

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-1pm

Safeguarding Representative: Donna Coy – 07710926297

Parish Administrator: Christelle St Mart



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT- GAUDETE SUNDAY

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"Rejoice: the Lord is near." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing near when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: A BIG thank-you to all those who helped to make our Christmas Bazaar such a lovely occasion. Thank you to the many people who made donations, a thank you to all who came along on the day, a thank you to all who helped with set up, running the stalls and putting away, and a great big thank you to those who organised everything. We raised around GBP 1,300. Thank you.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Our Advent Reconciliation Service will take place on Tuesday 16th 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.

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 livestreamed from the Cathedral on Tuesday 16th December at 11.30am at: <https://www.shealolin.co.uk/bishop-thomas>

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.

THE BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN: On Monday 22nd 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.

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

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Jubilee theme of "Jesus Christ our Hope," today we consider how the Resurrection of Jesus fulfils the desires of every human heart. Our lives are marked by conflicting situations that reveal limitations and our urge to overcome them. We seek worldly recognition and whether we receive it or not, we still feel empty. This reveals that we are not truly satisfied with achievements and passing certainties of this world. This is because we are created in the image and likeness of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit we recognize an inexhaustible longing in our hearts for something more. It is only the resurrected Jesus who can give the true and lasting peace that sustains and fills us. In a world struggling with fatigue and despair, let us be signs of hope, peace and joy in the Risen Lord.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL CONCERT: On Wed 24th Dec, Xmas 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!

ADVENT PRAYER SESSION: Monday 15th Dec at 7.00pm in the Van Meenan room. Please come along for some much needed prayer and reflection at this busy time of year. Refreshments served. We would love to see you, Liz, Karen, Teresa & Kathy.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME/ASSISI IN OCTOBER 2026: we are hoping to have a parish pilgrimage next year to Rome and Assisi. The dates are not confirmed yet, but we are looking at October but outside of the half term holiday which is the last week of October. We will have more information in January, but please register your interest by sending us an email, so as to enable us to notify you the moment we have dates/cost and itinerary. If you have already emailed us, please do so again, just to be on the safe side 😊.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS: The November dead list money has been counted and raised **£1645** for *Aid To The Church In Need* who will ensure that Masses for the Holy Souls are said in different churches around the world who are struggling financially. Many thanks.

CFDN: Saturday Morning Club. We have a warm and friendly group of adults with special needs who meet here at St Mary's every Saturday morning. We are looking for helpers, perhaps once a month, to lend a hand or just spend some time socialising with our members. For further information please call Helen Wilson 07368316716 or leave your details with the Parish office.

KNOW YOUR FAITH CORNER - Confession: The Power of God's Mercy.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most tender expressions of God's love for His people. In the confessional, we do not stand before a judge waiting for condemnation; we stand before a Father who longs to lift burdens, restore peace, and renew the heart. Confession is not about shame; it is about grace. It is where the weight we have carried, sometimes for years, finally meets the mercy of Christ who says, "*Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11:28) When we confess with sincerity, something profound happens: God heals what is wounded, strengthens what is weak, and rekindles what has grown cold. The sacrament gives us more than forgiveness. It gives us freedom. It gives us a fresh start. It gives us the courage to live again as children of the light. It gives us special grace to avoid sins and occasions of sin. It draws us closer to Jesus. Many people hesitate because they fear embarrassment or feel unworthy. But the Lord already knows our struggles; He waits not to condemn but to embrace. The priest is simply the instrument, Christ Himself is the one who absolves, comforts, and restores. So, our advent reconciliation service this year is another opportunity for us to tap from the fountain of Christ's mercy and graces. – Fr. Jude

CONTACTLESS CARD DONATION TERMINAL: We now have a self-service, contactless card donation terminal. You can use it to make Parish Donations, offertory and second collection contributions, and to pay for candles and repository items. The contactless card donation terminal also helps you to Gift Aid your donations. For those who are taxpayers, we want to appeal to you to consider to Gift Aid your donations, as this will help us claim extra 25% from HMRC at no extra cost for you. What this means is that, for every £1 you donate to the church, HMRC gives the church 25p extra. The contactless card donation terminal is located in the parish porch. Fr Jude will be available to help for those who will need assistance to navigate the contactless card donation terminal.

INSTAGRAM: St Mary Mother of God is now on Instagram. We are thrilled to extend our community presence to social media, and we invite you all to follow us for updates, news, and parish content. This new platform will allow us to connect with more people, share our journey, and keep everyone informed about the latest events and activities happening in our parish. Feel free to follow us *@stmaryshornchurch* and engage with our posts. We look forward to seeing you there and growing our online community together.

DIVINE MERCY RETREAT: The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection on Saturday 20th 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 9th January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23rd January 2026.** Enquiries can be made by email to admin@stmcps.co.uk, or phone 01708 448430.

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 and we will add you to our mailing list.

SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	13 th December	6.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri & Alfred Farrugia RIP
Sunday Third Sunday of Advent	14 th December	8.00am	Rory Maguire & family Int
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Sam & Connie Farrugia RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday	15 th December	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, Baby Norie, Laura & Nana Donovan Int
		11.00am	<i>Requiem Mass</i> -Joe O'Mahoney RIP
Tuesday	16 th December	9.15am	Timothy Joseph Sullivan RIP
		7.00pm	<i>Advent Reconciliation Service</i>
Wednesday	17 th December	11.00am	<i>Funeral Service</i> -Anthony Hope RIP
		7.15pm	Evening Prayer
		7.30pm	Doug Wilson RIP
Thursday	18 th December	9.15am	Martha Sheridan RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	19 th December	9.15am	Nora Maguire & Julia Higgins Int
		7.00pm	Brendan Cashell RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	20 th December	9.15am	Rita Maher 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	Helen & Alex Taylor RIP
Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent	21 st December	8.00am	Vincent Shannon RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Mick, Sue & Marie O'Donell 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.