

# ST. MARY

# MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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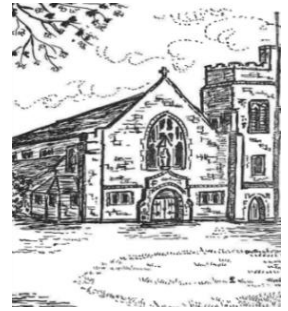
Email: [hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org](mailto:hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org)

Website: [www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk](http://www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



## **THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 – Page 296

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is an ancient celebration in the Church. It is also called Candlemas because, on this day, candles are blessed in many parishes. These candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The feast is celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, forty days after Christmas. It recalls the day when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to God.

This event is rooted in Jewish tradition. According to the Law of Moses, every firstborn son belonged to God. Jewish parents were to bring their son to the Temple and offer a small sacrifice in thanksgiving. By bringing Jesus to the Temple, Mary and Joseph followed God's law faithfully. This act shows their humility and obedience to God.

The Church has celebrated the Presentation of the Lord for many centuries. In the early Church, people gathered in the evening for a candlelit procession, honoring Christ as the Light. 2<sup>nd</sup> February, exactly 40 days after Christmas, was chosen because of this tradition in Jewish law. It also marks the end of the Christmas season for some Catholic communities.

The feast celebrates three main ideas. First, Jesus is recognized as the Light of the World, a light for all people. Second, it shows that Jesus came to fulfill the law, not to destroy it. He and His family obeyed the customs of their people. Third, it honors the deep faith of Mary and Joseph, who followed God's will at every step.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read about two holy people, Simeon and Anna, who meet Jesus at the Temple. Both Simeon and Anna see that Jesus is special. They have waited their whole lives for this moment. Simeon praises God and calls Jesus a "light for revelation to the Gentiles." This points to Jesus' mission to save not only Israel but also all nations.

On Candlemas, the Church invites us to remember that Jesus brings light to the world. Like Simeon and Anna, we are called to recognize presence of Christ in our lives. We also look to Mary and Joseph as examples of faith and obedience.

## **POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE' 6.**

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit, we now turn to the descent of the Spirit upon Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan. There, Jesus was revealed as the beloved Son of the Father and was anointed by the Holy Spirit at the beginning of his public ministry. As the Messiah, Priest, Prophet and King, Jesus in turn bestows the Spirit upon us, the members of his mystical Body, the Church. In Baptism, each of us is anointed with the perfumed oil of chrism as a sign of our sharing in Christ's life and our mission to spread the fragrance of his saving presence in our world. May we daily cultivate this anointing and serve to spread "the good odour of Christ" (2 Cor 2:15) in the lives of all whom we meet.

**TODDLER GROUP:** Will resume this Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2-3pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend. All sessions are free.

**DAY WITH MARY:** The Day with Mary team will be with us here at St Mary Mother of God on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February. A poster is on the noticeboard along with handouts that show all the timings for the day. The day begins at 8.45am and ends at 5.15pm but you can come and go as you wish.

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2025:** We have been advised there are still a small number of places available, if you are interested in attending, please contact the Parish Office for more information. The cost is less than the main Diocesan pilgrimage and works out at £895 (per person sharing) for a 5-night package from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

**COFFEE MORNING:** The next dates for coffee morning after 9.30am Mass on a Sunday are 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> March & 16<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone welcome, free for all.

**CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS:** If you put your name down to be a prayer partner for the Confirmation candidates, there will be an envelope in the porch with your name on it, which will have inside a message from your chosen candidate. Please collect after Mass.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:** Is delighted to host a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 1pm. Tickets are £35 per person [www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/)  
If you have any dietary or seating requirements, please contact [jabbott@bccs.org.uk](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk)

**THANK YOU FROM SVP:** Sincere thank you to all who donated money before Christmas. The money raised was distributed to support local families in need prior to the Christmas break.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE - SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE:** On 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Open to anyone in school year 10 and above. Join the BCYS for our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, supporting the adult pilgrimage in a week of prayer, service and fun! All details can be found at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events).

