

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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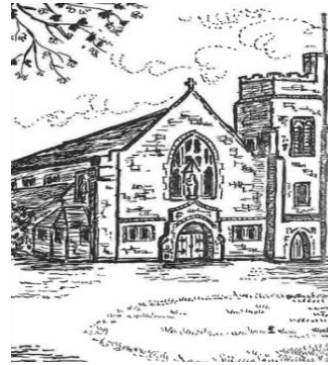
Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Parish Manager: Laura Stevens

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

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The Feast of the Holy Family Year C teaches us about love and unity within the family. Colossians 3:14 speaks of love as the bond of perfection. Love is what holds a family together and fosters unity. It helps family members support each other through good times and bad.

In a loving family, each member feels valued and understood. This love creates a strong sense of unity and belonging. It helps families overcome difficulties and grow stronger together. The example of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph encourages us to practice this kind of love in our own families.

By focusing on love, we can create a peaceful and joyful home. Love helps us forgive and move past conflicts. It encourages us to be patient and kind. The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that love is the foundation of a happy and united family. Following this example, we can build a strong family that reflects God's love to the world.

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer.
Amen. (Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 325)

POPE FRANCIS URBI ET ORBI CHRISTMAS 2024

At midday on Christmas morning, Pope Francis gave his customary Christmas greetings and message from the central loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica before the crowds in the square and live to people watching around the world via media. At the conclusion, he imparted his blessing "Urbi et Orbi" - to the city and the world as he also does on Easter Sunday. The launch of the Jubilee year 2025 marked the theme of this year's Christmas message and context, as the Pope opened the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica at the start of yesterday's Christmas Mass during the Night.

The Pope began his Christmas Message explaining that the joy we celebrate today comes from an event that took place two thousand years ago - the birth of the Lord Jesus, the eternal Word of salvation - "made new thanks to the Holy Spirit" and which continues to speak to every man and woman today, saying, "I love you, I forgive you; come back to me, the door of my heart is open!"

He emphasized how "the door of God's heart is always open" and called on us to return to the heart "that loves and forgives us" and lets us be reconciled to Him.

Recalling the Holy Door he opened in Saint Peter's Basilica yesterday evening inaugurating the Jubilee of 2025, the Pope explained this Door "represents Jesus, the Door of salvation open for all," and the Good Shepherd, who awaits us with open arms.

The Pope acknowledged how crossing the threshold of that Door requires courage because we have to sacrifice our old ways and mindset, putting behind us disputes and divisions, and surrendering ourselves to God's love.

"This Christmas, at the beginning of the Jubilee Year, I invite every individual, and all peoples and nations, to find the courage needed to walk through that Door, to become pilgrims of hope, to silence the sound of arms and overcome divisions!"

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.

STARS ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE:

Thank you to all of the children for decorating stars for our Church Christmas trees.

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.

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.

POPE FRANCIS WED. AUDIENCE ON ‘THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE’ 1

Dear brothers and sisters: Today we begin a new series of catechesis on “The Spirit and the Bride,” focusing on how the Holy Spirit guides God’s people throughout salvation history. From the very beginning, the Spirit of God is at work, bringing order and beauty out of chaos. This ongoing transformation is fully realized in Jesus Christ. Saint Paul tells us that “creation has been groaning in travail,” (*Rom 8:22*) a reality that remains true, and emphasizes our need to address both our internal and external chaos. In light of this, Saint Francis of Assisi offers contemplation and praise as a remedy and demonstrates how to embrace creation freely. Let us then invite the Spirit of God into our lives, to transform our hearts and heal our world: “Come Holy Spirit, Creator come, enlighten our minds and fill with heavenly grace the hearts you have created.”

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.

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

Melona Vigo’s funeral will take place here on Monday 6th January at 11.30am.

Eileen Ronan’s funeral will take place here on Friday 24th 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	28 th December	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
Monday	30 th December	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP
		10.15am	<i>Requiem Mass</i> of Evelyn Ward RIP
Tuesday	31 st December	9.15am	Colette, Paddy & Niamh Kavanagh RIP & Evelyn Ward RIP
Wednesday Mary, The Holy Mother of God	1 st January	10.00am	Jack Hughes RIP & Thanksgiving
Thursday Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	2 nd January	9.15am	Mary & Emma Lowe RIP
Friday	3 rd January	9.15am	Ann Larkin was Fennessy RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	4 th January	9.15am	Mary & Phil McManus Int
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	Confessions
		5.30-6pm	Confessions
		6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday The Epiphany of The Lord	5 th January	8.00am	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP
		9.30am	Hannah Haughey RIP
		11.30am	Madeline Bevan 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 and we will add you to our mailing list.