

# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

192, Nags Head Road, Ponders End, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 7AR

Parish Priest: Fr John Shewring  
E-mail: pondersend@rcdow.org.uk

Tel: 020 8804 2149  
or john\_shewring@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: 07973 539 907

Fax: 020 8804 2749

Website: [www.marymotherofgod.church](http://www.marymotherofgod.church)

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*'Of all women you are the most blessed,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should  
I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord!'*



*David had danced before the Ark of the Lord. John, in the womb of his mother, leaped for joy in the presence of Mary, ark of the new covenant, bearing the Messiah in her womb. The coming of God joins up with mankind's expectations: when faith welcomes the promise, salvation springs from their meeting.*

### Weekend Mass Intentions

**Sat:** 7.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer  
8.40am—Rosary & Morning Prayer  
9.30am—Jean Atkinson—RIP  
Followed by an Advent Novena (7)  
Followed by Confessions until 10.45am  
6.00pm—John William & Alice Maud Shewring—RIP  
**Sun:** 8.00am—Noel Kelly—RIP  
9.30am—Cheryl Bentley—RIP  
11.00am—For a Private Intention  
6.00pm—For the Intentions of Parishioners  
Followed by an Advent Novena (8)

### Weekday Mass Intentions

**Mon:** 7.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer  
8.40am—Rosary & Morning Prayer  
9.30am—RIP Members of the Hughes Family  
Followed by an Advent Novena (9)  
6.00pm—Aoife Addison & Naomi Blaskett—Intentions  
12 midnight—For Parishioners  
**Tue:** 8.00am—For the Intentions of Parish catechists  
9.30am—Robert Milverton—Anniversary  
11.00am—Intentions of Okechukwu Family  
There will be no Evening Mass  
**Wed:** 12noon—Mass for Altar Servers & Families  
Followed by Refreshments in the parish hall  
**Thu:** 8.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer  
9.10am—Rosary & Morning Prayer  
10.00am—Eric Gomes—50th Birthday Intention  
**Fri:** 8.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer  
9.10am—Rosary & Morning Prayer  
10.00am—Debbie Derwin—Anniversary  
**Sat:** 8.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer  
9.10am—Rosary & Morning Prayer  
10.00am—Repose of the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
There are no Confessions this morning  
6.00pm—Beatriz (Betty) Colaco—Anniversary

## CONFESSIONS

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please see times indicated in this newsletter

Confessions are heard in the Sacristy at the front of the church either anonymously or face to face. Do try to get into the habit of going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis. It is a wonderful aid to progressing in the spiritual life and allowing Jesus to enter fully into our lives. We should learn to 'fall in love' with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a cure for our spiritual ills!

## CATECHETICS

### Future Dates:

**First Communion Preparation**—9.30am - 13th January in church.  
**Confirmation Celebration Mass**—6.00pm—12th January in church.  
**Confirmation Preparation**—6.45pm—15th January  
**Baptismal Course**—Begins 7.00pm—24th January in the parish hall.  
**Sunday School**—Begins Sunday 20th January at 9.15am in the parish hall.

## PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

### 'Our Lady Queen of Peace'

20th—27th August 2019

£769 for 8 days / 7nights

Details can be seen on the notice board and a booking form can be picked up from the sacristy. Bookings should be made by March 2019

Includes flights, hotel half board and excursions.

## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

**December: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith.** That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

## LEGION OF MARY

Our next Praesidium meeting will be today Sunday 20th January at 4.00pm in the parish hall. Auxiliaries will be most welcome to join us.

### ROSARY for your Intentions

Rosary and Devotions to Our Lady on Wednesday 16th January at 7.00pm. Will meet in the church.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Many people ask for a Mass to be said for a particular intention. If you would like this Mass to be said on a particular day and time it is important that you book the Mass well in advance as there will be no guarantee of that time being available if you ask too late.

## A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

AND MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
COME UPON YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

## PARISH VISITATION OF OUR AREA BISHOP,

### BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON

Our local Bishop, John Sherrington, will be making a Parish Visitation on the weekend 12th/13th January 2019. He will be at all Masses and will be available should any parishioner want to see him—please Fr John know beforehand.

## MAKE FRIDAY SPECIAL

### JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED ON A FRIDAY

Do something positive to say thank you.

Make a sacrifice.

FAST on a Friday—give up a meal.

## CHRISTMAS EVE—24th

6.00pm—Family Mass

10.00pm—Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10.45pm—Office of Readings, Benediction and Carols

12 midnight—Midnight Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

## CHRISTMAS DAY—25th

Masses at: 8.00am, 9.30am (Family Mass),  
11.00am (Sung Mass)

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

## NEW YEAR'S EVE—31st

9.30pm—Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11.00pm—Vigil Service with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

12 midnight—New Year's Eve Mass of Mary, Mother of God

## NEW YEAR'S DAY—1st

12 noon—Solemn Sung Mass of MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

*This Mass will be followed by a Buffet Lunch in the Parish Hall for all parishioners.*

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is our Patronal Feast and is a very special day for our parish. We seek Our Lady's Prayers for all of our

## ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS FOR SERVERS

Wednesday 26th December 2018 at 12 noon

On this special day dedicated to St Stephen the first martyr of our Church, all of our Altar Servers should attend the Mass at 12 noon. It is the occasion for them to renew their promises to the Guild of St Stephen and for new servers to be enrolled into the Guild. All servers should arrive at the church at 11.00am.

