

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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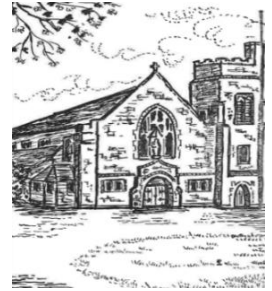
Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 6th September 2026 – Page 125

Today's readings remind us that, while we may find ourselves caught between the values of God's kingdom and those of the world around us, we will always have the love of God to protect and uphold us. In the first reading, Jeremiah laments that answering God's call has led to him being mocked and derided. Yet despite this, he can still sense a burning desire to speak God's words. The Psalmist, wandering in the desert, thirsts for God's presence, just as he thirsts for water. Recognizing the Lord's loving mercy, he is able to raise his hands in praise and thanksgiving. St Paul, in the second reading, reminds the Romans that the life we take on through baptism becomes the inspiration for how we live. Paul encourages them to resist the temptation to conform to the demands of the world as they seek to respond to God. In the Gospel, we see Peter's struggle to embrace fully the reality of Jesus's Way. Soon after being named 'the rock' on which the Church will be built, Peter is still holding on to the values of the world and struggling to accept what Jesus tells him about the suffering that lies ahead. This week we pray for those taking up their cross in the service of Christ and his Church around the world. We ask the Lord to keep them safe 'in the shadow of his wings'.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION:

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you with all your creatures and the whole universe that comes forth from the work of Your hands. We acknowledge the privilege and responsibility that You give us as stewards of Your creation. In our ignorance we have done damage to our common home and our brothers and sisters are suffering. Through faithfully following your Son guide and direct us to prepare for a better future. Teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of You. Give us the grace to recognise, respect and protect all You have created, using wisely all that you have entrusted to us. Holy Spirit, who first hovered over the dawn of creation and drew order out of the chaos help us to build your kingdom of justice, love, peace and beauty where the poor of the earth are crying out. You, who live and reign, world without end, Amen.

FR JUDE'S LEAVING MASS: Thank you for all who attended and brought in food it is very much appreciated.

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS - OPPOSING ASSISTED SUICIDE

You will know that the proposal to legalise assisted suicide, which was rejected by the House of Lords in the last parliamentary session through a lack of time to debate the amendments, is returning to the House of Commons in the same form on Friday 11th September. This draft legislation undermines respect for the innate value of human life, could lead vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives, and risks putting many hospices and care homes into the position of no longer being able to operate.

I encourage all parishioners of the diocese to contact their MPs expressing opposition to this bill. Materials to help do this are available on the websites of the Bishops' Conference and Right to Life websites - www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/ & <https://righttolife.org.uk>
Archbishop John Sherrington,

NOT DEAD YET UK: is a network of disabled people who oppose legalising assisted suicide. They have produced postcards (available at the back of the church) to be sent to your MP. Please take one and help to defeat the Assisted Suicide Bill which has been brought back to Parliament.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: we realise that there might be people in the parish who are sick and housebound, or in Care homes, or in Hospital. Please do let us know if you know of someone in this situation, so that we can provide them with pastoral care. You might not be aware of this, but we can bring the Sacraments (e.g. Holy Communion and the Anointing of the Sick) to where they are, so that they can be aided by God's grace and Christ can help them to carry their cross in difficult times.

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 will celebrate Holy Mass (10:30am), which 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. Following lunch, there will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with recitation of the Chaplet of Adoration and Reparation. Communal Recitation and reflection on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, and then a Docu-film and Talk in the Parish Hall on "Fatima Message for the World." Finally, the Enrolment and Investiture of the Brown Scapular will be facilitated in the Parish Hall. Please see poster for full details.

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. **LAST CALL**

NEW FRONTS FOR THE ALTAR AND LECTERN: We are pleased to advise that we have now raised the full amount in respect of the fronts. Many thanks to all those who were able to make a donation.

ALPHA AT ST MARYS: Our first Alpha course 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 some point in 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. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please let Fr Mark or the parish Office know.

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.

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

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	5 th September	6.30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary time	6 th September	8.00am	Joaquina De Souza RIP
		9.30am	Paul Hiscock RIP
		11.30am	Mary Magadelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Monday	7 th September	9.15am	Dec'd members of the Lenehan family, Bowes family RIP, Billy Burke Int
Tuesday The Nativity if the Blessed Virgun Mary	8 th September	9.15am	Dave Shannon RIP
Wednesday	9 th September	7.15pm	Evening prayer
		7.30pm	Anthony, Josephine & Paula Camilleri & Alfred Farrugia RIP
Thursday	10 th September	9.15am	Joseph Ma RIP
		9.45-12noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	11 th September	9.15am	Martha Sheridan RIP
Saturday Vigil Mass	12 th September	9.15am	For a Friend 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	John McMillan RIP
Sunday 24 th Sunday in Ordinary time	13 th September	8.00am	Frank Owens RIP
		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11.30am	Helen Taylor 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.