holding an Easter egg hunt for the children on the field behind the church.

CHURCH CLEANING: Volunteers are needed to clean the church for Easter. If you can spare 30 minutes, please come along, and help on Good Friday 29th March at 9am.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you have a specific date in mind, please book at least 4 months in advance to avoid disappointment. We currently have no availability until mid June.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS: The Walk of Witness will take place on Good Friday 29th March. Meet outside St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch at 10.15am and then walk as a group through Hornchurch and to the Queen's Theatre, Billet Lane for an open-air service. All are welcome to either join us on the walk or meet us at the Queen's Theatre for the service.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 25TH MAY 2024: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. **If you would like to come, please leave your name & contact telephone number on the list at the back of the Church.**

CONCERT FOR ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP: Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024. The fundraising concert is on Saturday 13th April 2024 - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Wine and refreshments included. Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings and more details: www.boscocamp.co.uk/events

VOLUNTEERS AT THE ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP, from 27th July – 3rd August, help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. Details: www.boscocamp.co.uk

VACANCY Ursuline Links: Youth Volunteer Programme are recruiting for a Director for the charity's future working in Forest Gate, London. If you feel you have the relevant skills and experience to fulfil this role, please send your CV to officemanager@ursulines-ru.uk All suitable applicants will be sent an application form to complete. Closing date **19th April 2024.**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Philip Norman Brandon RIP who has died recently. Please keep his 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, 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, Claire Ramm (Shanahan), Phil & Tony Reid, Paul and Jill Ridley, Anne Sullivan, Josie Walsh, Evelyn Ward, Hannah Haughey 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

SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	23 rd March	6.30pm	James Carroll RIP
Sunday Palm Sunday	24 th March	8.00am	Mark McDonagh RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Rita Kyrrou RIP
Monday	25 th March	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	26 th March	9.15am	Eileen Grannell RIP Followed by stations of the Cross
Wednesday	27 th March	11.00am 7.15pm 7.30pm	<i>Mass of Chrism-Brentwood Cathedral</i> <i>Evening prayer</i> Joan Hope RIP
Thursday Maundy Thursday	28 th March	7.00pm 8.00pm	Confessions <i>Last Supper Mass</i> Vicky Checkley RIP & Terri & Eileen Int
Friday Good Friday	29 th March	12 noon	Children's Stations of the Cross
		3.00pm	Commemoration of the Lords' Passion
		6.45pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet
		7.00pm	Station of the Cross
Saturday Holy Saturday Vigil Mass	30 th March	9.30am	Office of Readings
		10.30am-12.30pm	Confessions
		8.00pm	<i>Easter Vigil</i> Patrick Brennan RIP & Charles Finch Int
Sunday Easter Sunday	31 st March	8.00am	Mary McCarthy RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	KSC Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

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 and we will add you to our mailing list.