

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

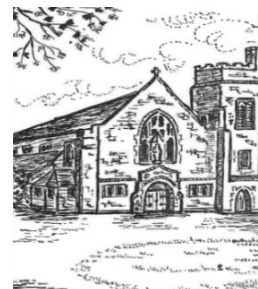
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Praise to God, and joy in God's merciful love, justice and peace, are themes which run through the readings for this Sunday.

The First Reading from Zechariah describes how God will defeat his enemies and establish himself as king – not through war and aggression, but with humility and peace.

The Psalm is a great hymn of praise, central to the Jewish faith. It speaks of God's kindness and compassion to all and offers us the reassurance that the Lord will always be faithful and loving, ready to support and raise us up when we fall.

In the Second Reading, Paul reminds the Romans, and ourselves, of what the suffering and death of Jesus has achieved for us. He speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

In today's Gospel, through his own prayer to his Father in heaven, Jesus reminds us that he is the one who will reveal God to us. Humility and gentleness are the virtues he emphasizes; rest and freedom from burdens are the gifts he promises.

This week we pray particularly for all those who feel overwhelmed by the pressures of daily life – whether through ill-health, conflict, poverty, loneliness or isolation. With the help of our prayers and action, may they come to know the love and peace of Christ.

POPE LEO'S WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL' 16:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our series of catechesis on the Second Vatican Council, we continue our reflection on *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, by looking at the elements of the rite, the sign, and the symbol found in the sacred liturgy. The rite of the Christian liturgy is the ecclesial mediation through which the divine gift reaches us. In the liturgy, we are invited to participate — body, mind, and heart — and enter into a dimension inhabited by the Holy Spirit. In order to enter into this dimension, the liturgy is woven with signs and symbols that have a performative and transformative dimension. For example, kneeling is a sign of our worship of God while exchanging the sign of peace points to our ecclesial communion. Further, signs help us to recall the constitutive acts of the Sacraments as when we are sprinkled with holy water we remember our commitment to Christ. May each of us reawaken our openness to an encounter with God by rediscovering the signs and symbols of the sacred liturgy.

PETER'S PENCE: Last weekend, we raised a total amount of £341.29. Many thanks for your generosity and support

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER MEN'S CLUB: Inviting all DIY enthusiasts to form a new men's group in the parish to help with maintenance work. A survey of the buildings of the parish was recently conducted, and we could do with all the help we can get to complete various recommended jobs but also have some fun in the process. Obviously, bigger jobs will need to be contracted out. Please let Fr Mark or the parish office know, if you're interested.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026/27: If your child is in *Year 3 to Year 5 from September* and they would like to make their First Holy Communion in 2027, please email the Parish Office **to register your interest by 1st August 2026 at the latest.** Please include your child's full name, a contact number and a picture of their Baptism certificate. We will then be in contact with you directly once programme details become available. We can tell you, though, that the course will begin in September, but this is subject to finding a sufficient number of adult/ parent helpers to run the course, so please contact the parish office if you are able to help. The minimum expectations for the course are attendance at the sessions and attendance at weekly Mass on Sunday or Saturday night. *If your child is in year 6 or above and would like to make their First Holy Communion, please contact Fr Mark.*

CONFIRMATION 2026/27: If your child is in Year 9 or above (from September) and they would like to make their Confirmation in 2027, please email the parish office to **register your interest by 1st September 2026 at the latest.** A meeting for parents and young people will take place on **Saturday 19th September 2026 at 4.30pm in the Parish Hall** followed by the **Welcome Session** for the young people **at 5pm** and the **Enrolment Mass at 6.30pm** to be attended by both young people and parents. When registering your interest, please include your child's full name, a contact number and a picture of their Baptism & First Holy Communion certificates. We will then be in contact with you directly once full programme details become available. The minimum expectations for the course are attendance at the Confirmation sessions and attendance at weekly Mass on Sunday or Saturday night.

KNOWING YOUR FAITH CORNER

Why Does the Priest Kiss the Altar?

