

# ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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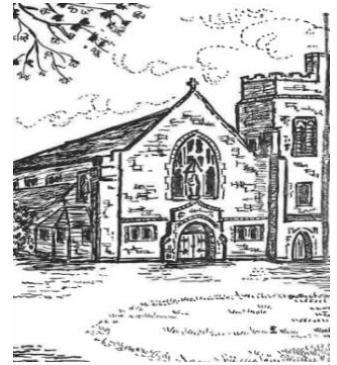
Website: [www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk](http://www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Parish Manager: Laura Stevens

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



## **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Page 115

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the Magi visiting Jesus. This is more than a story about wise men bringing gifts. It shows that Jesus is the Messiah for all people. The star guiding the Magi symbolizes God's light leading all nations to Jesus. This light is different from the power of King Herod. Herod is powerful and fearful. Jesus, though a baby, shows a different kind of kingship. He is humble and vulnerable, yet He changes the world.

Matthew's account highlights that Jesus' mission is for everyone, not just for the Jews. It shows that from the start, Jesus' life was marked by signs for all people, beyond Israel.

The contrast between Jesus and Herod is clear. Herod hears of a new king and reacts with violence. He orders the killing of male children to protect his power. Jesus, as a baby, is innocent and helpless. Yet, He represents a new kind of authority. This story sets the stage for Jesus' ministry, which challenges traditional views of power.

Jesus' kingship is marked by humility and love. He does not come with force but with gentleness. The Magi, wise and powerful in their own right, bow down to this humble king. This act shows that true wisdom recognizes the value of humility and love.

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates this revelation. It shows us that God's kingdom is different from earthly kingdoms. In God's kingdom, the humble are lifted up, and true power is found in love and service. Jesus came for all people, and His light shines on everyone.

As we reflect on the Epiphany, we are reminded to follow the example of the Magi. We are called to seek Jesus, recognize His light, and honor Him as our king. Let us embrace the humility and love that Jesus shows us and share His light with the world.

## **JUBILEE YEAR – PILGRIMS OF HOPE**

On Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family, Bishop Alan inaugurated the Holy Year in the diocese during the 11.30 Mass at the Cathedral. The theme for the Holy Year is Pilgrims of Hope.

In the Diocese of Brentwood Holy Doors will be opened in-

- The Cathedral of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood,
- The National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Clacton,
- Saint Antony of Padua, Forest Gate.

The Bishop explained that in Acts of the Apostles we hear how God opens doors of faith to gentiles and others. The astonishing truth at the heart of every successful Holy Year is that we can learn through experience that God's mercy and forgiveness are always utterly generous. When pilgrims walk through a Holy Door- a door of faith- we will be astonished about how straightforward our reconciliation with God is- 'Almighty God... in this year of grace... bound to Christ the rock of our salvation, may we happily attain the goal of blessed hope'. [cf Collect from the Mass of Holy Year].

**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 –*Save the Date- more information about this to come.*

## **POPE FRANCIS WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE' 2**

Dear brothers and sisters: In our ongoing catechesis on the Spirit and the Bride, we now centre our attention on the Biblical name of Holy Spirit, which in Hebrew is *Ruach*, meaning breath, wind, or spirit. This name highlights the Spirit's profound power and freedom. Jesus likens the Spirit to the wind that blows where it wills, thus emphasizing the freedom of the Holy Spirit, who not only creates and inspires but always remains free, bestowing his gifts "as he wills" (*1 Cor 12:11*). Saint Paul affirms this, stating: "Now the Lord is Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (*2 Cor 3:17*). This freedom is given to us as a gift so that we can do God's will, rather than merely following our personal desires. Where do we attain this freedom of the Spirit, so contrary to the spirit of selfishness? The answer is in the words that Jesus spoke to his followers: "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (*Jn 8:36*). Let us ask Jesus, through his Holy Spirit, to make us truly free. Free to serve with love and joy.

**A BIG THANK YOU:** Fr Mark would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to prepare for Christmas– church cleaners, altar servers, choir, musicians, flower ladies, stewards, crib builders etc. It was truly a wonderful Christmas celebration. Also, a big thank you to everyone for their most generous Christmas offerings, plus cards and gifts. God Bless you.

**CRIB OFFERINGS:** Many thanks to those who have donated to the crib offerings so far. A reminder that the money will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

**COFFEE MORNING:** The next dates for coffee morning after 9.30am Mass on a Sunday are 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. Everyone welcome, free for all.

**WORLD FOOD NIGHT:** We will be holding a 'World Food Night' on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 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.

**JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI:** St Joseph's Upminster are organising a pilgrimage for the jubilee year. There are just a few places remaining. We depart on Sunday 26th October 2025 for 5 nights, at a basic price of £1299 per person. The brochure and booking form is available online at [www.tailored-travel.co.uk/stjosephs\\_rome\\_2025](http://www.tailored-travel.co.uk/stjosephs_rome_2025)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Monica Doherty RIP, Eileen Ronan RIP, Melona Vigo RIP and William Myers RIP who have died recently. Please keep their families and all who knew them in your prayers.

Monica Doherty's funeral will take place here on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 11am

Melona Vigo's funeral will take place here on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am.

Eileen Ronan's funeral will take place here on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 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, Eileen Newman, Margeruite Nolan, Greta Shanahan, Bridget O'Sullivan, Claire Ramm, Phil & Tony Reid, Paul and Jill Ridley, 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

**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.

**Toddler group:** Tuesdays during term time in the parish hall 2 – 3pm. 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:** Contact Angela on 07974417007 no experience needed.

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

## **SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:**

<b>Saturday</b> Vigil Mass	4 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>6.30pm</b>	All Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b> The Epiphany of The Lord	5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>8.00am</b>	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	Hannah Haughey RIP
		<b>11.30am</b>	Madeline Bevan RIP
		<b>5.00pm</b>	Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction
<b>Monday</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP
		<b>11.30am</b>	<i>Requiem Mass</i> of Melona Vigo RIP
<b>Tuesday</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
<b>Wednesday</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>7.15pm</b>	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Andrew Bearwish RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Kathleen Gormily RIP
		<b>11.00am</b>	<i>Requiem Mass</i> of Monica Doherty RIP
<b>Friday</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Patricia Halloran RIP
<b>Saturday</b>  Vigil Mass	11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.15am</b>	Paddy Mollaghan RIP
		<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 & Connie Farrugia RIP
<b>Sunday</b> The Baptism of The Lord	12 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>8.00am</b>	Mary & Danny McCarthy RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	Peggy O’Riordan RIP & Melanie Todd Int
		<b>11.30am</b>	All Parishioners

**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.