The Mass will be offered for the intentions of our altar servers and for their families.

# CATECHETICS

Catechetical Coordinator: **Muriel Akahi**

Tel: 020 8443 4069 Mobile: 07514 225 506 Email: [murielakahi@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:murielakahi@rcdow.org.uk)

## FIRST COMMUNION FIRST RECONCILIATION 2019

### MASS & PREPARATION CLASS

**Sunday 13th January 2019**

The children should be sitting at the front of the church in their groups with their catechists for the 9.30am Mass. Children must be on time for Mass. If they and their families are persistently late for Mass their children will not be allowed to join their group and it will stand as a lost session.

Children should be attending Mass together with their families  
From now onwards on a **regular weekly basis**.

- When the children are not sitting with their catechist the parents should bring their children forward to Fr John for a blessing at Communion time at every Mass.
- If a child misses three preparation meetings then their preparation will be delayed until the following year.
- If parents miss two of the parent's meetings then their child's preparation will be delayed until the following year,
- If children or parents arrive more than 15 minutes late for their meetings then it will be counted as a missed session.
- Parents must inform us **beforehand** of any absences. Please call 8804 2149 or 8443 4069 and leave a message.
- All future notices concerning the First Communion Programme will be published in this newsletter.

## CONFIRMATION 2019

### PREPARATION SESSION

**Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 6.45pm in the Parish Hall**

It is important that the candidates arrive well in time for their sessions.

Persistent lateness will be counted as a missed session.

### CONFIRMATION 2019—CELEBRATION MASS

**Saturday 12th January 2019 at 6.00pm in the church**

Candidates must arrive in church on time and should sit at the front with their catechist. Persistent lateness will count as a lost session

### CONFIRMATION 2019—PARENTS MEETING

**Tuesday 26th February 2019 at 8.00pm in the church**

Parent's meetings are important and are part of the preparation course. Parents must attend. It is an opportunity for us to give you information about the progress of the preparation and also to inform you of any changes as well as helping them to help their young people by their example and encouragement.

**Candidates must be attending Mass on a regular weekly basis.**

Confirmation should be seen as a willingness to practice the faith.

- Parents should be supporting their children in their preparation by also attending Mass each week
- Candidates must arrive on time for their lessons and Mass. Lateness will be counted as a lost session.
- If you are unable to attend any meeting please inform us beforehand—call either 8804 2149 or 8442 4069.

**Time keeping is of the utmost importance and it will be the parent's responsibility to ensure that the young people are in the right place at the right time. If you are uncertain about any aspect of the programme then please contact us on 8443 4069. Thanks.**

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019

### PARENT'S MEETING

**Tuesday 11th March 2019 at 8.00pm in the church.**

This is an important meeting for parents who want their children to be prepared to receive their First Holy Communion in 2019. Details of the new programme will be given so attendance is important.

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

- Marriages involving a Catholic partner should always take place in a Catholic church before a Catholic priest.
- If your marriage took place in a Register Office or in a church other than a Catholic one then the marriage would need to be convalidated (blessed). Easily done.
- If you have been married before and are not sure about getting married again in a Catholic church then talk it through with a priest who will help you.
- If you have been through a Traditional marriage you will still need to be married civilly and in church for your marriage to be recognised as Sacramental.
- If you have any problems or questions concerning marriage please do not hesitate to talk to a priest.

### OUR NEXT MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE:

**Wednesday 3rd April from 7.00pm to 9.30pm  
& Saturday 6th April from 9.30am to 5.30pm**

## BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

Baptisms are always by appointment. Parents will be expected to attend a Preparation Course before their children are Baptised. Each course comprises three evenings which last about an hour. Our Baptisms take place on a Saturday afternoon at 2.00pm. Registration forms can be found on the table in the porch of the church. Complete and return to us.

**Course continues on Thursday 20th December**

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

To help our children to know their basic prayers, what Mass is all about and generally help them to understand their Catholic faith. It is open to children aged between 4ys and 9ys. If you would like your children to join our Sunday School which would take place on a Sunday morning then please come and register them. You will be welcome.

**Registration will take place on Sunday 20th January 2019 after the 9.30am Mass in the parish hall**

## ADULT BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

We run an ongoing programme for adults who might be interested in becoming Roman Catholics, or who want to be Baptised and/or Confirmed or who simply want to know more about the Catholic faith. The group usually meets on a Monday evening in the parish hall at 7.30pm. Come along or call 8804 2149 for more information.

