

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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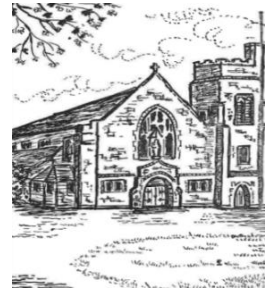
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH/ SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Sunday 28th December 2025 & Sunday 4th January 2026 – Pages 106 & 111

Scripture tells us very little about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. And, in her liturgy, the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity.

The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instil into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

(— Excerpted from *With Christ Through the Year*, Rev. Bernard Strasser, O.S.B.)

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen. (*Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 325*)

A BIG THANK YOU:

Fr Mark and Fr Jude would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to prepare for Christmas – church cleaners, altar servers, choirs, musicians, flower ladies, stewards, crib builders etc. It was truly a wonderful Christmas celebration. Also, a big thank you to everyone for their most generous Christmas offerings, plus cards and gifts. God Bless you.

POPE LEO'S 'URBI ET ORBI' ADDRESS CHRISTMAS 2025

Dear brothers and sisters, “Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world. Today, true peace has come down to us from heaven”. Thus sings the liturgy on Christmas night, and the announcement of Bethlehem resounds in the Church: the Child born of the Virgin Mary is Christ the Lord, sent by the Father to save us from sin and death.

Indeed, he is our peace; he has conquered hatred and enmity through God’s merciful love. For this reason, “the Lord’s birth is the birth of peace” (St Leo the Great). Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for him in the inn. As soon as he was born, his mother Mary “wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger” (cf. Lk 2:7). The Son of God, through whom all things were created, was not welcomed, and a poor manger for animals was his crib.

The eternal Word of the Father whom the heavens cannot contain chose to come into the world in this way. Out of love, he wanted to be born of a woman and so share our humanity; out of love, he accepted poverty and rejection, identifying himself with those who are discarded and excluded. Already in the birth of Jesus, we glimpse the fundamental decision that would guide the entire life of the Son of God, even to his death on the cross: the decision not to leave us under the burden of sin, but to bear it himself for us, to take it upon himself. He alone could do so. At the same time, however, he showed us what we alone can do, which is to take on our own share of responsibility. Indeed, God, who created us without us, will not save us without us, that is, without our free will to love. Those who do not love are not saved; they are lost. And those who do not love their brother or sister whom they see, cannot love God whom they do not see (cf. 1 Jn 4:20).

Sisters and brothers, responsibility is the sure way to peace. If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and the oppressed, then the world would change.

Jesus Christ is our peace first of all because he frees us from sin, and also because he shows us the way to overcome conflicts — all conflicts, whether interpersonal or international. Without a heart freed from sin, a heart that has been forgiven, we cannot be men and women of peace or builders of peace. This is why Jesus was born in Bethlehem and died on the cross: to free us from sin. He is the Saviour. With his grace, we can and must each do our part to reject hatred, violence and opposition, and to practice dialogue, peace and reconciliation.

CRIB OFFERINGS: Many thanks to those who have donated to the crib offerings so far. A reminder that the money will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society.

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.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT OVER CHRISTMAS: Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

MUSIC WORKSHOP: On Saturday 31st January at 12noon in the church, we will be having a music workshop for the parish. We invite all members of choirs at St Mary’s to attend as well as anyone who might be interested in joining us. You will be most welcome.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Bridget Ginty RIP who passed away recently. Please keep her family and all who knew her in your prayers. Bridget's funeral will take place here on Thursday 22nd January at 10.45am.

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

SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	27 th December	6.30pm	Kay McEvoy RIP
Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (A)	28 th December	8.00am	Grant Cambridge RIP
		9.30am	Margaret Olaniyan Int
		11.30am	All Parishioners
Monday St Thomas of Canterbury, Bp,M	29 th December	9.15am	Deceased members of the Lenehan Family & Willy Myers RIP
Tuesday 6 th day within the octave of the Nativity of the Lord	30 th December	9.15am	Karen Warren Int
Wednesday 7 th day within the octave of the Nativity of the Lord	31 st December	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Scott Cheesman RIP
Thursday Mary, the Holy Mother of God	1 st January	10.00am	Joseph Ma RIP
		10.30-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp,Dd	2 nd January	9.15am	Eileen Newman RIP

Saturday Vigil Mass	3 rd January	9.15am 9.45am -11.15am	Eileen Newman RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	<i>Confessions</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday Second Sunday after the Nativity	4 th January	8.00am	Emma & Mary Lowe RIP
		9.30am	Danny O'Mahoney RIP
		11.30am	Eamon Commins RIP
Monday	5 th January	9.15am	Deceased members of the Lenehan Family & John Fowley RIP, Baby Norie Int
Tuesday The Epiphany of the Lord Holyday of Obligation	6 th January	9.15am 7.30pm	Kay McEvoy RIP People of the Parish
Wednesday	7 th January	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Mary Magadelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
Thursday	8 th January	9.15am	John O'Sullivan RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	9 th January	9.15am	Dec'd Members of the Judge family RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	10 th January	9.15am	Vlad & family Int
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	<i>Confessions</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday The Baptism of the Lord (A)	11 th January	8.00am	Joaquina De Souza RIP
		9.30am	Mary Colman RIP
		11.30am	Bridie Ronan 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

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.