

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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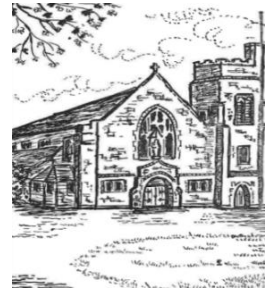
Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



2nd SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 16th March 2025 – Page 156

The 2nd Sunday of Lent Year C brings us St. Paul's message to live as citizens of heaven. He urges us to follow his example. This reminds us to focus on our heavenly home and not just on earthly things. St. Paul's words are a call to live with our eyes on eternity.

Living as citizens of heaven means prioritizing our spiritual life. We should seek to grow closer to God each day. Our actions and decisions should reflect our faith. We are called to live in a way that honors God and shows our hope in His promises.

Today we are challenged to evaluate our priorities. Are we more focused on earthly success or on our relationship with God? St. Paul's message encourages us to shift our focus. We should live in a way that prepares us for our heavenly home.

This reflection helps us understand the temporary nature of our earthly life. Our true home is with God in heaven. Everything we do should point towards this reality. As we reflect on St. Paul's words, let us commit to living as citizens of heaven.

In practical terms, this means making choices that reflect our faith. It means being kind, loving, and generous. It means staying close to God through prayer and the sacraments. On the 2nd Sunday of Lent Year C, let us renew our commitment to live as citizens of heaven.

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 this coming **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, 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 – there is a sign-up sheet located on the notice board in the porch.

SECOND COLLECTION – CAFOD: This 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.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE/ AMBASSADORS OF HOPE: Fr Mark will give a talk on Thurs 3rd April in the church at 7pm entitled '*Pilgrims of hope/ Ambassadors of Hope*' as he explores how we might understand and enter the Jubilee year more fully and become beacons of hope for others.

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 next talk is 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.

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.

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.

9.30AM SUNDAY MASS: If you could lend a helping hand with the children's liturgy or stewarding during the 9.30am Mass on a Sunday, please contact the parish office. You really don't need to do a lot, and it will only be once a month on a rota basis.

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.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Headteacher Required from 1st September 2025. L19-25 (Starting salary based on experience). NOR: 420 (2 form entry). The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher from September 2025, due to our current Head Teacher relocating with their family. St Mary's is a caring, friendly school and parish community where our Catholic Ethos is central to all that we do. Our new Head Teacher will work with Governors to shape the strategic direction of the school and will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of St Mary's. Our new Head Teacher will lead a team that strives together in the best interest of all of our children. Deadline for applications: **4:00 pm on Wednesday 26th March 2025**. We welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. If required please liaise with the School Office Manager, Joanne Brooks. Information and application packs are available at admin@stmcps.co.uk and completed applications should be sent to this address also. Further information is available from the school website: <https://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk/>

HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS: There will be a Rosary procession and prayer vigil taking place in St Francis of Assisi Church, Stratford, E15 1NS on Saturday 22nd March starting at 10am. A poster is on the noticeboard for more information.

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 or put your name and contact number on the sign-up sheet, located in the church porch.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Fiona Quigley RIP & John Dawson RIP who have died recently. Please keep their families and all who knew them in your prayers. Fiona's funeral will take place here on Tuesday 25th March at 11am. John's funeral will take place here on Tuesday 1st April at 11am.

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	15 th March	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
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction
Monday St Patrick	17 th March	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP & Evelyn Ward RIP
Tuesday	18 th March	9.15am	John Hawes RIP <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
Wednesday St Joseph, the spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary	19 th March	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Bridget & Oliver Gilsenan – Wedding anniversary
Thursday	20 th March	9.15am	Evelyn Ward RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	21 st March	9.15am	Martin & Bridie Barry RIP
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross <i>plus Adoration until 8pm</i>
Saturday Vigil Mass	22 nd March	9.15am	Good health, cure & St Francis
		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 Third Sunday of Lent	23 rd March	8.00am	Mark McDonagh RIP
		9.30am	Mort Sullivan RIP
		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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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.