

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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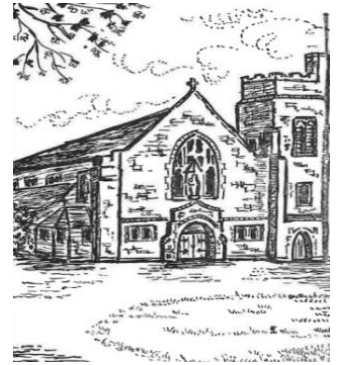
Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Parish Manager: Laura Stevens

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday 22nd December 2024 – Page 90

This is the last Sunday of our preparation for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's birth. At times we can feel a bit unworthy of welcoming Christ into our hearts and our homes, and in a sense, we are, but Christ wants to come to us anyway; we just need to open our hearts to him. Let us try to imitate Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in God's goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar, and so, allow the Christ-child to come to us as well.



The feast of Christmas should draw the hearts of every child of God towards the furnace of divine love. In the manger, the infinite love of God for us is dramatically and forcefully portrayed before our eyes. In that helpless baby, represented by a statue, we know that the person, and the power, of the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of the universe lie hidden; "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" for us. He became a creature, like ourselves, so that he would make us sharers in his divine nature. He came on earth to bring us to heaven. He hid his divine nature so that he could cover us with it.

"Unsearchable indeed are the judgements of God, and inscrutable his ways." But though we are unworthy of his infinite love, it nevertheless stands out as clear as the noonday sun in the Incarnation, when God became man for us. We realize that we can never make ourselves worthy of this infinite love, but let us imitate Mary and Joseph in accepting the honour which God wants to give us and trusting that he will help us to become more worthy.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

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 20- HUMILITY

We now conclude our cycle of catecheses on the virtues by reflecting on the virtue of humility, by which we acknowledge that we are creatures of God and strive to live accordingly. Humility is in fact the door to the other virtues and, with poverty of spirit, the first of the Beatitudes. We see this in a particular way in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her humility is seen not only in joyful acceptance of the Lord's will, but also in charity toward her cousin Elizabeth, in perseverance beneath the cross, and in her prayerful presence among the Apostles in the Upper Room, as they awaited the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May her example and powerful intercession help us to overcome our temptations to pride, to follow humbly in the footsteps of Jesus, and to bear witness to the joy and peace of his Kingdom.

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!

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.

COFFEE MORNING: The next dates for coffee morning after 9.30am Mass on a Sunday are 12th Jan, 26th Jan, 9th Feb, 2nd March & 16th March. Everyone welcome, free for all.

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.

WORLD FOOD NIGHT: We will be holding a ‘World Food Night’ on Saturday 1st February in the Parish Hall after 6.30pm Mass. We are asking for parishioners to bring a dish that is special to their family, large enough to share with others. Plates, bowls and cutlery will be provided, but please bring your own drinks. The event is free, though we are planning on holding a small raffle for a local charity.

Please email the parish office if you would like to bring a dish.

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	21 st December	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
Monday	23 rd December	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP
Tuesday The Nativity of The Lord	24 th December	11am-12noon	Confessions
		6.30pm	The Goggin & McMillan Family RIP
		9.00pm	Alby & Marie Edgley RIP
Wednesday Christmas Day	25 th December	8.00am	Fr Patrick RIP & Sister Teresa RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Finch & Bray Family Int
Thursday St Stephen	26 th December	10.00am	Christine Franklin Int
Friday St John	27 th December	9.15am	Margaret Olaniyan Thanksgiving
Saturday The Holy Innocents Vigil Mass	28 th December	9.15am	Kathleen Gormily RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	Seamus McDermot RIP
Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	29 th December	8.00am	Deceased members of the KSC Romford
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Charlotte Johnson 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.