

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



1st Sunday in Lent Year B 21st February 2021

God's Covenant

Lent – a new liturgical season, and an opportunity to start again. We can give thanks to God for giving us this season of grace. Lent is closely associated with God's Covenant and with baptism, and the readings this Sunday strongly underline this.

In the **First Reading** from Genesis (9: 8–15), God makes a Covenant with Noah's people, saved from the flood by the ark. It is a Covenant of peace, symbolized by the rainbow.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading** (1 Peter 3: 18–22), reminds us that just as Noah is saved from the waters, so we are saved by the waters of baptism. It is a pledge made to God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The **Psalms** (25) is a prayer that we may walk in God's ways: a suitable prayer for beginning our Lenten journey.

The account of the temptations of Christ in Mark's **Gospel** (Mark 1: 12–15) is very brief. It is only after this experience that Jesus begins his ministry, calling people to repent and believe the Good News.

This week, we may give thanks for 'this joyful season' (as the Lenten preface calls it) – a time to prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery.

Sunday Mass 9.30am: Please note from next Sunday, 28th February, we will be having mass at 9.30am again on a Sunday. Please continue to book through the office.

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.

Fr John O'Brien SCA Parish Priest of St. Thomas More Parish, Barking, sadly passed away on Thursday morning. 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 Bridget Kofkin, Brigid Margrie, Andrew Shanahan, & Rita 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.

LEARNING FROM COVID: Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ of Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, will lead a livestreamed study day on Saturday 6th March from 11 am, on the topic 'Learning from Covid: church, state and a better future'. The study day is organised by Gidea Park parish. Free access to the live event will be available on www.whatgoodnews.org and a recording subsequently on the same website.

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, 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.



Do you want to fast this Lent?
WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	20 th Feb	6.30pm	Ivy Duhig RIP / Eileen Keegan RIP
Sunday First Sunday of Lent	21 st Feb	8.00am	Eileen O'Sullivan RIP / All Parishioners
		9.30am	No Mass
		11.30am	Deceased Members of KSC Romford / Des O'Brien RIP
Monday The Chair of St. Peter	22 nd Feb	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	23 rd Feb	9.15am	Des & Breffni O'Brien RIP
Wednesday	24 th Feb	7.30pm	Ivan Baan RIP / Eric Rose RIP
Thursday	25 th Feb	<i>Private Mass</i> 11.00-1.00 7.30pm	Maureen Sullivan RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Rosary – Streamed (details above)
Friday	26 th Feb	9.15am	Arthur Shillingford RIP
Saturday	27 th Feb	6.30pm	Kay Watson RIP / Beryl Rayah RIP
Sunday Second Sunday of Lent	28 th Feb	8.00am 9.30am 11.30am	Marion Barrett RIP All Parishioners Bridget & John Reilly & Grandchildren RIP

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.

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies!

Please note the location of the fire exits