

# ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Assistant Parish Priest: Father Jude Kurumeh

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## **21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025 – Page 127

On the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, we hear in the first reading from Isaiah how God gathers people from all corners of the earth. The message is clear. God's love is not limited to one group. He wants all people to be saved. Having said that, this Sunday reminds us that following God is not always easy. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about the narrow door. He says that many will try to enter, but not all will succeed. We must do our best, then, to follow Christ and his teaching. This takes effort, trust, and a steady heart. The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that discipline is part of love. Just as a parent disciplines their child, God disciplines us. This discipline, of course, is aimed at helping us to grow stronger: *'for the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained in it.'*

This Sunday invites us to keep walking with God, even when the road is hard. God is calling all people to come and share in His joy. Let us respond with open hearts and ready hands.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2026:** Due to the high demand for Mass intentions at St Mary's, we have reviewed our current system to ensure it remains fair and accessible to everyone.

Starting from 1<sup>st</sup> September, the 2026 Mass intention diary will open only for the months of January to April.

Please note the following important changes:

- For the period of January to April 2026, a maximum of 5 Masses can be booked per person/family– additional Mass Intentions can be sent by us to other parishes in need.
- Intentions for Sunday Masses will be limited to one per person/family every three months, to allow more people the opportunity to request Sunday Mass intentions.
- The suggested offering for a Mass intention is £10, in line with the updated guidance from the Diocese, but clearly, for those with limited means, no specific amount will be demanded, and for those struggling financially, no payment will be expected. Please note that the financial offering for Mass (also known as the Mass stipend) is not the cost of the Holy Mass itself, which is priceless, but is a way of supporting the financial needs of the priest, so, it should never be thought of as a payment for Mass.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we implement these changes to better serve our parish community.

**LAURA STEVENS:** Laura's last day at St Mary's as Parish Administrator will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August. We are so grateful for everything she has done for the Parish in this role (she has certainly gone 'above and beyond') and we wish her every success for her future employment.

**POPE LEO'S WED. AUDIENCE ON 'JESUS OUR HOPE' JUBILEE 2025. 10.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Jubilee theme of "Jesus Christ our Hope", we now consider Jesus' miraculous cure of the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda. Many physically disabled people came to bathe there in hope of a cure, yet Jesus chose that man, who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years and was unable to enter the pool by himself. Jesus' question to him – "Do you want to be healed?" – was penetrating. It challenged the paralytic's sense of helplessness and resignation, and invited him to hope that his life could be changed. Jesus tells him to stand, take up his mat and walk. The mat was in fact the symbol of the man's past paralysis, physical and spiritual, which he can now accept and leave behind as he begins his new life. In this Jubilee of hope, may we remember in our prayers all those who suffer and feel tempted to discouragement. Whatever problems or setbacks we may face in life, let us turn to Jesus, acknowledge our desire for healing, and accept his promise of freedom and newness of life.

**PRAYER INTENTIONS:** A book has been placed in the Sacred Heart chapel for anyone wishing to write down their personal prayer intentions. On Thursday evenings, during our rosary, the book will be placed before the statue of Our Lady, where we will pray, asking for Her intercession for your intentions and the needs of our parish. All are most welcome to join us.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We extend our warmest congratulations to Amy & Joe and Rita & Tokunbo on their recent marriages, which took place here at St Mary's. May their union be filled with love, joy, and God's blessings.

**PARISH OFFICE:** The Parish Office will be open 9am-3pm on 27/8 & 29/8.

**CHILDREN IN YEAR 5 FROM SEPTEMBER:** The parents of Year 5 children who are applying for Secondary Schools next year (October 2026) are invited to enrol for the Year 5 Mass attendance register which will begin the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> October. The register facilitates a fair approach to the signing of Certificates of Practice which confirm that a family is coming to Mass each Sunday/or Saturday night in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of the enrolment this year, we ask you to email us the following details – child's name, parents names, contact number, photo of Baptism & First Holy Communion certificates no later than Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October. For the sake of transparency, the register itself will be strictly applied. More information will be supplied once families have enrolled.

