

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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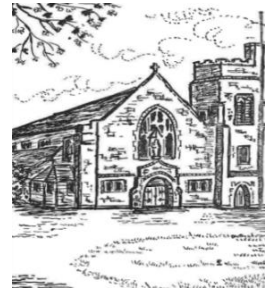
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

Assistant Parish Priest: Father Jude Kurumeh

Parish office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-2pm

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297

Parish Administrator: Christelle St Mart



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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The Gospel for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C gives us a tough message about following Jesus. He tells us that discipleship means sacrifice. Carrying a cross was a shocking and painful image for the people of His time, but Jesus used it to show the seriousness of following Him.

Jesus is not telling us to literally hate our family or possessions. He is saying that nothing can come before Him—not our family, wealth, or comfort. If we love anything more than Him, we cannot fully follow His path. This is a hard teaching, but it is a call to be completely committed to God, and of course when we put God first, we will love our families in the right way.

Discipleship is not about living life as usual. It is about making choices that put Jesus first, even when it costs us something. We are challenged to think about what we might be clinging to that keeps us from fully following Him. If we are not ready to make sacrifices, we risk starting something we cannot finish.

The Gospel today asks us to reflect deeply on our priorities. Are we truly committed to the path of Christ, or are we holding back? Jesus invites us to trust Him and to let go of anything that keeps us from walking fully in His way.

POPE LEO'S WED. AUDIENCE ON 'JESUS OUR HOPE' JUBILEE 2025. 12.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, In our continuing catechesis on the Jubilee theme of “Jesus Christ our Hope,” today we conclude our reflections on Jesus’ public ministry with the healing of a deaf man who had a speech impediment. As we heard in the Gospel reading, in a gesture of closeness, Jesus took the man aside and healed him with his words and his touch. Today, many people isolate themselves in their desperation and seem to have lost their ability to communicate, perhaps because they have often felt wounded and misunderstood in their interactions with others. We are in need of moments of intimacy with Jesus so that we can hear him say, “Ephphatha,” meaning, “Be opened.” He enables us to look beyond our own troubles and to put our listening and communication skills at the service of others. Just as the deaf man’s friends brought him to Jesus, so we too are called to become witnesses of Jesus’ healing power and to bring others to him, so that they can listen to his words, experience his touch, be filled with hope, and be healed.

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 1st September (next week), the 2026 Mass intention diary will open only for the months of January to April 2026.

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.

ADDITIONAL MASSES: Where possible, Fr Mark and Fr Jude will be saying additional Masses on either Tuesday or Friday evenings (or both) at either 7pm or 7.30pm. Please keep your eyes on the Schedule of Masses in the Newsletter.

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 18th/19th 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 13th October. For the sake of transparency, the register itself will be strictly applied. More information will be supplied once families have enrolled.

EDUCATION DAY: Next weekend there will be a second collection for Education Day-Catholic Education Service

RCIA / JOURNEY IN FAITH PROGRAMME: We begin a new Journey of Faith programme on Thursday 11th 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.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: There will be a training session on Saturday 4th October at 1pm. To register your interest, please email the parish office. All children in Years 4 and above who have made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend.

BRING&BUY SALE: Due to the ongoing works in the hall the date has changed to Saturday 11th October 1pm-4pm

PARISH HALL UPDATE: As you will no doubt have noticed, the refurbishment work to the Parish hall and adjoining rooms is not quite complete, but it is nearing completion and it's all looking really good. Whilst we had all hoped that this work would be finished during the school holidays, in order to do the job properly it was necessary to extend the timeline by a few weeks. Everything should be finished by the end of the month, but until then we kindly ask for everyone's patience and understanding as we may need to delay the re-opening of some Parish groups.

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.

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 14th September will not be accepted.* A meeting for parents and young people will take place on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Church and the course will formally begin with a Welcome Session and Mass on Saturday 27th 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.

GOVERNOR VACANCY AT SACRED HEART OF MARY SCHOOL: We welcome applications from Practicing Catholics with a variety of skills and backgrounds. We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body. We would welcome in particular Governors with a background in Finance/Legal. If you are interested and would like more information on this role, please contact Mrs Tracey Knight, Chair of Governors on: tknight@mary.havering.sch.uk

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

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	6 th September	6.30pm	Seamus McDermott RIP
Sunday 23 rd Sunday in ordinary time	7 th September	8.00am	Grant Cambridge RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Sam & Connie Farrugia RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday The Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary	8 th September	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan Family Ann Sarsfield RIP & Kay McEvoy RIP & Norie Lenehan Int
		5pm	Reception of Body of Eileen Newman
Tuesday	9 th September	9.15am	David Shannon RIP
		11.30am	Requiem Mass Eileen Newman RIP
Wednesday	10 th September	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	John Dawson RIP
Thursday	11 th September	9.15am	Ania Wigley RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday Most Holy Name of Mary	12 th September	9.15am	John Dawson RIP
		7pm	John Fowley RIP
Saturday St John Chrysostom Vigil Mass	13 th September	9.15am	Samson Vincent D'souza 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	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri & Alfred Farrugia RIP
Sunday The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	14 th September	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Pat Fells RIP
		11.30am	Helen Thomson RIP
		5.00pm	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.