

ST. MARY

MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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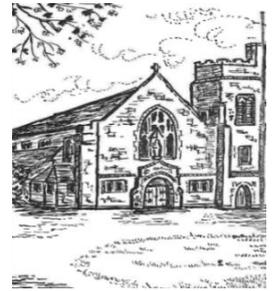
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Today's readings tell us what we need to do to follow Christ and become more like him. Getting our priorities right in God's eyes may not be easy, nor is it always the way of the world, but it will bring happiness in God's kingdom. At the beginning of his Sermon on the Mount (Gospel), Jesus teaches the Beatitudes, which focus on the qualities he expects his disciples to have. They are not 'rules' like the commandments, more a road map for discipleship, laying out the way to follow him. Jesus is calling us to learn what it really means to be 'glad and rejoice' – in him alone. The Beatitudes are a restatement or filling out of the values mentioned in the First Reading. The Lord will protect those living honest and just lives: people of integrity and humility. The Psalmist sings of the Lord's faithfulness and kindness, praising God for his care of 'those who are oppressed': the hungry, the imprisoned, the blind and the stranger. St Paul reminds the Corinthians (Second Reading) why they have been chosen by God. Their gift of faith is entirely due to God's generosity: in God they have found wisdom, holiness and freedom.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: Today is Racial Justice Sunday when we pray in a special way for an end to any form of prejudice or racism that is present in our society.

God of our past, present and future,
you created each one of us in your image and likeness,
help us to recognise you in each person.

As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism
lead us this day to walk with one another,
pray with one another and work together,
so that we create a future based on justice and healing,
where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

There is also a **Second Collection** today for Racial justice. The proceeds will be used to raise awareness of the responsibility of the church to eradicate racial discrimination in all its forms within the church and wider society.

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 turn to consider a question that we all hold deep in our hearts: what is the meaning of life? The scripture passage we just heard responds to this question — life is, first and foremost, a gift from God who has created us out of love. One of the temptations prevalent today is a lack of trust in God's goodness and love. Perhaps we no longer experience life as a gift because we are weighed down by its burdens, but the Risen Christ reminds us that God is always faithful to his plan of love. Trusting in God, we are invited to participate in this plan of life and of love by generating life. For those of you living the vocation of married life, this means discovering the gift and adventure of motherhood and fatherhood, in which you are called to participate in bringing new lives into this world and preparing them for the life that is eternal. Do not be afraid of this adventure, but prayerfully open yourselves to the gift of life, trusting in the God who we know loves us.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR JOHN HAYES RIP: There will be a Memorial Mass for Fr John Hayes (previous Parish Priest at St Mary's from 1994 to 2011) on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm, hopefully with some light refreshments afterwards. Mgr Kevin Hale will be the Main Celebrant and Canon Andrew Headon will be preaching. The chosen date of 24th February would have been Fr John's 90th Birthday, and so, is an appropriate date to celebrate this special Mass for him.

BLESSING OF THE PARISH HALL: The newly refurbished Parish hall will be blessed after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 8th February and there will be a coffee morning held to which all parishioners are invited.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2026: Mass intention diary is now open for the months of May to August 2026.

CRIB OFFERINGS: This is the final weekend that one can make donations to Brentwood Catholic Children's Society *via the Nativity Scene*, as the crib will be taken down during the course of this week. Many thanks for your generosity so far.

PARISH FINANCES: The Parish accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 have been finalized with the Diocese. During the year, the Parish received income of £222,283, incurred expenses of £233,616, giving an overall deficit in the year of £11,333. The year end position was that the Parish had cash reserves of £87,393. Further details are available in the summarised accounts which are on display in the Church porch and copies are also available to take home with you.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME/ASSISI IN OCTOBER 2026: we are hoping to have a parish pilgrimage this 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 later this month, 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.

COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to join the rota to help out at weekly coffee mornings after the 9.30am Mass, please contact the Parish office. It's a great way to socialise and meet people. No experience necessary!

HELPERS FOR THE REPOSITORY: We are delighted to be able to open the Repository shop after more Masses now, but we need a few more helpers please. Don't worry if you haven't done anything like this before, you will be fully supported and working in small groups. If you are interested, please contact the Parish office.

TABLE TOP SALE: Will be held on Saturday 28th February from 2pm - 4pm in the Parish Hall. This will be a wonderful sale of pre-loved items; fancy goods, books, toys, you name it! The Parish will have several large tables but if you fancy selling your own items, you are welcome to reserve a table through the Parish office. Refreshments will also be available. Volunteers are needed to set up from 12.30pm on the day and also to help on stalls. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish office.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM– 23rd May 2026: Please save the date. Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. More information to follow.

ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDRENS'S CAMP: If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

PLEASE PRAY Bridget O'Sullivan, who passed away last week. We pray for the repose of her soul and the comfort and consolation of her family.

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, 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	31 st January	6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time (Racial justice day)	1 st February	8.00am	Michael & Maureen Harrington RIP
		9.30am	Eileen Newell RIP
		11.30am	Catherine & Hugh Lennon RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday The Presentation of the Lord	2 nd February	9.15am	Igwemadu family Int
Tuesday St Anne Line,M	3 rd February	9.15am	Joseph Ma RIP
		7.00pm	<i>St Anthony Devotions plus Adoration until 8pm</i>
Wednesday	4 th February	7.15pm	Evening Prayer
		7.30pm	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, baby Norie, Laura & Nana Donovan Int
Thursday St Agatha,V,M	5 th February	9.15am	Joe O'Mahoney RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	6 th February	9.15am	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
Saturday In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary Vigil Mass	7 th February	9.15am	Fr Joseph Farell & Fr Maurice Gordon 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	Eamon Comins RIP
Sunday Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time	8 th February	8.00am	Donal Bergin RIP
		9.30am	Pat Fells RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners
		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.