

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

Tel: 01708 447761

Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

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



FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Sunday 14th September 2025 – Page 191

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross remembers the Cross of Jesus. It has been celebrated by the Church for centuries. The feast began in the 4th century, when the True Cross was found by St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine. Tradition says she found the Cross in Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified. This discovery made a deep impression on Christians and led to honouring the Cross in a special way.

The feast celebrates the Cross because it is the symbol of our faith. The Cross shows us how much Jesus loves us. He died on the Cross to save us from our sins. In Christian tradition, the Cross is a sign of hope, even though it was an instrument of death. It reminds us that Jesus turned suffering and death into victory and life.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a time to reflect on what the Cross means to us. It is more than a symbol. It is a reminder of God's love and mercy. By celebrating this feast, we honor the victory Jesus won for us through His death and resurrection.

EDUCATION SUNDAY

Today, the Catholic Church in England and Wales will observe Education Sunday, which this year occurs on the same day as the liturgical Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. As the challenges and opportunities of a new academic year get under way in our Catholic schools and universities, we pray for the grace of Almighty God to approach them strong in faith and as 'pilgrims of hope' in this Holy Year of Jubilee. The Gospel reading is taken from St John's Gospel: The Son of Man must be lifted up (John 3:13-17).

The Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ is a symbol of hope for all, and His teaching in the Gospels a guiding light for lifelong learning and spiritual growth for those who work in Catholic education and formation. On Education Sunday, we give thanks to Almighty God for the vocation of all who work with the children and young people in the Catholic education sector: governors, school leaders, chaplains, teaching and support staff. In the academic year ahead, let us endeavour to give witness to our Saviour's message of hope in the Gospels, and to pray that our Catholic schools, colleges and universities will be beacons of hope in our local communities and in our two nations. With every blessing, I remain,

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ, Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds. Chair of CES

This weekend there will be a **second collection** for Education Day- Catholic Education Service.

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

Dear brothers and sisters: today, in our continuing catechesis on the Jubilee theme of “Christ our Hope,” we begin our reflection on Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection by considering the importance of preparing for an encounter with God. In the passage we just read, the disciples were surprised to find that the upper room had already been made ready for them to celebrate the Passover. We are invited to discover here an image of our own hearts, chosen and set aside by the Lord as a place of encounter with him. First, however, we must respond to the Lord’s initiative by preparing our hearts through concrete acts of love, forgiveness and self-giving so that he may come and dwell within us. By asking for our cooperation, he reminds us that true love — like the Passion itself — is not the result of chance, but a conscious and free decision to give of oneself. Let us ask the Lord today to teach us how prepare for his presence and so be able to welcome him, and those around us, into our hearts.

RCIA / JOURNEY IN FAITH PROGRAMME: Our next session of Journey of Faith programme is on Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7.00pm in Parish Hall. Still not too late to join. 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.

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.

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

MARANATHA: Join us for our last Mass, Prayer, Praise and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday 18th September from 7.00 to 9.00pm at the Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX All are welcome and there is no need to book, just come along. CCR Team

CONGRATULATIONS: We extend our warmest congratulations to Colin & Elizabeth and Sophia & Will on their recent marriages, which took place here at St Mary’s. May their union be filled with love, joy, and God's blessings.

RECENTLY BAPTISED CHILDREN: We Welcome Chayce Morgan, Clae Morgan & Dominik Bielski-Szutarski who were Baptised recently and are now beloved members of God’s Holy Family.

UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCIES: Just a word of encouragement to all those students going off to University to contact their University's Catholic Chaplaincy. Please go to www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk to help you connect with your chaplaincy.

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. 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.

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRL'S SCHOOL: is holding its Year 6 Open Evening (for entry to Year 7 in September 2026) on Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 6pm-8pm. Headteacher Welcome Talk is at 7.30pm. Please come along and see what this wonderful school - rated Outstanding by Ofsted in all 5 areas in October 2024 - has to offer your daughter. Further details about the school see www.sacredheartofmary.net.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Open Evening will be held at the school on Wednesday 1st October for September 2026 admissions. Visitors will receive a tour of our outstanding school (Ofsted 2024) and will have an opportunity to meet staff and pupils. See our school website for more details (allsaintsschool.co.uk). Please note booking is essential due to high demand and limited spaces.

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.

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	13 th September	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 Taylor RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday Our Lady of Sorrows	15 th September	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan Family John Duffy RIP & Norie Lenehan Int & Aman Bhargava
Tuesday Ss Cornelius, P & Cyprian, Bp, M	16 th September	9.15am	John Dawson RIP
Wednesday	17 th September	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Len & Pat Mills RIP
Thursday	18 th September	9.15am	John Dawson RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	19 th September	9.15am	Darren Maguire RIP
		7pm	Eileen Newman RIP
Saturday St Andrew Kim Tac-gon, Pr, Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions, Mm Vigil Mass	20 th September	9.15am	Richard Webb 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	Deceased members of the D'Cruz Family
Sunday 25 th Sunday in ordinary time	21 st September	8.00am	Micheal & Maureen Harrington RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Marie Edgley 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

Registered Charity No. 234092 Private circulation only.

The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies. Please note the location of the fire exits.