

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

Tel: 01708 447761

Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

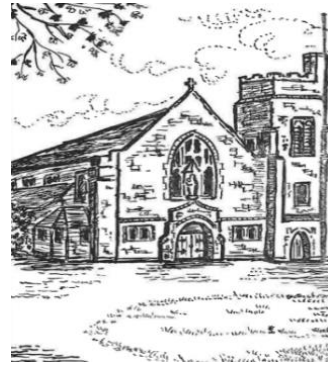
Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Parish Manager: Laura Stevens

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 15th December 2024 – Page 87

The first reading for the 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C is from Zephaniah. It speaks of joy and celebration because God is with His people. Zephaniah tells us to shout for joy and be glad because the Lord has removed the judgment against us. He is in our midst, and we have no reason to fear. This reading reminds us of the theme of joyful anticipation. We are called to be happy and hopeful because God is near. When we feel anxious or worried, we can find comfort in knowing that God is with us. He loves us and will take care of us. God's presence brings peace and safety. Zephaniah describes a world where God protects and saves His people. This is a powerful image of God's love and care. We are encouraged to trust in God and believe that He will keep us safe.

The Gospel shows how Jesus brings change. John the Baptist speaks of Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. He describes Jesus holding a winnowing fan to clear the threshing floor, separating the wheat from the chaff. This shows that Jesus will bring a new way of living, one that challenges the old ways. Some of us feel comfortable with the way things are. Life is good, and we do not want it to change. We feel secure and happy. Others among us welcome change because we live in difficult situations. We hope for a better life and trust that change will bring it. Some of us are in between, wanting change but also fearing the loss of what we have. We often hold tightly to our possessions and positions, wanting to secure our future. But God's vision is bigger. He dreams of a world where everyone has what they need. This is a good time to reflect on our lives.

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.

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 19 - CHARITY

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the theological virtues, we now turn to charity, the greatest of the virtues (*1 Cor 13:13*). More than mere friendship, affection for family, or benevolence towards others, charity is a gift from God, directed to loving him above all things and our neighbour as ourselves. With the Holy Spirit's grace and through the power of Christ's redeeming love, we can love each other in a way that surpasses our natural inclinations. Christian charity or *agape* is lived by loving the poor, the unloveable and those who don't love us, by pardoning all who have offended us and by blessing those who curse us (*Lk 6:28*). May we be bearers of Christian charity to all people, witnessing to our love for God with generosity and humble service.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRMIARY SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE: All the children in Years 5 & 6 at St Mary's, warmly invite parishioners to join them for their Advent Service in the church this Monday 16th for a 6PM start. While the central pews are typically reserved for parents and families coming to see their children, there is usually space in the side pews, and we would love for you to share in this special occasion with us. Your presence would add to the spirit and reverence of the service as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Advent season. We hope to see you there! All the children and staff in Years 5 & 6

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: A BIG thank you to all those who helped to make our Christmas Bazaar such a success, despite the wind and the rain. Thank you to the many people who made donations, a thank you to all who came along on the day, a thank you to all who helped with set up, running the stalls and putting away, and a great big thank you to those who organised everything. We raised around GBP 4,000. Thank you.

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.

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.

FOODBANK: Please can parishioners continue to support the Foodbank appeal in the run up to Christmas. The foodbank urgently needs tinned meat, tinned fish, pasta sauce, jam, small jars of coffee and tinned fruit and any Christmas food items. Many thanks SVP.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families experiencing poverty. Please take a pamphlet from the porch.

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.

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.

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.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Evelyn Ward RIP, Monica Doherty RIP, Eileen Ronan RIP & Melona Vigo RIP who have died recently.

Please keep their families and all who knew them in your prayers.

Evelyn Ward's funeral will take place here on Monday 30th December at 10.15am.

Monica Doherty's funeral will take place here on Thursday 9th January at 11am.

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, William Myers, Eileen Newman, Margeruite Nolan, Greta Shanahan, Bridget O'Sullivan, Claire Ramm, Phil & Tony Reid, Paul and Jill Ridley, Eileen Ronan, Anne Sullivan, 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	14 th December	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
Monday	16 th December	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP & Evelyn Ward RIP
Tuesday	17 th December	9.15am	Doug Wilson RIP
		7.00pm	<i>Advent Reconciliation Service</i>
Wednesday	18 th December	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Hannah Haughey RIP
Thursday	19 th December	9.15am	Nora Maguire RIP & Julia Higgins Int
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	20 th December	9.15am	Rita Maher RIP Pat O'Shea RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	21 st December	9.15am	Helen Taylor RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday 4 th Sunday of Advent	22 nd December	8.00am	Vincent Shannon RIP
		9.30am	Martha Sheridan RIP
		11.30am	All Holy Souls & the dying

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*

Registered Charity No. 234092 Private circulation only.

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.