**CARITAS BRENTWOOD NETWORKING DAY:** You are warmly invited to the 2025 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day on Sunday, 9th February, from 2–6 pm at St. Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford RM1 4AT. This event is an opportunity to explore the Catholic response to pressing issues such as homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, supporting those affected by the Cost-of-Living Crisis, and addressing climate change. Registration is free - find more details at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network).

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 24TH MAY 2025:** Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. 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 contact Kathy O’Dea on 07932762608.

**INTER FAITH DIALOGUE:** This year marks sixty years since *Nostra Aetate*, the document on relations with other Faiths of the Second Vatican Council. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald worked for decades in this area, particularly in the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Cardinal Michael will be speaking on ‘Inter Faith Dialogue’ at 11 am on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. You are invited to attend free of charge. Refreshments will be available from 10.30. Please bring a packed lunch. The event is also available live stream free of charge at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**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, Paul & Margaret Lodge, Lyndsey McCauley, Luiz Eduardo Mota, Eileen Newman, Margeruite Nolan, Eleanor O’Connell, Bridget O’Sullivan, Claire Ramm, Phil & Tony Reid, Paul & Jill Ridley, Greta Shanahan, Anne Sullivan, & 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

**CHURCH EVENTS:**

**Children’s Liturgy:** Sundays in term time for children in years 1, 2 & 3 at the 9.30am mass.

**Baptism:** Please take a Baptism form at the back of the church and hand it in through the red door.

**Exploring Your Faith:** Last Tuesday of every month. 8-9.30pm in the Van Meenen room.

**RCIA Journey in Faith:** Thursdays 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Please email the Parish office

**Rosary:** After all weekday masses and on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in church. All welcome.

**Pass it on!:** First Saturday of every month in the parish hall from 2-4pm. Free to all.

**Coffee morning:** After 9.30am Mass on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> March & 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Youth Club:** Friday evenings 7.30-9.30pm in the Parish Hall. (members only).

**Children’s choir:** During 9.30am mass – meet in the choir loft. All children welcome.

**Adult choir:** Please come and join us during 11.30am mass. All welcome.

**Catholic fellowship** For people with special needs Saturdays 10-12pm in the Parish Hall.

**St Vincent de Paul Society:** Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7pm in the Van Meenen room.

**Foodbank:** Donation box is in the porch of the church. Donations go to Rainham foodbank.

**Church cleaning:** Every Friday morning at 10am during term time. Helpers needed.

**Repository:** Beautiful gifts and cards available. Open after all weekend Masses.

**Flower arranging:** No experience needed. Please contact the Parish office.

**Adoration:** from 8.15am – 8.45am on Mon/Tues/Thurs & Fri

**Toddler Group:** Tuesday’s during term time, 2-3pm in the Parish Hall. All sessions are free.

## **SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:**

<b>Saturday</b> Vigil Mass	1 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>6.30pm</b>	Barney O'Neill RIP
<b>Sunday</b> The Presentation of The Lord	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>8.00am</b>	Grant Cambridge RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Sam & Connie Farrugia RIP
		<b>5.00pm</b>	Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction
<b>Monday</b> St Anne Line	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP
<b>Tuesday</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>9.15am</b>	Hannah Haughey RIP
<b>Wednesday</b> St Agatha	5 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>7.15pm</b>	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Kathleen & Paddy Mollaghan RIP
<b>Thursday</b> Ss Paul Miki & Comps	6 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>9.15am</b>	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
		<b>9.45-12 noon</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Friday</b> Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>9.15am</b>	Kathleen Gormily RIP
<b>Saturday</b> In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary  Vigil Mass	8 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>9.15am</b>	Mary & Donal Bergin Int
		<b>9.45-11.15am</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		<b>10.30-11.15am</b>	Confessions
		<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confessions
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Anthony, Josephine, Paula Camilleri & Sam Farrugia RIP
<b>Sunday</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time	9 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>8.00am</b>	Mary & Danny McCarthy RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	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 [hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org](mailto:hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org) and we will add you to our mailing list.