

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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5th SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 6th April 2025 – Page 176

The Gospel for the 5th Sunday of Lent Year C calls us to change our hearts. Sometimes, we think our righteousness and the law of God give us the right to judge others. But in the gospel, Jesus shows us another way.

Jesus teaches that the life of a sinner is more important than the law. The woman caught in adultery broke the rules, and there's no denial of that. But Jesus believes in giving second chances, even when the Jewish law does not.

The woman in the story remains silent. She does not admit her mistake or apologize. Her silence can be seen in many ways, but it shows she does not make excuses either.

Both the crowd and the woman have strayed from God's heart and law. We do the same. Like the woman, we might ignore God's commands and do as we please. Or like the crowd, we might use the law to separate "us" from "them," wanting punishment for those who fail.

Jesus also shows trust in the crowd. He seems to know that no one will throw a stone. He believes that their goodness will shine through when challenged. We can learn from this in our society.

A good mantra for this gospel is "Forgive her. Change me." It reminds us to show mercy and seek personal change.

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.

SVP COLLECTION: The second collection for the Society of St Vincent De Paul (SVP) last weekend raised an amazing £1349.57. Money raised will go towards supporting them in their ongoing work within the Parish, that is, their outreach to those who are poor and in need. Thank you so much for your generosity.

EASTER FLOWERS: If you are available to give a couple of hours help with the Easter floral decorations on Holy Saturday 19th April from 10.15am please contact the parish office.

GIFT AID: New 2025/2026 gift aid boxes are available in the porch to collect. Please also remember to change your standing order reference if your gift aid number has been changed.

POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE'13

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, we now consider the Spirit's unique relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the Spirit's work of leading us to Jesus, Our Lady plays a privileged role. Saint Francis of Assisi once described Mary as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, since by her fiat – her “yes” to the Father's plan – she became the Mother of the incarnate Son of God. Filled with the Spirit, Our Lady became the first disciple of the Lord and the model of all Christian discipleship. Through her maternal presence and intercession, may she teach us to be docile like her to the promptings of the Spirit, to seek God's will in prayer and to go forth in charity to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL: The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, is likely to take place on 25th April. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being *rushed* into law. It can be accessed here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>. Right to Life is also distributing postcards to parishes for the faithful to send to their MPs on this subject. We have also been approached by the Care Not Killing Alliance advertising their work in defeating the proposed legislation on Assisted Suicide. If you would like more information please see: www.carenotkilling.org.uk . Further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

EASTER EGG HUNT: On Easter Sunday after the 9.30am Mass (weather permitting) we will be holding an Easter egg hunt for the children on the field behind the church.

CHURCH CLEANING – BIG EASTER CLEAN: If you can spare 30 minutes, please come along, and help on Good Friday 18th April at 9am.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS: The Walk of Witness will take place on Good Friday 18th April. Meet outside St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch at 10.15 am and then walk as a group through Hornchurch and to the Queen's Theatre, Billet Lane for an open-air service. All are welcome to either join us on the walk or meet us at the Queen's Theatre for the service.

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 bringing 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 year's summer fete. Booking is essential and full details can be obtained through the Parish office.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS: The *Life in the Spirit Seminars* Registration is now OPEN. The Seminars are being held over 6 Tuesday evenings from 29th April - 3rd June inclusive and are open to all. You are warmly invited to 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 as "*Pilgrims of Hope*". To register: mostholyredeemerchurch.churchsuite.com/-/forms/8gdpluw1

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.

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: 5pm on Monday 28th April 2025. We welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. Information and application packs are available at admin@stmcp.s.co.uk and completed applications should be sent to this address also. Further information is available from the school website.

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

MASS INTENTIONS: If you have a specific date in mind, please book at least 5 months in advance to avoid disappointment. We currently have no availability until October and no Sunday Masses available for the rest of this year.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Josie Walsh RIP who has died recently. Please keep her family and all who knew her in your prayers. Josie’s funeral will take place here on Thursday 24th 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

SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	5 th April	6.30pm	Terry Inkersole RIP
Sunday 5 th Sunday of Lent	6 th April	8.00am	Martin McDonagh RIP
		9.30am	Teresa & Tony Woods RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction
Monday	7 th April	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP Baby Donovan, Kieron & John Fowley Int
Tuesday	8 th April	9.15am	William Fernandez RIP <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
		7.00pm	Reconciliation Service
Wednesday	9 th April	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Alberto Cerda RIP
Thursday	10 th April	9.15am	Bridget & Sonny O'Connell RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	11 th April	9.15am	Maureen Crow RIP
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross <i>-plus Adoration until 8pm</i>
Saturday Vigil Mass	12 th April	9.15am	Bereaved Families
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	<i>Confessions</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri & Sam, Connie & Alfred Farrugia RIP
Sunday Palm Sunday	13 th April	8.00am	Mary & Danny McCarthy RIP
		9.30am	Jim Kane 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.

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.