

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

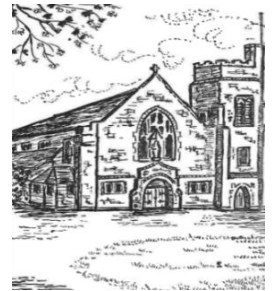
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 26th July 2026 – Page 108

The readings for this Sunday invite us to think about what we truly value. They show the importance of wisdom, encouraging us to trust God's plan, and to value the kingdom of heaven above all else. In the First Reading, Solomon responds humbly when, in a dream, God asks him, 'what shall I give you?' Solomon seeks an 'understanding mind ... to discern between good and evil in governing God's people'. Putting others' needs before his own pleases God, who gifts Solomon with wisdom. The Gospel also talks about choosing what is most important. Jesus tells two parables describing the value of the kingdom of heaven; 'The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant ... who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.' The Psalmist describes God's word as more important than the finest gold: it is true treasure, offering lasting wisdom, comfort and delight. St Paul, in Second Reading, assures us that God already has a plan in place for all who love God. Even when life is difficult, God is guiding and shaping us to be like Jesus. This week, we pray to live each day with the wisdom to know what truly matters, and to let go of anything that holds us back.

WORLD DAY OR PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY:

Prayer for Grandparents: Pope Benedict XVI

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society. Support them as they grow older. May they continue to be for their families strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasures of sound religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents. May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love. Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen

Saints Anne and Joachim, the Grandparents of Jesus. Pray for us.

ALPHA AT ST MARYS: We have just completed our first Alpha course. It was a great success and a number of the participants from the course will give their testimony about their experience at the end of our Sunday Masses at the beginning of September. The next Alpha course will begin on Monday 28th September at 7pm. Alpha has been described as a course where people can have an open and honest 'faith conversation', without the pressure of having all the answers. Indeed, Alpha creates a space for all – the hopeful and the doubtful, the committed and the questioning. It helps people to unpack the basics of the faith together. No pressure. No judgement. Just an open conversation over some good food. Anyone is welcome to join the Alpha course whether you are non-Catholic or Catholic, whether you are baptized or not. Also, if you know someone who you think would benefit from the course, like a friend or a spouse, please mention it to them. If you are interested, please let Fr Mark know by emailing hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Volunteers are needed to help with the Children's Liturgy at the 9.30am Mass. This will be on a rota basis, so you will not be required every week. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the parish office for more information.

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA: On *Saturday, 12th September* the Diocese of Brentwood will host the Visitation of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, at the **Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood**. This will be a Day of Prayer & Devotions, with the opportunity for the veneration of the relics. Bishop Alan accompanied by Priests of the Diocese will concelebrate Holy Mass, this will be followed by the Consecration Prayer of the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Alan. As this is a Day of Prayer, we ask all those participating to bring a packed lunch, teas and coffees will be available in the Cathedral Parish Hall.

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 as soon as possible**. 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 as soon as possible**. 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.

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

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.

NEW FRONTS FOR THE ALTAR AND LECTERN: The new Frontals are now in place and I would like to thank all those who were able to make a contribution. I was able to access some other money, and we just have about £500 to go, so, not too late to make a donation. God bless, Fr Mark

ROSARY GROUP: Our rosary group will continue throughout the summer holidays to meet every Thursday at 7.30 pm in the church. We continue to place the book with all your written intentions before Our Lady asking for Her intercession. All are welcome to join us.

RECENT MARRIAGES: We extend our warmest congratulations to Jemane & Colette on their recent marriages, which took place here at St Mary's. May their union be filled with love, joy, and God's blessings

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR Linda Edwards, Frank Owens and Tony Newman who have passed away recently. We pray for the repose of their souls and the comfort and consolation of their families. Linda Edwards' funeral will take place on Monday 3rd August at 12noon at St Marys. Frank Owens' funeral will take place on Wednesday 5th August at 11am at St Marys. Tony Newman's funeral will take place on Tuesday 11th August at 11am at St Edward's, Romford.

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, Kenneth Morin 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	25 th July	6.30pm	Natasha & Narinder Samplay Int
Sunday Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary time	26 th July	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Mary Margrie & Annie O'Donell RIP
		11.30am	Mary (Moira) Barrell RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday	27 th July	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenahan family, Bernadette & Martin Cornish Int
Tuesday	28 th July	9.15am	Alice & Jack Louro RIP
Wednesday Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus	29 th July	7.15pm	Evening prayer
		7.30pm	Anne Sullivan RIP
Thursday	30 th July	9.15am	Eddie O'Donaghue RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday St Ignatius of Loyola, Pr	31 st July	9.15am	Desmond O'Brien Int
Saturday St Alphonsus Mary De Liguori Vigil Mass	1 st August	9.15am	Jim & Andrew Shanahan 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	Rita & Adetokunbo Adedeji Int
Sunday Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary time	2 nd August	8.00am	All Parishioners
		9.30am	Clare Titilayomi Olaniyan Int
		11.30am	Rita Kyrou RIP

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.