

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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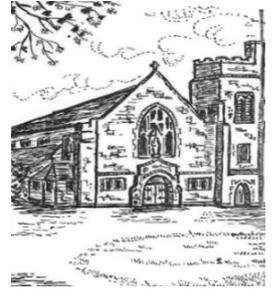
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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 LENT & SCRUTINY

Sunday 8th March 2026 – Page 158

The Gospel is today is from *St. John 4:5-42*. This gospel, about the Samaritan woman, is exceptionally rich. Every time we read it, we are passionately moved by that intense conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, recalling the great teaching of Saint Augustine, with regard to Christ's request to the woman, “give me something to drink”, said: “Yes, God thirsts for our faith and our love. As a good and merciful father, he wants our total, possible good, and this good is he himself. The Samaritan woman, on the other hand, represents the existential dissatisfaction of one who does not find what he seeks. She had “five husbands” and now she lives with another man; her going to and from the well to draw water expresses a repetitive and resigned life. However, everything changes for her that day, thanks to the conversation with the Lord Jesus.....” (Benedict XVI, Angelus 24 February 2008).

To recognize that if we entrust ourselves to God, we receive every “possible good” which, as the Pope reminds us, is God himself, means living the dynamic of conversion to God: renouncing a self-centered mentality, which deceives self-sufficient man, in order to receive the gift of God. Man without God is inevitably destined to dissatisfaction, limited in everything by his own limits as a creature, even in “giving himself” or “obtaining for himself” joy, love, happiness... Man without God cannot think to reach boundless joy, unlimited and eternal love, the living water of which, precisely, Jesus speaks with the Samaritan woman.

Happiness, another word for the living water, can only be given by the One who possesses it, and man does not possess it. God alone can share it with those who place their trust in Him and follow Him.

40 HOURS DEVOTION: The 40 hours devotion is a continuous prayer made before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. With a focus on the Holy Eucharist, this devotion provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole. **The 40 Hours will begin on Thursday 12th March with Mass at 6pm and end with Benediction on Saturday 14th March at 11am.** Please sign up for an hour slot on the sign-up sheet on the noticeboard in the church porch, and even if you can't sign up, please at least pop in for 5 or 10 minutes.

POPE LEO'S WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL' 2:

Dear brothers and sisters, today we continue our Catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum* of the Second Vatican Council by considering the role of the Son of God in Divine Revelation. God's revelation of himself to his people through words and deeds over the centuries reached its fulfilment in the incarnation of the Word, when God became man. Indeed, "the most intimate truth revealed about God and human salvation shines forth in Christ, who is himself both the mediator and the fulfilment of revelation" (*Dei Verbum*, 2). The Son, through his incarnation, life, death and resurrection, not only allows us to see the Father in him, but also invites us to enter into his very own relationship with the Father, by virtue of the action of the Spirit. By accepting this invitation, we become sons and daughters through the Son and participants in God's nature. Let us be filled with gratitude as we ponder our sublime vocation as God's beloved children, entrusting ourselves to the Father with boundless confidence.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: will take place twice a week during Lent, on Tuesdays after the morning Mass and on Fridays at 7pm followed by Mass or a period of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

LENT PRAYER SESSIONS: Lent is a special time for reflection and prayer. The second of our two prayer sessions will be held on Monday 16th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to join us on this journey. Liz, Karen, Teresa & Kathy

CAFOD: Last week's collection we raised £833.35 - many thanks for your great generosity.

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE & CO. MAYO LED BY BISHOP ALAN: Monday 15th June 2026 to Friday 19th June 2026. 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Price of ?799.00 per person Package includes: Return flight from Lon Stansted – 10kg check in bag. 4 nights Dinner, B&B in Knock House Hotel. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours. Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative. Single room supplement ?250.00. Maximum 3. Contact: Patricia Tel: 01268 762 278 Mob: 07740 175 557 knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

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.

CHURCH CLEANERS VOLUNTEERS: If you can help Friday mornings for about an hour from 10am, 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:A sign up sheet is in the back of church 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.

VACANCIES:

ECT- St Peter's Primary School, Dagenham.

Deadline for application 19th March 2026.

Headteacher – St Francis Catholic Primary school, Braintree.

Deadline for application: 23:59 15th March 2026

Deputy Headteacher – St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stanford-le-Hope

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Thursday 12th March 2026

Class Teacher – St Antony's Catholic Primary School, Woodford Green

Deadline for applications: 12:00 noon Thursday 19th March 2026

Deputy Headteacher – Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, Chelmsford

Deadline for applications: 12:00 noon Friday 20th March 2026

PLEASE PRAY FOR Terence Whithington and Elizabeth Kelly, who passed away recently. We pray for the repose of their souls and the comfort and consolation of their families. Terence's funeral will take place on Tuesday 17th March at 12noon and Elizabeth's funeral will take place Tuesday 7th April 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 and Bernard Frederick.

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	7 th March	6.30pm	Hannah & Dan Falvey RIP
Sunday Third Sunday of Lent	8 th March	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Mr Eric & Mrs Dorothy Dodkins RIP
		11.30am	Chris Murphy RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday	9 th March	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, St Bernadette RIP
Tuesday	10 th March	9.15am	Bridget Ginty RIP <i>plus Stations of the Cross</i>
			<i>No St Anthony Devotions this week</i>
Wednesday	11 th March	7.15pm	Evening Prayer
		7.30pm	Eamon Lynskey Int
Thursday	12 th March	9.15am	Marie O'Neill RIP
		6pm	Mass to begin 40 Hours Devotion
Friday	13 th March	9.15am	George De Souza RIP
		7.00pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
		7.30pm	Greta Shanahan Int
Saturday Vigil Mass	14 th March	9.15am	Mark McCormack RIP
		11.00am	End of 40 Hours with Benediction
		10.30-11.00am	<i>Confessions</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.30pm	Dec'd members of the Ireton & How families RIP
Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent	15 th March	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Frank McDonagh RIP
		11.30am	Vocation to the Priesthood & Religious life
		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.