**MARCH FOR LIFE:** March for Life UK happens in London on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Find out more at [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk)

**RCIA / JOURNEY IN FAITH PROGRAMME:** We begin a new Journey of Faith programme on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.00pm in Parish Hall. It is designed for adults, falling into 3 categories i) for those who are not Catholics but who are interested in becoming one *or* just want to find out a bit more, ii) for those who are Catholics but who have not yet been Confirmed, and iii) for Catholics who would like to revisit their faith from the ground-up. Please let the Parish Office know if you are interested stating which category you fall into - just email us.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025/26:** If your child is going into Year 3 or above in September and they would like to make their First Holy Communion in 2026, please email the Parish Office to register your interest as soon as possible. *Applications after Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September will not be accepted.* Please include your child's full name, a contact number and a picture of their Baptism certificate. We will then be in contact with you directly once programme details become available. We can tell you, though, that the course will begin in September, but this is subject to finding a sufficient number of adult/ parent helpers to run the course, so please contact the parish office if you are able to help. The minimum expectations for the course are attendance at the sessions and attendance at weekly Mass on Sunday or Saturday night.

**CONFIRMATION 2025/26:** If your child is in Year 9 or above (from September) and they would like to make their Confirmation in 2026, please email the parish office to register your interest as soon as possible. *Applications after Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September will not be accepted.* A meeting for parents and young people will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Church and the course will formally begin with a Welcome Session and Mass on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. When registering your interest, please include your child's full name, a contact number and a picture of their Baptism & First Holy Communion certificates. The minimum expectations for the course are attendance at the Confirmation sessions and attendance at weekly Mass on Sunday or Saturday night.

**RECENTLY BAPTISED CHILDREN:** We welcome Angelina Bennett, Nathaniel Passley, Omri Camille-Edewor, Osiris Camille-Edewor, Nyla Camille-Edewor, Sadie Sleaf, Lucy McEvoy, Charlotte Tyler, Eloise Ophena Rodrigues, Romie Larosa Kelly & Myla-May O'Sullivan who were Baptised recently and are now beloved members of God's Holy Family.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Carmel Armstrong, Eileen Newman and Mary Margrie who have died recently. Please keep their families and all who knew them in your prayers. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Eileen Newman's funeral will be here at St Mary's on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 11.30am.

**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, Patricia Magson nee Shanahan, Lyndsey McCauley, Luiz Eduardo Mota, Margeruite Nolan, Eleanor O'Connell, Baby Shae Christy O'Donoghue, Bridget O'Sullivan, Claire Ramm, Phil & Tony Reid, Paul & Jill Ridley, Paul Hiscock & 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>   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> August | <b>6.30pm</b>        | Christie Onyeacholam RIP   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in<br>ordinary time                    | 24 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>8.00am</b>        | Alby Edgley RIP  |
|   |                         | <b>9.30am</b>        | All Parishioners   |
|   |                         | <b>11.30am</b>       | Timothy, Ellen & Denis O'Sullivan RIP  |
|   |                         | <b>5.00pm</b>        | Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction  |
| <b>Monday</b>   | 25 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>9.15am</b>        | Deceased members of the Lenehan Family<br>Marion, David & Baby Norie Donovan Int |
| <b>Tuesday</b>  | 26 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>9.15am</b>        | Patricia Magson Int  |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>St Monica   | 27 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>7.15pm</b>        | <i>Evening prayer</i>  |
|   |                         | <b>7.30pm</b>        | Arthur T Rose Int  |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>St Augustine   | 28 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>9.15am</b>        | Seamus Corbett RIP   |
|   |                         | <b>9.45-12 noon</b>  | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  |
| <b>Friday</b>   | 29 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>9.15am</b>        | Bruce Waskett RIP  |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>In honour of the<br>Blessed Virgin<br>Mary<br><br>Vigil Mass | 30 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>9.15am</b>        | John Dawson RIP  |
|   |                         | <b>9.45-11.15am</b>  | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  |
|   |                         | <b>10.30-11.15am</b> | <i>Confessions</i>   |
|   |                         | <b>5.30-6pm</b>      | <i>Confessions</i>   |
|   |                         | <b>6.30pm</b>        | Deceased members of the Correa Family  |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in<br>ordinary time                    | 31 <sup>st</sup> August | <b>8.00am</b>        | Clive McDonagh RIP   |
|   |                         | <b>9.30am</b>        | All Parishioners   |
|   |                         | <b>11.30am</b>       | Moir Barrell RIP   |
|   |                         | <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.