

MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

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



The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

17th January 2021

'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!'

Like the people in today's readings, we, too, are called by Christ: called to spend time with him; to work with him; to offer our bodies, hearts and minds in loving service of God's will.

The **First Reading** (Samuel 3: 3–10,19) tells the delightful story of God's initiative in the life of the boy Samuel, who is open to the call of the Lord despite his youth, signalling the beginnings of a close relationship with God.

The **Psalmist** (Psalm 40); invites us to a personal knowledge of and intimate relationship with God. God desires *'an open ear'*, bidding us to make Samuel's prayer our own: *'Speak Lord, your servant is listening'*.

John the Evangelist describes the call of the first disciples, where Jesus asks the searching question addressed to every reader of the **Gospel** (John 1: 35–42): *'What do you want?'* Here begins the journey of getting to know Jesus, as the disciples (and we ourselves) follow on the path of deepening faith towards an understanding of who Jesus Christ is.

This week, we, too, may ask for the grace of an *open ear* and an open-hearted response to Jesus's invitation to *'Come and see'*. We also remember those of our sisters and brothers who, like Samuel, as yet have *'no knowledge of the Lord'*, and ask that they may come to know the safety and peace such knowledge can bring in an uncertain world.

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.

Parish Council Meeting: There will be a Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 20th January at 8.00pm over Zoom. If you wish to join, please contact the Parish Office for the Zoom details.

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.

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 Vince Finan, Nancy O’Mahoney, John Finan & Severino Mentessi 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.

Catholic Biblical Association: On 23rd January from 11am until 12.30 Dom Henry Wansbrough will be presenting a live stream talk entitled ‘The Adventures of a Biblical Translator’. Dom Henry is the editor of the *New Jerusalem Bible* and the recently published *Revised New Jerusalem Bible*. The event will be presented by Dr Sean Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association. The event can be accessed live by going to www.ssppilford.org.uk and will be available to download subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org Questions for Fr Henry, and other queries, may be directed to catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: ONLINE CONFERENCE: To prepare for the second Sunday of the Word of God, which falls on January 24th 2021, the Catholic Biblical Federation has organised an online conference with participation from all over Europe. The Conference will take place at 5pm London time on Friday January 22nd and will end at 6.30 pm. Reflections will be shared on two of the readings of the Sunday: Jonah 3:1-5,10 and Mark 1:14-20. Speakers will be from Croatia, Italy, Romania and Ireland. Presentations will be in English, Italian and French. Introduction and conclusions

will be from Ernesto Borghi (Switzerland) and Adrian Graffy (UK). The Conference will take place online and can be followed via c-b-f.org/streaming or YouTube and Facebook at the Catholic Biblical Federation. Fr Adrian Graffy, English representative at the Catholic Biblical Federation, explained: 'In the rich but fragmented European continent we aim to come together around the Word of God. In the post-pandemic world it will be important to derive from the Scriptures guidelines in our relationships with God, with brothers and sisters throughout the continent and beyond, and in our protection of the planet. Pope Francis' institution of the Sunday of the Word of God is welcome and timely, and this is an excellent way to prepare for the day.'

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

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	16 th Jan	6.30pm	Dawson Family RIP / Thomas Fay RIP / Veronica McLindon RIP
Sunday	17 th Jan	8.00am	Clare McGill RIP / Rosalee Young Int
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time		9.30am	No Mass
		11.30am	Frank Mollaghan RIP / All Parishioners
Monday	18 th Jan	(Private Mass)	Norah Lenehan RIP
Tuesday	19 th Jan	9.15am	Danny Gunnery RIP
Wednesday	20 th Jan	FUNERAL	John Finan RIP (Invitation only)
		7.30pm	Richard Collins RIP
Thursday	21 st Jan	(Private Mass)	Joseph Fanning RIP
St. Agnes		11.00-1.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	22 nd Jan	9.15am	John & Vince Finan RIP / Donovan Family
Saturday	23 rd Jan	6.30pm	Mills Family Int / J.J. Corbett RIP
Sunday	24 th Jan	8.00am	Siobhan & Connor Young Int
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		9.30am	No Mass
		11.30am	Carberry Family RIP / All Parishioners

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies!

Please note the location of the fire exits