

# ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Assistant Parish Priest: Father Jude Kurumeh

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Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297

Parish Administrator: Christelle St Mart



## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – Page 82

For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the First Sunday of Advent, opening the Advent season. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavours to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming: *'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.'* (Pope Benedict XVI)

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, but this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. As Saint John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait.' To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' " (Rm 13:11).

**PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 12-4pm:** Preparations are well under way, but we need your help please. We have been receiving lots of wonderful donations of bottles, new toiletries and new toys and we really need those to keep coming in please. Can we also ask for any donations of boxes of chocolates/sweets and boxes of biscuits. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Church porch for anyone that is able to help set up the night before or at stages during the day. Finally, don't forget to buy your raffle tickets, they are on sale every week after Mass.

**BISHOP THOMAS:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, Bishop Emeritus of Brentwood Diocese, who died peacefully at his home in Stock at 10 a.m. on Monday morning. His Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30am at Brentwood Cathedral. May he rest in peace.

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

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Jesus our hope, we are meditating today on Jesus' resurrection, the very source of our faith and hope. With great meekness, Jesus appears to the disciples to restore communion and manifest his love, which surpasses betrayal, wounds and even death. As a sign of this love, Jesus gives the Apostles two gifts: his peace and the Holy Spirit. "Peace be with you" he says as he shows them his wounds. This is done not to shame those who abandoned him, but to assure them of his forgiveness and love, and to teach them that his death on the cross has been transformed into a sign of hope. In the giving of the Holy Spirit, Jesus entrusts the Apostles with the task of being his instruments in the world. This lesson is important for each of us: God forgives us, he raises us up, and sends us out anew. May we too be joyful witnesses of the resurrection by bringing the peace, hope and love of Christ to a broken world.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** Our Advent Reconciliation Service will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. This is a graced opportunity to experience the mercy and healing that only God can give us. There will be a number of priests available to hear confessions.

**ADVENT PRAYER EVENING:** on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in the Van Meenan Room (after Mass) there will be a special Advent Prayer Meeting run by Liz, Karen and Theresa. All are welcome.

**THE BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN:** On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.30am, we will be cleaning the church ready for Christmas. Teas, coffees and mince pies will be provided. Please come and help if you can, more hands make light work.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL CONCERT:** On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve, children are invited to join Michelle in the choir loft by 5.45 pm to sing with the choir. Please bring water and bells!

**WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY** The second collection last weekend raised £498.36 which will support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service.

**STARS ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE:** Wooden decoration stars are available to buy from the Repository after all weekend Masses, £2 each. We ask the children to decorate the stars and hand them back to us so we can use them to decorate the Church for Christmas.

**ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHETS:** Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be giving a short talk at 7 pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the Catholic parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The topic is the Prophets. You may attend in person free of charge, or watch livestream at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The talk will be available subsequently on the same website.

**ST MARY'S PARENT, BABY AND TODDLER GROUP:** Every Tuesday during term time 2.00-3.00pm in St Mary's Parish Hall. Tea & Coffee available. Free Entry. All welcome! Access: Please buzz on the school gate and tell the staff you are attending Parent Baby & Toddler Group.

**DIVINE MERCY RETREAT:** The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 1 pm - 4:30 pm at St Mary Mother of God, The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

**HEADTEACHER VACANCY:** The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch, are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher from April 2026. **Closing date: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026.** Enquiries can be made by email to [admin@stmcps.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmcps.co.uk), or phone 01708 448430.

**SCHOOL VACANCIES:**

1. Headteacher-St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford. Deadline for applications: noon 06/01/26.
2. Headteacher- Holy Family Primary School. Deadline for application 09:00 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
3. New foundation governors-St Joseph Catholic primary school Canvey Island. Please contact Joanna on [jfleming@stjosephscanvey.net](mailto:jfleming@stjosephscanvey.net).
4. Midday Assistant- St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay, closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025. [www.essexschooljobs.co.uk/vacancies/details.aspx?vacanyld=114935](http://www.essexschooljobs.co.uk/vacancies/details.aspx?vacanyld=114935)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Maura Bowes, Joe O'Mahoney and Anthony Hope who have died recently. Please keep their families and all who knew them in your prayers. May they rest in the peace of Christ. Maura Bowes funeral will be here at St Mary's on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 11.00am. Joe O'Mahoney's funeral will be here on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 11am, and Anthony Hope's funeral will be here on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11am.

**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 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](mailto:hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org) and we will add you to our mailing list.

## SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

<b>Saturday</b> Vigil Mass	29 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>6.30pm</b>	Joseph Ma RIP
<b>Sunday</b> First Sunday of Advent	30 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>8.00am</b>	Jimmy & Bridget O'Loughlin RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Dec'd brothers of the KSC Romford council RIP
		<b>5.00pm</b>	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
<b>Monday</b> Monday of the First week of advent	1 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Dec'd members of the Lenehan Family & Evelyn Ward RIP, Baby Norie Int
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b><i>Requiem Mass</i></b> - Maura Bowes RIP
<b>Tuesday</b> Tuesday of the First week of advent	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Kathleen & Victor Payne RIP
		<b>7.00pm</b>	<i>St Anthony Devotions</i>
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Eileen Newman RIP
<b>Wednesday</b> St Francis Xavier, Pr	3 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>7.15pm</b>	Evening Prayer
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Karen & Martin Perry Int
<b>Thursday</b> Thursday of the First week of advent	4 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Mary McCarthy RIP
		<b>9.45-12noon</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Friday</b> Friday of the First week of advent	5 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Sheila Brunton RIP
		<b>7.00pm</b>	Mary McManus Int
<b>Saturday</b> Saturday of the First week of advent  Vigil Mass	6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.15am</b>	Zbigniew Zebrowski 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>	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
<b>Sunday</b> Second Sunday of Advent	7 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>8.00am</b>	Mary & Danny McCarthy RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Eamon Commings 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.