

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 20th April 2025 – Page 252

‘Christ is risen! On this day we proclaim that he, the Lord of our life, is “the resurrection and the life” of the world (cf. *Jn* 11:25). Today is Easter, the Pasch, a word that means “passage”, for in Jesus the decisive passage of humanity has been made: the passage from death to life, from sin to grace, from fear to confidence, from desolation to communion.’
(Pope Francis).

On this Easter Sunday, we are reminded of a great hope, our hope in the Risen Jesus. When all seemed lost, after Jesus was dead and buried after his crucifixion, when the Apostles were hiding for fear of reprisals, Jesus rose again as he said he would, and hope and joy filled the disciples’ hearts.

By his death on the cross, Jesus destroyed death and opened up the way to eternal life for us. He is that light that shines in the darkness, a light that the darkness cannot overcome, and he gives us great hope, hope not just for the present but a hope that reaches out into eternity.

Today, despite the trials and tribulations of our life, still we rejoice because Christ is Risen and he gives us great hope.

A very big thank you to all those who have helped to make this year’s Easter celebrations so special – the cleaners, the flower ladies, the organists, the choirs, readers, ministers, servers, the money counters, the ushers, and indeed, the children who led the Children’s Stations of the Cross on Good Friday accompanied by Miss Linehan.

We also welcome into our church community Aimie, Anthony, Courtney, Natasha, Sara, Sheralee, Wayne and Haley who were baptized/ received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, and we congratulate our adult Catholics, Alyzza, Joel, Laura, Sophia, Stephen and Uno who were confirmed. We remember them in our prayers as they continue on their Journey of Faith. We also give grateful thanks to the catechists who helped them over the last year on the RCIA course.

Wishing you all every blessing over this Easter period,

Fr Mark

POPE FRANCIS WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SPRIT AND THE BRIDE' 15

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, we now consider what are traditionally called “the fruits of the Holy Spirit”, namely, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (cf. *Gal 5:22*). These fruits are the effect of our free cooperation with the grace of the Spirit at work in our lives. Today let us reflect on one of these fruits, especially dear to me: the gift of spiritual joy. In contrast with fleeting worldly joys, the Spirit grants us a profound and enduring joy born of his presence in our hearts. The joy of God’s love not only fills our own lives but also inspires us to share that joy with others. Saint Paul encourages us to “rejoice in the Lord always” (*Phil 4:4*). May our witness to “the joy of the Gospel” help those around us to find peace for their restless hearts and, in Christ, new meaning for their lives.

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/>

ST MARY’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Headteacher *Required* from 1st September 2025. 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@stmcps.co.uk and completed applications should be sent to this address also. Further information is available from the school website.

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.

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/8gdpluwl

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.

A coach has been arranged to pick up from St Mary's at 6.45am and will return at around 7pm. The coach cost is £20 per person, but spaces are limited, so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. If you would like to join, please contact Kathy O'Dea on 07932762608 or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the porch.

SPEAK LIFE: Our New Monthly Mum Workshop Is Here! Ready to reset your mind, your faith, and your motherhood journey? Join us for SPEAK LIFE, a powerful, faith-fuelled space for mums to breathe again, speak life over their season, and reconnect with their God-given identity. Each month we dive into a new theme — this one's all about New Beginnings: Vision, Faith & Goal Setting. Expect prayer, sisterhood, prayer boards, affirmations, and practical tools that bring healing and hope. Spots are limited. Follow IG: @happymamagang_ or contact the parish office. Sign up now and save your seat! You don't have to do this season alone. Our first workshop will take place on Monday 28th April at 10am and 7pm in the Van Meenen Room.

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: Please remember Mike Bowes and Josie Walsh who have died recently. Please keep their families and all who knew them in your prayers. Josie's funeral will take place here on Thursday 24th April at 11am. Mike's funeral will take place at St Joseph's, Bishop Stortford on 28th April at 11.30am.

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 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass	19 th April	8.30pm	Helen Taylor RIP
Sunday Easter Sunday	20 th April	8.00am	Clive McDonagh RIP
		9.30am	William Elliott RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners
Monday	21 st April	10.00am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP & Laura & Nana & Baby Donovan Int & Patsy Davin Int
Tuesday	22 nd April	9.15am	Patrick & Frances Lenehan RIP & Marion & David Donovan Int
Wednesday	23 rd April	6.00pm	Reception of Body of Josie Walsh
		7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Monica Doherty RIP
Thursday	24 th April	9.15am	Evelyn Ward RIP
		11.00am	<i>Requiem Mass</i> Josie Walsh RIP
Friday	25 th April	9.15am	Patricia Lloyd RIP
Saturday	26 th April	9.15am	Beatrice Ivy Wade 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 Easter	27 th April	8.00am	Grant Cambridge RIP
		9.30am	KSC Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life, Romford
		11.30am	Donna & Simon Watson Int
		3.00pm	Divine Mercy chaplet / Holy Hour Holy

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.