

MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

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Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

Parish Office Hours: Mon, Thurs & Fri 8.00am-2.00pm



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 7th February 2021

He heals the broken hearted.

This Sunday, the readings encourage us to look more deeply into the experience of human suffering. It is only through Christ that our pain and despair can and will be transformed. Just like the people in today's Gospel, we are all longing for Christ.

In the **First Reading** (Job 7: 1–4.6–7), Job expresses despair and other sentiments. All of us can perhaps relate to these as we live through the impact of this global pandemic. The **Psalms** is like an antidote to the words of loss cried out by Job. It speaks of healing for broken hearts and minds; of wounds being bound and tended by our loving God, whose wisdom extends across a universe that he knows and loves intimately.

In the **Second Reading** (1 Cor. 9: 16–19.22–23), Paul writes of how his own experience of Christ impels him to share the Good News with as many people as possible. The **Gospel** (Mark 1: 29–39) continues from last week, describing the early days of Jesus's ministry in Galilee. After praying with the synagogue community, Jesus responds to the needs of human suffering that he sees all around him. He heals and brings comfort to the sick and struggling. We see how important prayer is to Jesus – and how he wants to reach out to as many people as possible, rather than becoming settled with one community.

This week let us pray for the grace to respond with wisdom and compassion to the suffering and needy of our own time. May prayer be at the centre of our lives as we seek the Lord, the One who heals and transforms all things with eternal divine love.

Rosary Streamed Thursday 7.30pm: We will be streaming the rosary from St. Mary's on Thursdays at 7.30pm. It will be a wonderful way to be united, asking through the intercession of Our Lady for God's help during this difficult time. There are two ways you can join:

- A) Through the Parish website, St. Mary Mother of God and follow the link
- B) Go to Youtube and search for St. Mary Mother of God Parish Hornchurch

You will find prayers we use for the rosary on our Parish website.

School Mass, Tuesday 9th February, 10.00am: There will be mass streamed from St. Mary's and Mr Tucker, Headteacher, is inviting all parents and pupils to join him and Father Martin for this mass. There are two ways you can join:

- A) Through the Parish website, St. Mary Mother of God and follow the link
- B) Go to Youtube and search for St. Mary Mother of God Parish Hornchurch

Parish Secretary/Administrator needed: We are looking for someone to work in the parish as a Secretary/Administrator. The person applying will need to have excellent word processing skills and knowledge of Microsoft programmes and other software packages. Also have the ability to get along with others. Four mornings a week. The person needs an understanding of, and empathy for, the mission and ethos of the Catholic Church. For more details, please contact Fr Martin.

Church Cleaning will take place on Saturday 20th February from 9.30am. Volunteers are needed to come along and help clean the Church please!

Ash Wednesday is 17th February. Mass will be at 9.30am & 7.30pm and ashes will be distributed.

Father Enda Keenan, a priest of the Diocese, sadly died on 2nd February in Tipperary. He served in various Parishes in the Diocese including English Martyrs in Hornchurch. May he Rest in Peace.

Vaccines against COVID-19: The Bishops of England & Wales are encouraging all to take up the offer of the vaccine when it is offered. Pope Francis will receive his vaccine this week. He said that ethically, getting a vaccine against the virus should be a duty for everyone *"It is an ethical option because you risk your health, your life, but you also risk the lives of others...it is something one must do"*.

Mass Bookings: Please contact the Parish Office, preferably by email, to book for the weekend masses. If you wish to book by telephone, please try to call during office opening times (Mon, Thurs & Fri mornings) and please do not call after 7.00pm if possible. Please do not call on a Wednesday.

Fr Martin needs your help with a number of jobs in the sacristy to prepare for masses. If you are able to offer help, please speak to Fr Martin or contact the Parish Office.

Food Bank Collection: The SVP can now recommence the foodbank collection and the basket will be in the porch for your donations. Thank you again for your support.

Finances: Please feel free to drop an offering into the presbytery or alternatively, you can make a payment into our bank account, either as a one off or by a regular Standing Order. The details are as follows:

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Name: St. Mary Mother of God

If you have a gift aid number, please use that as a reference when you make your donation. Any donations are very gratefully received.

Please remember in your prayers Catherine Williams, Ann Constable, Bridget Kofkin, Brigid Margrie, Andrew Shanahan & Rosemary Thompson who died recently. Please remember the sick and housebound of the parish and those in hospital in your prayers. If anyone is seriously ill and needs the priest, please ring the Presbytery.

RCIA Journey in Faith: For those that are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, please speak to Father Martin or contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE: Marriage is not just a relationship but a vocation and a means of holiness. Please pray for married couples, those preparing for marriage (especially those who have had to defer weddings), and those who have been widowed especially in the past year. In the run up to St Valentine's Day the Brentwood Marriage and Family Life Facebook page (BrentwoodMandFL) will include interviews with couples from around the diocese. If you are experiencing difficulties in your marriage, or would like to deepen your understanding of this vocation and each other, a number of organisations are able to help remotely during the lockdown, such as Retrouvaille, Marriage Care and Smart Loving. Search for these organisations online, or look out for information on the noticeboard [adapt as appropriate]. Retrouvaille is running its first virtual weekend for couples in difficulty this month, 25th - 28th February (0788 729 6983 / 0797 338 0443 / retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH at home and in hospital, especially: Margaret Baan, Ashley Baptist, Angelina Busch, Grant Cambridge, Arturo Garzon, Sharon De Giorgio, Evelyn Hughes, Anne Humphrays, Yvonne Ingham, Sajy Joseph, Cathy Lennon, Bina McCarthy, Carly Menon, Mary Pickton, Paul Ridley, Rita Thompson, Josie Walsh, Evelyn Ward, and for all our family and friends who are ill.

Please inform us if there is someone seriously ill and let us know if anyone on the list is no longer ill so we can remove their name from our list.

Memorae

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer to the Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard to rule and guide. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls.

Daily Prayer

The Bishops of England & Wales have asked us to pray each evening at 6.00pm for an end to this pandemic. Therefore, I encourage you to come together as a family or individually so that we can be united in our prayer to the Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday St. Paul Miki & Comps	6 th Feb	6.30pm	Danny McLaughlin RIP / Anne O'Malley RIP
Sunday Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	7 th Feb	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Andrew Shanahan RIP / Joaquina DeSouza RIP / No Mass Gretta Loughnane RIP / Philomena Griffin Int
Monday	8 th Feb	9.30am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Deirdre O'Grady RIP
Tuesday	9 th Feb	10.00am	Streamed Mass for school Cornish Family RIP / Mary Corbett RIP
Wednesday St. Scholastica	10 th Feb	7.30pm	Jacqueline Coriam RIP / Fr Tom Jordan RIP
Thursday Our Lady of Lourdes	11 th Feb	<i>Private Mass</i> 11.00-1.00 7.30pm	David Harrison Int Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Rosary – Streamed (details above)
Friday	12 th Feb	Funeral	Brigid Ann Rowan RIP (<i>Invitation Only</i>)
Saturday	13 th Feb	6.30pm	Maureen McLaughlin RIP / Onyi Ojukwu
Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	14 th Feb	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Jim Shanahan RIP / Mary McCarthy RIP / No Mass Ivy Duhig RIP / Sam Farrguia RIP

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies!

Please note the location of the fire exits