

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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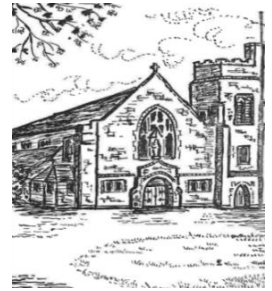
Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297



3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 23rd March 2025 – Page 160

The parable of the fig tree in the Gospel reading for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year C highlights God's patience. Jesus tells us that God gives us time to change and grow in faith. However, we must respond to this opportunity.

The fig tree in the parable had not produced fruit for three years. The owner wanted to cut it down, but the gardener asked for more time. This shows that God is patient with us, giving us time to repent and improve.

The gardener's request for more time is a reminder that we are given chances to change. God does not give up on us easily. He waits for us to bear fruit in our lives.

Bearing fruit means living out our faith through good actions. It is not enough to simply believe; we must also act on our beliefs. This includes helping others, being kind, and living according to God's will.

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 second prayer evening to be run by Liz, Karen, Kathy & Teresa will take place on **Tuesday 25th March** in the parish hall at 7pm. The second evening is entitled 'The mercy & love of God'. Take this time for prayer during this period of Lent. Refreshments available. All are welcome.

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.

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 signup sheet located on the notice board in the porch. Regardless of signing up, though, you are welcome to come into the church at any time.

CAFOD SECOND COLLECTION: We raised a total of £876.34 for CAFOD last weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish office will be closed on Wednesday & Friday next week.

AN SPECIAL EVENT FOR MOTHERS: Join us for a special event focusing on "The Power of Your Morning" on Saturday, 29th March 2025, at 3:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Mums, take a break from the everyday and treat yourself to an early Mother's day present, a relaxing afternoon of empowerment and inspiration—no kids, no husbands, just YOU!

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Will take place on Tuesday 8th April at 7pm. This is a graced opportunity to experience the mercy and healing that only God can give us. There will be a number of priests to hear confessions.

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 26th March entitled '*Hope in a time of need: Frederick Ozanam and the creation of the SVP*' and starts at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall at St Alban's.

SVP COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: At masses on the weekend of 29th & 30th March, there will be a second collection for the Society of St Vincent De Paul (SVP). Money raised will go towards supporting them on their ongoing work within the Parish, that is, their outreach to those who are poor and in need.

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 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/>

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 & Josie Walsh 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, Donal Bergin, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, Anna Gawlik, Malcolm Hilton, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Bill, Paul & Margaret Lodge, Lyndsey McCauley, Luiz Eduardo Mota, Eileen Newman, Margeruite Nolan, Eleanor O'Connell, Baby Shae Christy O'Donoghue, Bridget O'Sullivan, Claire Ramm, Phil & Tony Reid, Paul & Jill Ridley, Greta Shanahan, & Anne Sullivan.

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

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.

SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	22 nd March	6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday 3 rd 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
Monday	24 th March	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP & Baby Donovan Int
Tuesday The Annunciation of the Lord	25 th March	9.15am	George Butler RIP
		11.00am	Requiem Mass – Fiona Quigley RIP
Wednesday	26 th March	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Barbara Martin RIP
Thursday	27 th March	9.15am	Matt & Evelyn Ward RIP
		10am – 5pm	24 Hours for the Lord
Friday	28 th March	9.15am	Spencer Hamill Int
		10am – 10pm	24 Hours for the Lord
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross - <i>led by Confirmandi</i>
Saturday Vigil Mass	29 th March	9.15am	Louie Balacchino RIP
		10am – 5pm	24 Hours for the Lord
		10.30-11.15am	<i>Confessions</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.30pm	Tim, Ellen, Denis, Ted & Marguerite O’Sullivan RIP
Sunday 4 th Sunday of Lent	30 th March	8.00am	Bridie Hayes RIP
		9.30am	George & Helen Habbee RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners
		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.