

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

Tel: 01708 447761

Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

Website: www.stmaryshornchurch.org.uk

Instagram: @stmaryshornchurch

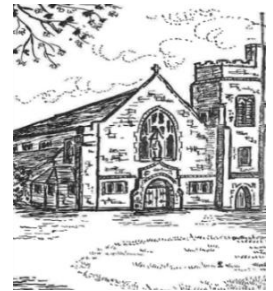
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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As we continue to live through this joyful Eastertide, the first reading this week *from the Acts of the Apostles* shows us the new Christians attempting to organize their community. After prayer and discernment, they solve the dispute between the Hebrews and the Hellenists and appoint seven leaders. The Psalm celebrates in song the word of the Lord, who is merciful and loves justice and right. The Second Reading *from St Peter* seeks to reassure us that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Christ is the cornerstone of the building, and all Christians its living stones. The Gospel comes from St John's Last Supper discourse, where Jesus prepares his friends for his departure. Thomas and Philip find it hard to follow his words, but they will never be alone, for Jesus will be alongside them. He is the way, the truth and the life.

This week, we pray for all who are unable to accept Jesus as the cornerstone of their life. As we go about our own lives in the coming days, we might use the response to the psalm: '*May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord*'.

MONTH OF MAY, MONTH OF MARY

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1). So, during this month of May, the Church encourages Catholics to take out their rosary beads and pray through the intercession of our Blessed Mother for the different needs we have- for ourselves, our families, our community and for those in any kind of help.

PROMOTION OF VOCATION: Last weekend, we raised a total amount of £493.95 for the promotion of Vocations in this diocese; many thanks for your generosity and support.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Molly and Matthew who were married at St Mary's last weekend. We wish them a lifetime of happiness together.

POPE LEO'S WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL' 8:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, we reflect on God's salvific work in history by choosing a people as his own. He makes a covenant with Abraham and calls his people to be a light for other nations. In this way, he foreshadows the new and perfect covenant in Jesus Christ. With his Death and Resurrection, Jesus gathers all peoples, men and women of different nationalities, languages and cultures into his Bride, the Church. The Church is the new people of God, who united by faith and animated by Christ's love proclaim the Gospel to the whole world. We too, as members of the Church, are called to be signs of hope and to spread the message of the Father, who desires to gather to himself all his children.

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. *The first Alpha course is now full (and we ask your prayers for its success), but there will be another course in the autumn, which we'll start advertising for at the beginning of July.*

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 by 8th May. The coach will depart at 6.45am **sharp** from the church. Please bring a packed lunch for the day.

PARISH SUMMER FETE: The Parish will be holding a summer fete on Saturday 13th June. Last year was a wonderful community day for the whole Parish and we want to make this year even better! We are delighted to announce that the Scoops will be providing live music throughout the day and we have a great range of inflatables - wrist bands on sale after all Masses at £5 each. We already have a selection of food stalls, ice cream, beverages and fancy good stalls booked, but if anyone runs a small business or has a hobby and would like a stall, please contact the Parish office as we would like to support our whole community. Finally, we are in need of volunteers to help with marshalling, setting up and clearing away on the day. If you are able to help in any way, please contact the Parish office directly.

COFFEE EVENING – Following 6.30pm Mass on 16th May 2025. The Confirmation candidates warmly invite all parishioners to join them for tea, coffee and cakes following the 6.30pm Mass 16th May; they would particularly like to welcome their prayer partners, as this will be a lovely opportunity to meet in person and thank you for your prayers and support. Refreshments will be provided free of charge; however, the candidates will be raising money for a Youth Cancer charity, so any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please do come along – we would love to see you there.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL HAS FALLEN: The assisted suicide Bill has failed to pass all stages in the House of Lords. This means that Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill has fallen and will not become law. This is a major milestone, but the battle is not over. Assisted suicide campaigners have said they are going to try to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session and use the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords. To find out more about this significant milestone and what comes next, visit: <https://righttolife.org.uk/LeadbeaterBillFalls>

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:

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

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

Deputy Headteacher - St Helen's Catholic Primary School, Westcliff-on-Sea

Deadline for applications: 09:00 am Monday 11th May 2026

PLEASE PRAY FOR Susan Duhig, who passed away recently. We pray for the repose of her soul and the comfort and consolation of her family. Susan's funeral will take place on Tuesday 5th May at 11 am here at St Mary's.

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	2 nd May	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
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday The English Martyrs, Mm	4 th May	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, Joe O'Mahoney & Fr John Hayes RIP
Tuesday	5 th May	9.15am	Sister Elizabeth Farrell Int
		11.00am	Requiem Mass-Susan Duhig RIP
Wednesday St John Payne, Pr, M	6 th May	7.15pm	Evening prayer
		7.30pm	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
Thursday	7 th May	9.15am	Phil Reid RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	8 th May	9.15am	Joseph Ma RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	9 th May	9.15am	William Elliot 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	All Parishioners
Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter	10 th May	8.00am	Alayne Bone RIP
		9.30am	Michael Olayiwola Olaniyan Int
		11.30am	Giuseppe & Filomena Oddi 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

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies. Please note the location of the fire exits.