

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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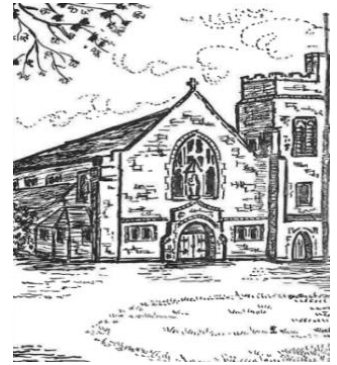
Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Parish Manager: Laura Stevens

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday 8th December 2024 – Page 84

On the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C, the first reading from the book of Baruch speaks of a joyful return to God. Baruch invites the people to take off their garments of sorrow and put on the beauty of God's glory. This symbolizes a transformation from despair to hope. It reminds us that God is always ready to restore us, no matter how far we have strayed.

Baruch speaks of God leading His people back with mercy and justice. This journey back to God is not just a physical return but a spiritual one. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we are called to examine our hearts and return to God with joy and trust. This theme of restoration is central to the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C, emphasizing that Advent is a time for spiritual renewal and hope.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to make our paths straight, which means removing anything that stands between us and God. We all face different challenges, such as pride or comfort, which can hinder our spiritual journey. This Advent, we are called to address these obstacles and make room for the Lord.

John the Baptist's message was compelling because people were overwhelmed by the difficulties of their time. He offered them hope by announcing that change was coming and they needed to be ready. This preparation wasn't passive; it required active effort. John's call to baptism was a call to leave behind old habits and prepare for something new. It was about transforming their hearts and lives to welcome Jesus.

As Christians, we share in the prophetic mission through our baptism. John the Baptist proclaimed God's work, and we are also called to reveal God through our lives. Our actions and words should reflect our faith and help others encounter Jesus. However, to do this effectively, we must first confront and overcome our own obstacles. The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C reminds us that by actively preparing our hearts and lives, we can better guide others towards Christ.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Tuesday 17 th December	Advent Reconciliation service	7.00pm
Tuesday 24 th December	Christmas Eve carol service followed by Mass	6.00pm 6.30pm
	Midnight Mass carol service	8.30pm
	Followed by Midnight Mass	9.00pm
Wednesday 25 th December	Christmas Day	8.00am
	Christmas Day	9.30am
	Christmas Day	11.30am

POPE FRANCIS WED. AUDIENCE ON VIRTUES AND VICES 18 - HOPE

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the theological virtues, we now examine hope, by which we desire the happiness of eternal life. Without hope, the life of virtue would seem unobtainable. Christian hope is grounded in the Lord himself who died and rose for us. As his followers we trust in his promises, especially the gift of the Holy Spirit, striving each day to live in a manner worthy of our calling. Patience walks hand-in-hand with hope, providing a steady path forward. When we are accompanied by them on the journey of life, we remember God's mercy and faithful love. This helps us to avoid being held captive by nostalgia for the past, by melancholy or discouragement. With youthful hearts may we, like Simeon and Anna, persevere in hope.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS: The November dead list money has been counted and raised **£1660.50** for *Aid To The Church In Need* who will ensure that Masses for the Holy Souls are said in different churches around the world who are struggling financially. Thank you for your generosity.

ADVENT PRAYER MEETING: On Monday 9th December, in the Parish Hall there will be an Advent prayer evening. Take a pause in your busy lives in this season of Advent. Come along to our prayer evening, let's put

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.

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.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL CONCERT: On Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve, children are invited to join Michelle in the choir loft by 5.45 pm to sing with the choir. Please bring water and bells!

There will also be a practice in the choir loft on Sunday 8th December starting at 1.45 pm, finishing at 2:45 pm.

TODDLER GROUP: We would like to invite anyone who would be interested in running the toddler group to please contact the parish office.

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 REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Evelyn Ward RIP who has died recently. Please keep her family and all who knew her in your prayers.

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 and Josie Walsh.

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	7 th December	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
Monday The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary	9 th December	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP & Evelyn Ward RIP
Tuesday	10 th December	9.15am	Rory Maguire & Family Int
Wednesday	11 th December	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Joyce Rafferty RIP
Thursday	12 th December	9.15am	Joseph Ma RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday St Lucy	13 th December	9.15am	John & Brigid Cody RIP
Saturday St John of the Cross Vigil Mass	14 th December	9.15am	Joseph Ma RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri & Alfred Farrugia RIP
Sunday 3 rd Sunday of Advent	15 th December	8.00am	Mary & Danny McCarthy RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Doug Wilson RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary & 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.
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 hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org and we will add you to our mailing list.