

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

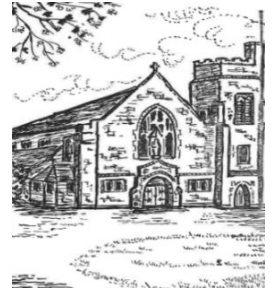
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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



PENTECOST SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 24th May 2026 – Page 278

On the Solemnity of Pentecost, the Church commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, gathered around the Mother of our Lord. This most significant manifestation of the Holy Spirit in Sacred Scripture is recorded at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles chapter 2. The first Pentecost is seen as the day when the Church, newly endowed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit, began her sacred mission of evangelization mandated by Christ. The Church's liturgy celebrates the Solemnity of Pentecost fifty days after Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ; indeed, Pentecost comes from the Greek *pentecoste* meaning “fiftieth.”

So, today, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. We remember the courage He gives us to speak God's word and live out His love. We remind ourselves to seek His presence in our lives, especially when we feel alone or afraid. And we commit to being His witnesses in the world, living out the Gospel in our actions and relationships. Let us embrace the Spirit's power within us and let us share His love with everyone we meet. So, today we pray for a renewal in the Holy Spirit for ourselves but especially for all those being confirmed this weekend: *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

POPE LEO'S WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL' 11:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our ongoing catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, we turn today to consider the laity. Rather than limiting itself to defining the laity for what they are not, the Second Vatican Council sought to shed light on their innate dignity as members of the People of God and underline the peculiarity of their role in the mission of the Church. Having been incorporated into Christ through Baptism, the laity are made sharers in their own way in his priestly, prophetic and kingly office. The Church is present wherever her children profess the Gospel and bear witness to Christ. For this reason, lay men and women are particularly called to carry Christ's presence to all spheres of life and so transform them from within by bearing witness to the beauty of a life in Christ and the elevating power of his grace.

NEW HEADTEACHER AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:

The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School are delighted to announce the appointment of Sinead Culora as the new Headteacher of our school. Sinead will join the St Mary's family in September 2026. We thank everyone in our Parish community for their prayers and support throughout the last academic year. We are truly grateful to God for His guidance and for answering our prayers as we look forward to this exciting new chapter in the life of our school. Please keep Sinead, our pupils, staff, and Governors in your prayers as we prepare to welcome her to St Mary's.

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.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY: Last weekend, we raised a total amount of £323.15, many thanks for your generosity and support.

NEW IMAGE OF ST CARLO ACUTIS: we are very happy that we now have an image of St Carlo Acutis in the church, which has been chosen by our Confirmation Candidates and is to be blessed at their Confirmation Mass on Sunday. For those of you who do not know much about him, Saint Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) was an English-born Italian teenager, widely known as the Catholic Church's first "millennial saint". He was an avid gamer and self-taught computer programmer who used his digital skills to catalogue global Eucharistic miracles, earning him the affectionate nickname of "God's influencer". The image of St Carlo Acutis will replace the image of Pope Francis at the back of the church, which will be relocated in the Van Meenan Room. Technically, we are only supposed to have images of the Saints in the church, and I am sure that Pope Francis will not mind making space for St Carlo, given his great love for young people.

KNOWING YOUR FATH CORNER

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Holy Spirit strengthens a baptized Christian to live faithfully and courageously as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Church and one of the three Sacraments of Initiation, alongside Baptism and the Eucharist. Through this sacrament, the baptized receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, strengthening them to live as mature witnesses of Christ and active members of the Church. In Confirmation, the celebrant lays hands on the candidates and anoints them with Sacred Chrism, saying: "*Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*" This sacrament, therefore, deepens the grace received at Baptism, strengthens our relationship with Christ and His Church, and gives us courage to live and defend our faith in everyday life. The sacrament of Confirmation also reminds us of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles at Pentecost, when they were empowered to preach the Gospel boldly. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit received and strengthened in Confirmation are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. As members of the Church, may we continue to pray for our young people who will be confirmed this Sunday, that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen them always. – Fr Jude.

NEW FRONTALS FOR THE ALTAR AND LECTERN: The altar is the most central and sacred item of furnishing in the church. As such the Church has from time immemorial adorned it with cloths and coverings. We are in the process of getting ‘frontals’ for both the altar and lectern on the sanctuary. Frontals are decorative cloths that hang at the front of the altar or lectern; they come in different colours in accordance with the liturgical season (white, red, purple or green). The frontal for the altar is of particular importance as the altar itself is a symbol of Christ and so the frontal pays due honour to that reality. The frontals will also bring some much needed colour to the sanctuary. These frontals will be of noble fabric as befits the altar, and so are not inexpensive; so if anyone would like to make a donation in this regard, we would be very grateful.

CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP- MOST HOLY REDEEMER - On Wednesday 27th May, during half-term week, Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill will be hosting light refreshments and workshops for children, including drama, flower art, and music. A donation of £1 is requested. For further details, please contact Theresa at the Parish Office on 01708 343492.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY: invites you to a wonderful charity two-course luncheon at the beautiful grade II listed Georgian house, the Lawn in Rochford. Friday June 19th-13.00-15.30- tickets are £38.59 per person. To book go to <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/>

BCYS YOUTH MASS: The next Youth Masses will take place at Brentwood Cathedral on Thursday 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

PLEASE PRAY FOR Billy Myers and Philippa Grima, who have passed away recently. We pray for the repose of their souls and the comfort and consolation of their families. Philippa’s funeral will take place on Tuesday 2nd June 11.00am 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	23 rd May	6.30pm	Brian Grant Int
Sunday Pentecost	24 th May	8.00am	Nelson De Souza RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Novella & Courtney Brown Int
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday Mary Mother of Church	25 th May	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, baby Norie, Laura & Nana Donovan Int
Tuesday St Philip Neri,Pr	26 th May	9.15am	Joy Oganwu Int
Wednesday St Augustine of Canterbury	27 th May	7.15pm	Evening prayer
		7.30pm	Michael Lee RIP
Thursday Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest	28 th May	9.15am	Ian Johnson & Eileen McLeavy RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	29 th May	9.15am	Bruce Waskett RIP
Saturday The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Vigil Mass	30 th May	9.15am	Dorathy Mmuo 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	Maurice Kirwin RIP
Sunday The Most Holy Trinity	31 st May	8.00am	Michael & Maureen Harington Int
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Bridget O'Sullivan 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

Registered Charity No. 234092 Private circulation only.

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