

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



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

7th February 2021



Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.

Today's readings point to the loving compassion of God, which is revealed in the way Jesus always responds to the plight of those around him.

The Book of Leviticus (**First Reading** Leviticus 13: 1–2, 44–46) sets the scene by listing the rules concerning those who were declared 'unclean', including banishment from the community.

In the **Gospel** (Mark 1: 40–45), one such person, suffering with leprosy, breaks the rules designed to maintain isolation. We see how Jesus responds to this desperate plea – with merciful, physical contact – resulting in the person being restored not only to health, but also to a rightful place within the community. There is a further, ironic consequence to this response, with Jesus becoming an outcast, now having to stay in places where nobody lives.

The **Psalms** (32) praises God, 'my refuge', in whom is found joy and salvation, while the **Second Reading** (I Cor. 10: 31–11:1) gives us an injunction to imitate Christ by putting the advantage of the other always first.

Let's pray for that grace this week, 'to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage'.

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.

Parish Secretary/Administrator needed: We are looking for someone to work in the parish as a Secretary/Administrator. The person applying will need to be computer literate. Also have the ability to get along with other people. 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 on 01708 447761.

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.

Jackie Caprari: As some of you may already know, after many years of wonderful service, Jackie has recently left her position as Parish housekeeper. On behalf of our whole community, I would like to express our sincere thanks to her for all that she has contributed to the Parish and wish her every happiness for the future.

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, Bridget Kofkin, Brigid Margrie, Andrew Shanahan, Rosemary Thompson & 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.

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).

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.

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	13 th Feb	6.30pm	Maureen McLaughlin RIP / Onyi Ojukwu
Sunday	14 th Feb	8.00am	Jim Shanahan RIP / Mary McCarthy RIP
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time		9.30am	No Mass
		11.30am	Ivy Duhig RIP / Sam Farrugia RIP
Monday	15 th Feb	9.30am	Norah Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	16 th Feb	9.30am	Brian Willson Int
Wednesday	17 th Feb	9.30am	George Baan RIP
Ash Wednesday		7.30pm	Catherine Toolis RIP / Nora Gallagher RIP
Thursday	18 th Feb	<i>Private Mass</i>	Mr & Mrs Byrne RIP
		11.00-1.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		7.30pm	Rosary – Streamed (details above)
Friday	19 th Feb	FUNERAL	Catherine Williams RIP (<i>Invitation Only</i>)
Saturday	20 th Feb	6.30pm	Ivy Duhig RIP / Eileen Keegan RIP
Sunday	21 st Feb	8.00am	Eileen O’Sullivan RIP / All Parishioners
First Sunday of Lent		9.30am	No Mass
		11.30am	Deceased Members of KSC Romford / Des O’Brien RIP

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies!

Please note the location of the fire exits