

# ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY** Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Page 262

"Jesus said: 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.'" Christ Himself is the Good Shepherd, who knows each one of His sheep, who gives His life for them and snatches them from the jaws of the marauding wolf. He is the true shepherd who fulfills Ezechiel's prophecy foretelling for Israel a shepherd from the end of time who was to deliver his people.

Christ's sheepfold is the Church. In the Church, He bestows on us His life in the Sacraments, His word in the teaching that she gives us, all the riches of His grace to light up our way and uphold our steps as we go forward to our heavenly home; through her, He acts as the one Shepherd of our souls. Appointed to lead the flock, Peter gave his life for those entrusted to his care, and ever since then the priestly ministry has assured the continuous presence in the Church of Him who remains the true Shepherd of our souls.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:**

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity, secular institutes), and to the missionary life.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This weekend there will be a second collection for Promotion of Vocations.

**HABEMUS PAPAM – Pope Leo XIV.** We have a new Pope, Pope Leo XIV. May God bless him and grant him many years. *Viva il Papa!* His first words were of peace to mankind:

‘Peace be with you! Dearest brothers and sisters, this was the first greeting of the risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave His life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families and all people, wherever they are; and all the peoples, and all the earth: Peace be with you.’

## **POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE' 16**

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit, we now consider the Spirit's role in the Church's mission of evangelization. The First Letter of Peter describes the Apostles as those who "preached the Gospel through the Holy Spirit" (cf. 1 Pet 1:12). The Gospel, of course, is the joyful message of the coming of God's kingdom announced by Jesus and confirmed by the Apostles' preaching of his dying and rising to new life. This "good news" is the basis for all further catechesis and teaching, including the moral demands of Christian discipleship. The preaching of the Gospel takes place "through the Holy Spirit", who enables us to speak with conviction and to reflect the message that we preach by the way that we live. Let us pray that in our own day the Spirit will raise up ever more joyful, holy and convincing witnesses to the Risen Lord and the saving truth of his Gospel.

## **MONTH OF MAY, MONTH OF MARY**

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1). So, during this month of May, the Church encourages Catholics to take out their rosary beads and pray through the intercession of our Blessed Mother for the different needs we have- for ourselves, our families, our community and for those in any kind of help.

**WELCOMING OUR LADY INTO OUR HOMES:** During the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, St Mary's is organizing a special celebration of the rosary. Parishioners are asked to open their homes, inviting fellow parishioners to pray the rosary together. This will be a wonderful blessing for our homes, our families and our parish. Anyone who would like to host, or join a rosary, please contact Ray John on 07886814647. There are 10 available dates.

**ROSE-COLOURED CHASUBLE:** Many thanks to those who clubbed together to buy the parish a rose-coloured vestment. It was a wonderful surprise after the 9.30am Mass last weekend!

**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. Please note that if you make your regular offertory donations by standing order or bank transfer you will not have a packet of envelopes this year. Second collection offerings may also be made by bank transfer, please just state the purpose of the donation and gift aid number on the payment. If anyone would like to make one off donations by cash, you may place this in any envelope and just mark it 2nd collection etc and write your gift aid number too. There are also blank envelopes available in the porch.

If your box is not in the porch and you would like one – please call or email the parish office and Laura will get one for you.

**SAVE THE DATE...FOR OUR PARISH SUMMER FETE:** The Parish will be holding a summer fete on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 – STALLHOLDER INVITATION:** Calling all **small business owners, crafters, bakers, and entrepreneurs!** We'd love to welcome you to set up a stall at this year's **Parish Summer Fete** to **sell your wares and promote your business.** Booking is essential – for full details, please contact the **Parish Office.** Don't miss this great opportunity to be part of a vibrant community event!

**SUMMER FETE KIDS WRISTBANDS:** Wristbands are now on sale for unlimited bouncing on a fantastic selection of bouncy castles at the Summer Fete! Get yours for just £5 each — available after all weekend Masses. Don't miss out on the fun!

**COFFEE MORNING:** The next dates for coffee morning after 9.30am Mass on a Sunday are 11<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May & 22<sup>nd</sup> June. 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 the end of November and no Sunday Masses available for the rest of this year.

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES:** Throughout the Easter period we read each day in the Liturgy from the Acts of the Apostles. Talks by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park, are available on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Please go to 'Faith Talks' and scroll down to 'Acts of the Apostles' and 'Paul in Acts'.

**VACANCY:** Housekeeper/support worker (16 hours) to a small religious community. Assisting elderly sisters to maintain their independence and social interests. Pay £12.60 per hour. Contact Sr Kathleen on 01277 220276 or email [kathleen.page@dcmillhill.org](mailto:kathleen.page@dcmillhill.org) closing date 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Donal Bergin who has died recently. Please keep his family and all who him them in your prayers. Donal's funeral will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am here at St Mary's.

**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, 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:

|  |                      |                      |   |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>Saturday</b>                          | 10 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>6.30pm</b>        | Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri & Alfred Farrugia RIP                  |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>Fourth Sunday of Easter | 11 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>8.00am</b>        | Mary & Danny McCarthy RIP   |
|  |                      | <b>9.30am</b>        | All Parishioners  |
|  |                      | <b>11.30am</b>       | Michael McDonagh RIP  |
|  |                      | <b>5.00pm</b>        | Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction                                       |
| <b>Monday</b><br>St John Houghton        | 12 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>9.15am</b>        | Deceased members of the Lenehan Family<br>Marion & David & Baby Donovan Int |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>St Erconwald           | 13 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>9.15am</b>        | Manzo Ausilia & Oliva Francesco Int   |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>St Matthias          | 14 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>7.15pm</b>        | <i>Evening prayer</i>   |
|  |                      | <b>7.30pm</b>        | Popsy D'Souza – Getonga RIP   |
| <b>Thursday</b>                          | 15 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>9.15am</b>        | James & Moyra How RIP   |
|  |                      | <b>9.45-12 noon</b>  | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament   |
| <b>Friday</b>                            | 16 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>9.15am</b>        | Eileen Ronan & Patsy Davin RIP  |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><br>Vigil Mass        | 17 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>9.15am</b>        | First Holy Communion Children   |
|  |                      | <b>10.30-11.15am</b> | <i>Confessions</i>  |
|  |                      | <b>5.30-6pm</b>      | <i>Confessions</i>  |
|  |                      | <b>6.30pm</b>        | The Mullen Family RIP   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>Fifth Sunday of Easter  | 18 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>8.00am</b>        | Grant Cambridge RIP   |
|  |                      | <b>9.30am</b>        | Florence Olaniyan 60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Int                             |
|  |                      | <b>11.30am</b>       | All Parishioners  |
|  |                      | <b>5.00pm</b>        | Holy Hour with Rosary and 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](mailto:hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org) and we will add you to our mailing list.