

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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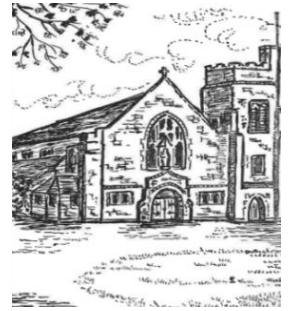
Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



1st SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 9th March 2025 – Page 153

In the Gospel of Luke 4:1-13, Jesus faces three significant temptations in the desert. Each temptation tests His commitment to His mission.

The first temptation is for physical comfort. The devil challenges Jesus to turn stones into bread. Jesus resists, showing that His mission is not about satisfying His own needs but about fulfilling God's will, and serving the needs of others.

The second temptation is for worldly power. The devil offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He will worship him. Jesus rejects this, choosing the Kingdom of God over earthly authority. This decision points to His ultimate sacrifice on the cross. He chooses sacrifice out of love for the sake of our redemption, rather than worldly power.

The third temptation is for glory. The devil tells Jesus to throw Himself from the temple and let the angels save Him. Jesus resists, focusing on His mission rather than seeking personal glory. He uses His power only for our sake, not for His own benefit.

These temptations are relevant to us as well. We face similar challenges in our lives. By following Jesus' example, we can resist temptations and stay focused on our mission to serve God and others.

POPE FRANCIS: We continue to pray for Pope Francis. At the time of writing, the Holy Father is still in hospital but with signs of improvement. We entrust him to the loving care of our Blessed Mother, Mary.

PRAYER EVENING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR: The first of two Prayer evenings to be run by Liz, Karen, Kathy & Teresa will take place on **Tuesday 18th March** in the parish hall at 7pm. The first evening is entitled 'Prayers of Hope- May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him'. Take this time for prayer during this period of Lent. Refreshments available. All are welcome.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD: In response to an initiative begun by Pope Francis, at the end of March we will have a special 24 hour period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for the needs of the Church and the world- Thursday 27th March (10am-5pm), Friday 28th March (10am-10pm) and Saturday 29th March (10am-5pm). Please sign up for an hour's slot.

POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SPRIT AND THE BRIDE' 11

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, we now consider the gift of the Spirit received in the sacrament of Confirmation. In this sacrament, through the laying on of hands we receive the indelible seal of the Holy Spirit, emboldening us to spread and defend the faith as Christ's true witnesses in the world. Confirmation increases and deepens the life of the Spirit poured out upon us at Baptism and encourages us to actively engage in the life and mission of the Church. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the young people who receive this sacrament towards a deeper personal encounter with the Lord and a more generous commitment to the spread of the Gospel in years to come.

SECOND COLLECTION – CAFOD: Next weekend there will be a second collection for CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day. You'll be supporting communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. CAFOD envelopes are available in the church porch, you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call them on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

GIFT AID CHANGES: For the tax year 2025-2026 we have been asked by the Diocese to change some of our gift aid numbers, to a lower number. If your current number is 281 or higher, you will be given a new number. There is a list of the changes in the church porch. If you pay by standing order, please remember to change the reference to your new number from 5th April.

GIFT AID can be applied to all regular and one-off donations, and it makes a huge difference. If you are a taxpayer (including a pensioner paying tax) we can claim an extra 25% on your donation at **no extra cost to you**. Forms are available at the back of the church or you can speak to the parish office for more information. It's really easy to join.

Thank you for any donations that you give.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE THROUGH HISTORY: Deacon Ken Carleton and Br Christopher Dyczek OFM will be giving talks at St Alban's in Elm Park for the Jubilee Year. The first is on 12th March entitled '*Hope in a time of discord: St Augustine and the struggle for faith*', the second on 19th March, entitled '*Hope in a time of martyrdom: the Catholic Church in England in penal times*' and the third on 26th March entitled Hope in a time of need: Frederick Ozanam and the creation of the SVP. Each of the three talks is on a Wednesday and starts at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall at St Alban's.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND: Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme will be held on 4-6 April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884315, or email BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNING: The next dates for coffee morning after 9.30am Mass on a Sunday are 16th March, 30th March, 27th April, 11th May & 25th May. Everyone welcome, free for all.

STEWARDS AT MASS: If you could lend a helping hand at any of the weekend Masses, please contact the parish office. We especially need help at the Sunday 9.30am Mass.

SAVE THE DATE....FOR OUR PARISH SUMMER FETE The Parish will be holding a summer fete on **Saturday 14th June**. This is the first time we have held this event since Covid and we are really looking forward to bring the Parish together on what will hopefully be a beautiful sunshine filled day. Please look out for updates over the next few weeks.

PARISH SUMMER FETE: Calling all small business people, crafters, bakers and entrepreneurs.....we would like to welcome you to set up a stall selling your wares and advertising your business at this years summer fete. Booking is essential and full details can be obtained through the Parish office.

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.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS: Please save the date for the upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminars which are being held in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall over 6 Tuesday evenings (29th April - 3rd June). Come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own '*Holy Door*' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year. More details will follow shortly.

CARITAS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER: This new role within the Diocese will help develop and strengthen our charitable action and ministry. Full time, including some evenings and weekends. Closing date 31st March at noon. More information and application details: caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Fiona Quigley RIP who has died recently. Please keep her family and all who knew her in your prayers. Her funeral will take place here on Tuesday 25th March at 11am.

We also remember in our prayers John Dawson, a loyal servant of the parish, who passed away on Wednesday- we pray for the repose of his soul and the comfort and consolation of his family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH at home and in hospital, especially: Ashley Baptist, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, Anna Gawlik, Malcolm Hilton, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Bernard Lenehan, 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

SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	8 th March	6.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri & Alfred Farrugia RIP
Sunday First Sunday of Lent	9 th March	8.00am	George, Joaquina & John DeSouza RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Joyce Rafferty RIP
Monday	10 th March	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP & Patsy Davin Int
Tuesday	11 th March	9.15am <i>plus Stations</i>	Ann Patricia Larkin RIP
Wednesday	12 th March	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Terry & Rita Thompson RIP
Thursday	13 th March	9.15am	Chris Murphy RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	14 th March	9.15am	Jacky & Alan Fisher RIP
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross <i>plus Adoration until 8pm</i>
Saturday Vigil Mass	15 th March	9.15am	Kevin O'Brien RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	<i>Confessions</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday Second Sunday of Lent	16 th March	8.00am	Grant Cambridge RIP
		9.30am	Peter & Brigid Margrie RIP
		11.30am	KSC Vocation to Priesthood & Religious Life, Romford

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.