

MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Sacramental Coordinator: Jane Tatam 07415 602774

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

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



Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Year B 6th January 2021

Arise, shine out, for your light has come.

We are coming to the end of Christmastide and the feast of the Epiphany not only celebrates the birth of Christ but also deepens our understanding of the purpose of his Incarnation—the ‘epiphany’ or revelation of God through his Son Jesus. Christ appears as a great light bursting through the darkness. All nations and races come to him and we accept him as our Saviour and King.

Our 1st reading from Isaiah (Isaiah 60: 1-6) is full of hope—the exiles will return to Jerusalem and God’s glory will shine out.

Psalm 71 describes how God will be worshipped by all peoples. He will reign in justice and compassion, with special care for the poor.

The Gospel (Matthew 2: 1-12) tells us the story of how the wise men followed the star and how their journey led them to the infant king.

Perhaps this feast of the Epiphany will allow us to see a star, to journey with the wise men, to discover Christ present in our own lives.

*Happy New Year to you & your family.
May you shine the light of Christ in the New Year.
God bless
Fr Martin*

Christmas Offertory Collection: Father Martin wishes to thank all for their generosity to him with their personal gift at the Christmas Masses. Together with the Offertory taken at Easter this provides a major part of his income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated. A big thank you also for the many Christmas cards received. Thank you!

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.

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.

Reception / Primary School Applications: For those parents applying for their child at a Catholic Primary School and needing the **Certificate of Catholic Practice**, please email or call the parish leaving your name and telephone number and someone will contact you. **Parents will need their child's Baptismal Certificate and proof of address.**

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2021: These are now available to purchase at the price of £4.00 for a ringbound copy or £2.80 for a standard copy. If you would like to purchase one please contact the Parish Office or some will be available at the back of the Church. Please put the money in the 'Newspapers' box.

Please remember in your prayers Gwen Wyatt, John Finan, Sheila Brunton, Mary O'Shea and Vincent Finan 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.

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, 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 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

Monday	4th Jan	No Public Mass	Norah Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	5th Jan	10am	Lenehan Family RIP
Wednesday	6th Jan	The Epiphany of the Lord	Solemnity
		10am Vince Finan RIP	7.30pm Kathy O'Dea Int
Thursday	7th Jan	11am-1.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	8th Jan	Funeral	Gwen Wyatt (invitation only)
Saturday	9th Jan	6.30pm	Margaret Myers/Parishioners
		The Baptism of the Lord	
Sunday	10th Jan	8am	Rose Young Int/Mary McCarthy RIP
		9.30am	Richard Collins RIP/ Mr Westlake RIP
		11.30am	Eamonn McManus Int/ Ted Malyon RIP

Please remember in your prayers those who have sadly died recently: Mary O'Shea, Gwen Wyatt, Irene Brown, John Finan and Vincent Finan. May they rest in Peace.

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies!

Please note the location of the fire exits