

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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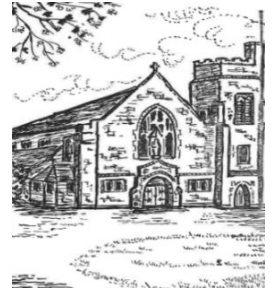
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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 OF EASTER

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Today's readings invite us to contemplate the tender image of Christ as the Good Shepherd, who leads, protects, and cares for his flock. His relationship with the sheep is one of trust, recognition, and belonging, where the sheep follow only their shepherd, the one who knows them personally and calls them by name.

In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself as the door of the sheepfold through which the sheep enter. He warns his listeners against the voices of strangers who prey on the vulnerable and weak, leading to confusion and fear rather than the life that Jesus offers. The Second Reading urges us to follow Christ's example and endure hardships patiently, trusting in God. Even when we wander and lose our way, we can return to the safety of the Lord, our shepherd. The familiar Psalm tells us that the Lord always cares for and protects us, guiding us to safety. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter calls all to turn away from sin and be baptized in the name of Jesus. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for everyone whom the Lord has called.

Today is also kept as Vocations Sunday. As we consider how each of us responds to the voice of the Good Shepherd, we pray for the grace to respond to God's invitation, always trusting in his loving care and guidance through any struggles.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

In 1964, Pope Paul VI, launched Vocations Sunday, which we celebrate on the fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. As Catholics and people of God, we all know that God is calling us and has a plan for each one of us. He called each of us by name through our Baptism to holiness. He continues to call and cry out to us each day to be his disciples, some to the married life, some to the priesthood or the diaconate, some to religious life or to live as single people. Everybody is called! *What is God calling you to?* Along with the whole Church, let us pray for vocations today. Let us take time to stir the hearts and minds of the people around us to think about the topic of Vocation. Today, we are invited to talk and encourage children, young people, grandchildren, students, family members to respond generously to the calling of the Lord.

SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend there will be a second collection for Promotion of Vocations.

POPE LEO'S WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL' 7:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Second Vatican Council, today we consider the mystery of the human and divine dimensions of the Church as presented by the Dogmatic Constitution Lumen Gentium. Just as Jesus' humanity was immediately apparent to those who walked by his side, so too the human dimension of the Church is easy to perceive: it is a community of men and women who, with their gifts and their flaws, seek to proclaim the Gospel within a visible structure. Those who followed Jesus more closely, however, recognized that his humanity — his loving gaze, his merciful gestures and his powerful word — manifested his divinity, which led them to salvation. In a similar way, through the visible and human dimension of the Church, the spirit of Christ and his saving action are present and active in the world. Let us strive to be authentic witnesses of the love of Christ so that all can recognize in us and among us the charity that characterizes true Christians and builds up the Church.

NEW PARISH INITIATIVES: We have two new Parish Initiatives on the horizon. The first is Alpha (in a Catholic context) and the 2nd is a Parish Mission. The Alpha course will hopefully be run twice a year, with the first course starting on Mon 11th May, running for about 8 weeks; and the Parish Mission will take place the 1st week of March next year. Please let Fr Mark know if you'd like to be part of Alpha starting on 11th May, or, in the one to take place in the autumn.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM– 23rd May 2026. For those who have already signed up could a cash payment of £25 be paid to the parish office or Kathy O'Dea. The coach will depart at 6.45am **sharp** from the church. Please bring a packed lunch for the day.

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CATHOLIC PARISH: continue their 170th Anniversary celebrations with a Flower Festival from May 2nd – 4th. Themed around “Eternal Love,” enjoy beautiful displays of flowers filling the church over the Bank Holiday weekend, along with refreshments in the Parish Centre. The church will be open 10.00 – 3.30 on Saturday and Monday, then after the morning Masses from 1.30 – 3.30pm on Sunday. Free entry.

THE LEGACY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI: As we mark 800 years since the death of St Francis (3rd October 1226), Fr Alban McCoy OFM Con will speak about how Francis changed the Church of his day, and can help us to renew the Church in our own times. The event will take place in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) from 11 am until 1 pm on Saturday 2nd May. Available by live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org

KNOWING YOUR FAITH CORNER

Why should we stay until the final blessing at Mass?

Staying until the final blessing at Mass is not just about “completing a routine”. It is about fully entering into the worship of God and receiving what the liturgy is meant to give.

The Mass does not end after Holy Communion. The final blessing and dismissal are an essential part of the liturgy. In the blessing, the priest calls down God's grace upon us, strengthening us for the week ahead. To leave early is to miss that gift.

The dismissal “Go forth, the Mass is ended”, reminds us that we are sent out on a mission to live what we have celebrated. So, leaving early means missing this important moment of grace and mission. By staying until the final blessing, we fully participate in the Mass and go forth united, renewed, and blessed to serve the Lord in our daily lives.

Finally, remaining until the end is a sign of reverence and unity. We worship as one body, and leaving early can disrupt that sense of communal prayer and respect for the sacred action taking place. – Fr Jude.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 (Seoul, South Korea): Be part of something extraordinary at World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. Travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to join hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from around the world, gathered with Pope Leo for this global celebration of faith. Open to those currently in Year 13 and above. Details and applications: www.bcys.net/events/wyd27

BCYS YOUTH MASS: The next Youth Masses will take place at Brentwood Cathedral on Thursday 7th May, 4th June and 2nd July. It is open to any young people from around the Diocese to enjoy pizza, prayer, workshops and celebrate Mass together! For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

BCYS DIOCESAN WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE– Saturday 23rd May: Representatives from the BCYS will be joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and we would like to invite other young people to join and assist with the liturgy. Please contact gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org if you are interested.

VACANCIES:

Deputy Headteacher - Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Benfleet

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Thursday 30th April 2026

Headteacher - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stanford Le Hope

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Thursday 30th April 2026

Headteacher – St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch

Deadline for applications: 17:00 pm 1st May 2026

Headteacher - St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Colchester

Deadline for applications: 09:00 am Tuesday 5th May 2026

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	25 th April	6.30pm	Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious life
Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter	26 th April	8.00am	Jean Angel RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Eleanor, Gerald, Bernard Ratchman RIP
Monday	27 th April	9.15am	Scott Cheesman RIP
Tuesday	28 th April	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, Baby Norie, Laura & Nana Donovan Int
Wednesday St Catherine of Siena, V, D	29 th April	7.15pm	Evening prayer
		7.30pm	Donal Bergin RIP
Thursday	30 th April	9.15am	Rosary group Int
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	1 st May	9.15am	Breda & Larry Ryan Int
Saturday St Athanasius, Bp, D Vigil Mass	2 nd May	9.15 am	Emma Farrell Int
		9.45-11.15	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	<i>Confessions</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.30pm	Marie & Albert Edgley RIP
Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter	3 rd May	8.00am	Tommy Banks RIP
		9.30am	Carole Martin RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners

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.