# ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Page 129

On the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, we learn the importance of listening to God's word. Nehemiah showed the people that reading and understanding Scripture brings joy and strength. When we take time to listen to God's word, we find guidance and comfort. It helps us grow in our faith and live better lives.

The Gospel also shows us that Jesus studied and understood Scripture. Jesus knew God's word well and used it to teach and help others. By following His example, we can also learn more about God and how to follow Him. Studying Scripture helps us know what God wants for us and how we can live in a way that pleases Him.

The readings for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C encourage us to not just hear God's word but to act on it. It is not enough to listen and understand; we must also live out our faith. This means helping others, being kind, and following God's commandments. By doing this, we show our love for God and others.

Living out God's word every day can be challenging, but it is what we are called to do. The readings today reminds us that God's word is our guide and strength. When we listen, understand, and act on it, we grow closer to God and become better people. Let's make a commitment to read, study, and live out God's word in our daily lives.

This weekend, we also give thanks for our Readers at Mass. Fr Mark will give them a special blessing at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful on this Sunday of the Word of God for their special ministry.

#### POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE' 5

With today's catechesis, we begin our reflections on the Holy Spirit's role in our Redemption. The early Ecumenical Councils that gave us the Nicene Creed affirmed both the divinity of the Holy Spirit and his work in the Incarnation. While all Christians profess this creed, Catholic devotion further expresses its faith in a favourite prayer, the *Angelus*. Mary is understood to be the Bride of the Spirit and so, prefigures the Church, a teaching has maintained from the past to the present. By receiving and sharing the Word of God, every Christian, regardless of life's challenges, can experience, like her, what the Spirit does for the whole Church, for as the angel said to Mary, "Nothing is impossible for God."

**WORLD FOOD NIGHT:** We are sorry to advise that The Word Food night has been postponed. We hope to organise another date that would work better for parishioners. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

<u>PEACE SUNDAY SECOND COLLECTION:</u> We raised a total of £299.80 for the work of Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace.

**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.* 

**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.

**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 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.

<u>CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS:</u> 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/ If you have any dietary or seating requirements, please contact 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.

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

<u>CARITAS BRENTWOOD NETWORKING DAY:</u> 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.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

William Myers RIP who has died recently. Please keep his family and all who knew him in your prayers. William Myers' funeral will take place here on Friday 31st January at 11.15am.

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, Greta Shanahan, Bridget O'Sullivan, Claire Ramm, Phil & Tony Reid, Paul & Jill Ridley, Anne Sullivan, Eleanor O'Connell & 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:**

Saturday Vigil Mass	25 <sup>th</sup> January	6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in ordinary time	26 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00am	Gerolamo Manzoni RIP
		9.30am	Peter & Brigid Margrie RIP
		11.30am	Patricia Camp RIP
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup> January	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP
Tuesday St Thomas Aquinas	28 <sup>th</sup> January	9.15am	Andrew Shanahan RIP & Leo Naughton RIP
Wednesday	29 <sup>th</sup> January	7.15pm	Evening Prayer
		7.30pm	Paul & Martin Bray Int
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup> January	9.15am	Mr & Mrs Medley RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday St John Bosco	31 <sup>st</sup> January	9.15am	Matt Timmons RIP
		11.15am	<b>Requiem Mass</b> – William Myers RIP
Saturday In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary	1 <sup>st</sup> February	9.15am	James Carroll RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
Vigil Mass		6.30pm	Barney O'Neill RIP
Sunday The Presentation of The Lord	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	8.00am	Grant Cambridge RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Sam & Connie Farrugia 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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#### **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.