

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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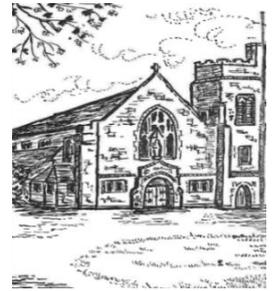
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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The First Reading is taken from Sirach 15:15-20. Today's reading comes from the section of Sirach's writing on man's free will and responsibility.

The Second Reading is from the letter of St. Paul to 1 Corinthians 2:6-10. Last week we heard Saint Paul address how his preaching illustrates the fact that man's strength and wisdom are nothing compared to those of God. Today we hear him tell of the true wisdom of God.

The Gospel is from St. Matthew 5:17-37. In this Sermon on the Mount, we have various sayings of Christ, actually spoken on different occasions. Matthew, in his systematic manner, has gathered these sayings into one continuous discourse here. This makes it easier for his readers, who were Jewish converts, to grasp the new order of salvation as inaugurated by Christ. They knew the ten commandments, but they knew them as their rabbis had taught them. These rabbis, for the most part Pharisees, put all the stress on the letter of the law and on its external observance. Christ's opening statement, that the attitude of his followers towards the commandments (and other precepts of the law) must be different, and superior to that of the scribes and Pharisees, clearly indicates how Christianity must differ from, and supersede, Judaism.

Christ is not abolishing the ten commandments, but he is demanding of his followers a more perfect, a more sincere, fulfillment of them. The whole moral value of any legal observance (the Mosaic law included) comes from the interior disposition of him who observes or keeps the law. No man serves or honours God by any exterior acts, be they ever so arduous or continuous, unless these acts proceed from an intention and a will to honour and please God. This is the charter, the constitution, of the new law, Christianity. The old law is not abolished, but deepened and given a new life.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Lent begins on Wednesday when there will be Mass and distribution of the ashes at 9.15am, 12noon and 7.30pm. Ash Wednesday is also a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. Please pick up a Lenten leaflet which tells you what's going on in the Parish over Lent. 'Walk with me' booklets are available in the porch of the church at one pound each and there are also free Lenten Calendars for the children.

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

Dear brothers and sisters, in our catechesis on the Jubilee theme of "Jesus Christ our Hope," today we reflect on the Resurrection as the firm foundation of our hope in our daily lives. In our fast-paced society, we can often feel overwhelmed by pressures and expectations for greater efficiency and optimal results. When we feel this way, let us remember the words from the Gospel of Saint Matthew: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt 6:21). Our heart's treasure is not the goods of this world, neither prosperity, nor success, nor admirable achievements! Indeed, Saint Augustine described our hearts as restless. That restlessness is not arbitrary and disordered; it is oriented towards heaven, whose doors are open to us thanks to the incarnation, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If we enter into the dynamism of his love and grace, he will be victorious in us — not just at the hour of our death, but also today, right now, and everyday hereafter.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office will be closed from the 16th -20th February

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.

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

LOURDES FUND APPEAL: The second collection last weekend raised £385.06, many thanks.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: the crib collection raised £675.00 many thanks.

MAUREEN O'BRIEN: Congratulations again to Maureen O'Brien who received the *BeneMerenti* award for her long service to the parish and diocese last Sunday at 11.30am Mass.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Would you like to join our bishop and parishioners and clergy from around the diocese on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer? The dates are Friday 17th - Friday 24th July. Please visit <https://tangney-tours.com/brentwood> for further information and to book, or contact Deirdre Pembroke, lourdes@brcdt.org if you have any questions. Paper booking forms to follow.

CHURCH CLEANERS VOLUNTEERS: If you can help Friday mornings for about an hour from 10am, 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.

SVP and CAFOD Work Experience: The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21st – 26th June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Apply here Applications close on the 6th April. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk

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.

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!

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.

VACANCY: The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch, are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher. **Closing date: Friday 6th March 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 20th March 2026.** Enquiries can be made by email to admin@stmcp.s.co.uk, or phone 01708 448430.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Bridget O'Sullivan, Carole Martin and Phil Reid, who passed away recently. We pray for the repose of their souls and the comfort and consolation of their families. Bridget's funeral will take place at St Mary's on Friday 6th March at 10.15am, Carole's funeral will take place at English Martyrs church on Tuesday 17th February at 1pm, and Phil's funeral will take place at St Mary's on Tuesday 3rd March 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, Claire Ramm, 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	14 th February	6.30pm	Frank Mollaghan RIP
Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time	15 th February	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Sam & Connie Farrugia RIP
		11.30am	Roisin Byrne RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday	16 th February	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, baby Norie Donovan, Laura and Nana Donovan
Tuesday	17 th February	9.15am	Joe O'Mahoney RIP
		7.00pm	<i>St Anthony Devotions plus Adoration until 8pm</i>
Wednesday Ash Wednesday	18 th February	9.15am	People of the Parish
		12noon	Holy Souls
		7.30pm	Margaret Lynskey RIP
Thursday	19 th February	9.15am	Mrs Proudfoot RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	20 th February	9.15am	Mr Geoff Parker RIP
		7.00pm	<i>Stations of the Cross plus Adoration until 8pm</i>
Saturday Vigil Mass	21 st February	9.15am	Jisma Joseph 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	Patricia Pearce RIP
Sunday First Sunday of Lent	22 nd February	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Joe O'Mahoney RIP
		11.30am	In thanksgiving Int
		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.