

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



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

31st January 2021

Listen to his voice.

As we live through these dark winter days, we may be comforted by the words of the **psalmist** (Psalm 95), who encourages us to listen to the Lord's voice and not to grumble as the Israelites did at Massah and Meribah in the desert.

In the **First Reading** (Deuteronomy 18: 15–20), Moses announces a true prophet speaking God's words and commandments.

In the **Gospel** (Mark 1: 21–28), we meet this true prophet in the person of Jesus, who teaches the people with authority, making a deep impression on his audience. Even unclean spirits obey him.

In the **Second Reading** (1 Cor. 7: 32–35), Paul, believing that the end of the world is near, encourages the Corinthians to free them from all worry. Whatever their marital status, he urges them to focus their undivided attention on the Lord, showing their devotion to him.

This week I may want to pray for all those who find it difficult to listen to God's voice, especially if he chooses to speak through the people we meet. Perhaps I can also focus on keeping my full attention on the Lord, trusting that he will help me to avoid distractions from the one thing that matters: listening to him.

Rosary Streamed Thursday 7.30pm: We will be streaming the rosary from St. Mary's starting this Thursday 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.

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 Severino Mentessi, Katherine Williams, Ann Constable, Bridget Kofkin, Noreen Walsh, Brigid Margie & Andrew Shanahan 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.

Exposition this Thursday 4th February: The Church will be open for private prayer this Thursday 4th February **12.00pm-1.00pm**. It will not be open earlier due to a funeral taking place (invitation only).

Fr Ticão: Some of you may remember the visit to St Mary's in 2000 by Fr Ticão and some of his parishioners from the parish of São Francisco de Assis in São Paulo, which we supported as a twin parish for years. Sadly, Fr Ticão (actually Fr Antonio Luiz Marchioni) died on New Year's Day in Santa Marcelina Itaquera Hospital at the age of 68. For years he had been parish priest of the Parish of São Francisco de Assis, São Paulo and was known for his social work, mainly in the East zone of São Paulo. He was a great priest, one that Pope Francis would be proud of for his work with the poor.

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.

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages: Retrouvaille offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses

uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It has saved many hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples that have already separated or divorced. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 25th - 28th February 2021, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 – or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE & CATHOLIC TIMES READERS: At the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.

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	30 th Jan	6.30pm	Matthew Burke RIP / Eileen Keegan RIP
Sunday	31 st Jan	8.00am	Nelson DeSouza RIP / All Parishioners
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time		9.30am	No Mass
		11.30am	Ward & Boorman Families Thanksgiving / Fr Ticão RIP
Monday	1 st Feb	Private Mass	Norah Lenehan RIP / Veronica McLindon RIP
Tuesday	2 nd Feb	9.30am	Thanksgiving
The Presentation of our Lord			
Wednesday	3 rd Feb	7.30pm	Martin Keane RIP / Willson Family RIP
St Anne Line			
Thursday	4 th Feb	FUNERAL	Severino Mentessi RIP (Invitation Only)
		12.00-1.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		7.30pm	Rosary – Streamed (details above)
Friday	5 th Feb	9.30am	Alfred Martin & Family RIP
St. Agatha			
Saturday	6 th Feb	6.30pm	Danny McLaughlin RIP / Anne O'Malley RIP
St. Paul Miki & Comps			
Sunday	7 th Feb	8.00am	Andrew Shanahan RIP / Joaquina DeSouza RIP /
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time		9.30am	No Mass
		11.30am	Philomena Griffin Int / Sam Farrguia RIP

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies!

Please note the location of the fire exits