

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

Tel: 01708 447761

Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

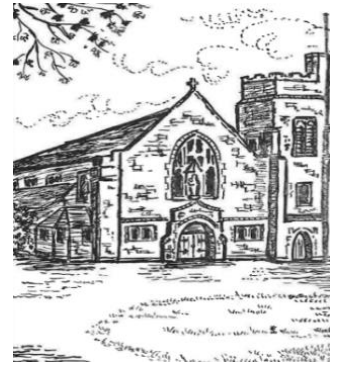
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Assistant Priest: Father Frank Westcott

Parish Manager: Laura Stevens

Parish office opening hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-3pm

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 1st December 2024 – Page 82

The 1st Sunday of Advent Year C reminds us to be watchful and prayerful. Jesus warns about signs in the sun, moon, and stars. These signs can seem frightening, but Jesus tells us not to be afraid. Instead, we should stand tall because our redemption is near. This teaches us to be ready for Jesus' return.

Being watchful means staying alert and paying attention to how we live. We should avoid things that distract us from God. Instead, we should focus on prayer and good deeds. Jesus calls us to live in a way that pleases God. This makes us ready for His coming.

Prayer is a key theme in the readings for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C. Jesus urges us to pray for strength to face challenges. Prayer helps us stay connected to God and strong in our faith. It reminds us that we need God's help every day. By praying, we grow closer to Him and prepare our hearts for Jesus' return.

As we begin Advent, the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C encourages us to reflect on our lives. Are we living in a way that honors God? Are we watchful and prayerful? By focusing on these themes, we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus and grow in our faith.

PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Our Christmas bazaar will take place next **Saturday 7th December** from 12pm-4pm in the Parish Hall. **Please can cake and mince pie donations be brought into the office on Friday 6th or to the hall on the morning of Saturday 7th.**

Raffle tickets will be sold after all weekend Masses - £1 a strip.

HELPERS FOR THE BAZAAR: Thank you to those that have already signed up to help with the bazaar, please check the sheet in the porch to see where you will be helping on the day. We are desperately looking for help for the tidy up session – more hands make light work! If you can help in any way, please pop your name in a yellow box on the sheet which is in the porch or speak to Laura in the office.

POPE FRANCIS WED. AUDIENCE ON VIRTUES AND VICES 17 -FAITH

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the theological virtues, which unite us to God and strengthen the moral virtues, we now turn to faith. The Catechism states that by faith we believe in God and all that God has revealed to us, and freely commit our entire self to him (cf. No. 1814). Throughout the Scriptures, we encounter poignant examples of this manifested in the lives of such individuals as Abraham, Moses and the Blessed Virgin Mary, who embarked on uncharted paths fraught with perils entrusting themselves completely to God. Yet even among believers, there are times when faith can falter and fear takes hold. Let us remember that faith is a gift, a gift that must be asked for with confidence in the power of God's grace to give stability and strength to our lives. Like the disciples in the boat, buffeted by the storm on the lake, let us turn to Jesus each day and beg him: "Lord, increase our faith!" (Lk 17:5)

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Our Advent Reconciliation Service will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm. This is a graced opportunity to experience the mercy and healing that only God can give us. There will be a number of priests available to hear confessions.

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY The second collection last weekend raised £437.04 which will support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service.

NEW LECTIONARIES AND NEW PARISH MASS BOOKS

A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024 (Sunday 1st December). It will use the *English Standard Version–Catholic Edition* of the Bible for the scripture readings and the *Abbey Psalms and Canticles* for the Responsorial Psalms. This also means that we will have new Parish Mass books from the first Sunday of Advent.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE: The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The 2025 Jubilee year will officially open on 24th December, 2024 with a Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2025: We have been invited by the Parishes of Leigh-on-Sea and Southend to join them on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes to mark the Jubilee year. This group is part of the overall Diocesan Pilgrimage, but it arranges its own accommodation through a Tour Operator called Anam Cara Travel. This means that the package is cheaper than the Diocesan Pilgrimage and we can stay at the very nice 4 star *Grande Hotel Moderne Soubirous* (closest to the Sanctuary). However, even though the cost is less than the main pilgrimage, however, it still works out at £895 (per person sharing) for a 5-night package from Monday 21st July to Saturday 26th July. At the moment, I am trying to gauge interest. If you are interested, please email the parish office by Monday 2nd December and we will send you more information. I am not sure how many places are available, so it will be a case of first come first served.

THE BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN: On Monday 23rd December at 10.30am, we will be cleaning the church ready for Christmas. Teas, coffees and mince pies will be provided. Please come and help if you can, more hands make light work.

STARS ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE: Wooden decoration stars are available to buy from the Repository after all weekend Masses, £2 each. We ask the children to decorate the stars and hand them back to us so we can use them to decorate the Church for Christmas.

FLOWER ARRANGING: Our wonderful flower arranging team provide beautiful floral displays on the altar, and around the church. They desperately need more help, so even if you have never arranged a flower in your life, but would like to try, you are very welcome.

TODDLER GROUP: After 14 years Brenda has decided to step away from the running of the toddler group. We would like to invite anyone who would be interested in running the toddler group to please contact the parish office. The last session before Christmas will be on Tuesday 3rd December 2-3pm in the Parish Hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE:

Last week our First Holy Communion children placed stickers on our Christmas tree which is now displayed on the board. Each sticker represents a meal given to a family in need. They raised a total of £189.55 for CAFOD. Well done to all of you!

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! There will also be a practice on Sunday 8th December at 1.45pm.

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROMFORD: Headteacher Required from September 2025. The school are looking for an inspiring leader with great attention to standards of teaching and learning, wonderful pastoral care for the children, and all wrapped in a strong Catholic ethos which infuses every aspect of school life. All the details are on the Diocesan website. Visits are warmly encouraged, and the deadline for applications is **9th December**.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH at home and in hospital, especially: Ashley Baptist, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, John Dawson, Anna Gawlik, Malcolm Hilton, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Lyndsey McCauley, Luiz Eduardo Mota, Margeruite Nolan, Greta Shanahan, Bridget O'Sullivan, Claire Ramm, Phil & Tony Reid, Paul and Jill Ridley, Eileen Ronan, Anne Sullivan, Melona Vigo, Josie Walsh, and Evelyn Ward

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: Catholic Church Hornchurch St. Mary Mother of God

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22



To donate £5



To donate £10



To donate £20

SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	30 th November	6.30pm	Mick, Sue & Marie O'Donnell RIP
Sunday 1 st Sunday of Advent	1 st December	8.00am	John Dennehy RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Sam & Connie Farrugia RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction
Monday	2 nd December	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP
Tuesday St Francis Xavier	3 rd December	9.15am	John Fowley Int
Wednesday	4 th December	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Mary McCarthy RIP
Thursday	5 th December	9.15am	Kathleen & Victor Payne RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	6 th December	9.15am	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP Zbigniew Zebrowski RIP
Saturday St Ambrose Vigil Mass	7 th December	9.15am	Sheila Brunton RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		12-4pm	CHRISTMAS BAZAAR In the Parish Hall
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	Kathy O'Dea Int
Sunday 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8 th December	8.00am	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	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.
Also, there is Adoration from 8.15am – 8.45am on Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri*

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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 hornchurchstmng@brcdt.org and we will add you to our mailing list.