One of the first things the priest does when Mass begins is to reverently kiss the altar. Before leaving the sanctuary at the end of Mass, he kisses it again. This is not simply a gesture of respect or tradition; it is a profound act of faith rich in biblical and spiritual meaning. The altar is a very important place in the church because it is where the Sacrifice of the Eucharist is offered. The Church teaches that the altar is a symbol of Christ Himself, who is both Priest and Victim. Just as Christ offered Himself on the Cross for our salvation, the one sacrifice of Christ is made sacramentally present on the altar at every Mass. By kissing the altar, the priest is expressing love, reverence, and devotion to Christ, whose sacrifice is celebrated there. It is a silent prayer of love directed to Christ before the celebration begins. Traditionally also, many Catholic altars contain relics of saints sealed within them. This ancient practice recalls the early Christians who celebrated the Eucharist over the tombs of the martyrs. When the priest kisses the altar, he also honours the saints who gave their lives for Christ and now share in His heavenly glory. Therefore, the priest's kiss reminds us that the Mass is first and foremost an encounter with Jesus Christ. As the priest reverences the altar, we too are invited to approach the Eucharist with faith, love, and gratitude, recognizing that Christ Himself is truly present and offers Himself for us. – **Fr. Jude**

RCIA / JOURNEY IN FAITH PROGRAMME 2026/27: We begin a new Journey of Faith programme on Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.00pm in Parish Hall. It is designed for adults, falling into 3 categories i) for those who are not Catholics but who are interested in becoming one, ii) for those who are Catholics but who have not yet been Confirmed, and iii) for Catholics who would like to revisit their faith from the ground-up. Please let the Parish Office know if you are interested, stating which category you fall into.

MARRIAGE IN A RUT? Or need help with deeper issues? **Retrouvaille** has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd – 4th Oct.
www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info. Tel: 0788 7296983

DAY WITH MARY: A Day With Mary is hosting an International Symposium from 29 July to 31 July 2026 at St Mary's Catholic Church, West Croydon. Further information is available at www adaywithmary.org/symposium

VACANCIES:

Headteacher- St Joseph's catholic primary school, deadline 2nd September 2026 5pm

Walsingham House Manager- www.bcys.net/news/vacancies/ deadline 7th July 12noon

NEW FRONTALS FOR THE ALTAR AND LECTERN: We have now raised just over half of the amount needed to pay for the new frontals (*for which grateful thanks*), with about £2,000 to go. If you would still like to make a donation, it would be much appreciated. But, if we don't quite get to the total needed, I might be able to access some other money to pay for rest of it, so that the money doesn't come out of the Parish account. God bless, Fr Mark

PLEASE PRAY FOR Paul Hiscock and Angelo Farrugia who have passed away recently. We pray for the repose of their souls and the comfort and consolation of their families. Paul Hiscock's funeral will take place on Thursday 9th July at 11:00 am at St Mary's, and Angelo Farrugia's funeral will take place on Friday 24th July 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, Bernard Frederick, Denis Fallon and Maureen O'Brien.

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	4 th July	6.30pm	Dr Sylvanus Oganwu Int
Sunday Fourteenth Sunday in ordinary time	5 th July	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Adrian & Mary Bell Int
		11.30am	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday St Maria Goretti, V.M.	6 th July	9.15am	Stephen Onyeacholam Int
Tuesday	7 th July	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, Fr David Manson RIP
Wednesday	8 th July	7.15pm	Evening prayer
		7.30pm	Special intention
Thursday	9 th July	9.15am	Dennis Wood Int
		11.00am	Requiem Mass – Paul Hiscock RIP
Friday	10 th July	9.15am	Michael Lee RIP
Saturday St Benedict, Ab Vigil Mass	11 th July	9.15am	Billy Myers 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	Breffni & Des O'Brien RIP
Sunday Fifteenth Sunday in ordinary time	12 th July	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Patricia Fells RIP
		11.30am	Richard Webb 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.