**Enquiry time—Monday 17th December at 8.00pm**

## KEEP JESUS CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

### "Let the Children Live"

The stickers which say "Keep Christ in Christmas" are sold on behalf of the charity Let the Children Live which supports 'Street Children' in Colombia, South America. Children without homes or food who live rough. **Please help.**

## A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

### Westminster Cathedral 2018

19th & 20th December at 7.30pm

Westminster Cathedral Choir & Orchestra

Tickets available from Cathedral Gift Shop

Or

Ticketmaster: 0844 844 0444

## MINISTERING TO THE SICK AND THE DYING

Most Catholics have been faithful to the Church all of their lives. Attending Mass regularly and receiving the Sacraments of the Church. It has been important for them to commit themselves to their faith in this way—and it is wonderful. It is so important that this does not come to an end when they are sick at home or when, sadly, they have not long to live. It is at this time that they are in most need of the Church and what it is able to offer them—Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Confession, and the Last Rites. Please do your best to ensure that your loved ones, friends and neighbours receive all the spiritual help and support that they need and at the end a Catholic funeral. If you would like further information or help in this then please contact the parish house. Thank you.

## GOING INTO HOSPITAL

If you, or maybe a relative or friend, are going into hospital then please call us on 020 8804 2149 and we will then contact the chaplain or parish which serves the hospital to ensure that your spiritual needs are looked after during your stay.

## HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Do you know of someone who is housebound and unable to come to Mass and would like a visit or to receive Holy Communion? If so please contact the parish house and we will arrange a visit.

## ARE YOU SICK?

The Sacrament of the Sick is available to anyone who is ill or who is preparing to go into hospital for surgery or treatment. It is important for anyone who is suddenly taken ill, especially if they are in danger of death. If you, or anyone you know, wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick then please contact the parish house on 020 8804 2149 and we will arrange to come and administer the Sacrament.

## NEED TO SPEAK TO A PRIEST?

If, in the case of an emergency, you are unable to speak with Fr John then please call one of the following:

Enfield Parish — 020 8363 2569, Edmonton Parish — 8803 6631 Cockfosters Parish—8449 6648, Palmers Green—8886 9568

## HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

North Middlesex—020 8803 6631 (Edmonton Parish) Chase Farm & Barnet—For the moment please contact 020 8363 2569

## LEGION OF MARY

Sunday 16th December

Our Parish Legion of Mary Praesidium, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, would like to invite all its Auxiliary members to a special celebration meeting on Sunday 16th December at 3.30pm. It will be an opportunity for all members of our Legion Praesidium to meet together and to share prayer and refreshments and also to give you an insight into the good work that is being carried out in the parish. Will be good to see you all.

## Catholic Singles

Single, separated, widowed or divorced. Catholic Singles helps practising Catholics meet other Catholics; supports Catholic Parishes and Charities, donating thousands of pounds; provides a strictly confidential service; sends members a monthly bulletin called *Catholic Networking*; publicises events free of charge. **£10 annual membership plus an initial donation.** Free information with no obligation: CATHOLIC SINGLES, 1 BURLESCOMBE CLOSE, ALTRINCHAM, WA14 4UX. Tel: 01609413498. email: info@catholicssingles.org.uk

## Bible/Faith Study Group

The Bible/Faith Study time will begin again on **Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at 8.00pm** in the parish hall. The topic that we will be looking at is the Book of the Apocalypse/Revelation which is the last book of the Bible and traditionally attributed to St John the Evangelist. Not always an easy book to understand and to come to terms with—and sometimes very much misunderstood. Come and join us as we look at this interesting part of the Bible in a very simple way.

## FRIDAY DROP IN LUNCH

Every Friday from 12.30 until 2.30pm in the parish hall. Anyone is welcome to come and eat. The food is good and there is no charge and the company is good. Please join us.

## FOOD BANK

Thank you for all the help that you give in so many ways in the many things we undertake in the parish. We would like to build up our food bank so as to be able to help the people who come seeking support and help. Please can you help by bringing along some simple food items: sugar, tea, coffee, pasta, cereals, tins of soup, beans and fruit etc. There is a box in the porch of the church in which you can place your items and donations. Very many thanks.

## CHRISTMAS STAMPS & CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please try and use Christmas stamps when sending your Christmas Cards. You may well have to ask for them as they keep them hidden under the counter but if you ask they should have them. Don't be put off. Also do try and send or give Christmas Cards and reflect the season—that give a Christian message. It is important that we display our Christian faith as much and as often as we are able to a world that is denial.

## CHAPLET OF ST MICHAEL

Will be followed every Tuesday morning in the church after the 9.30am Morning Mass. Together we seek the protection and the intercession of the powerful Archangel Michael.

## Special Service at WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Aid to the Church in Need is holding a service in Westminster Abbey in solidarity with Christians in the Middle East. This service, celebrating the faith and contribution of Middle East Christians will take place on Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 5.00pm. These Christians have suffered a great deal for their faith and their courage and example inspires us all.

## PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

The thought is to have a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of in Medjugorje some time in late August—the exact dates have still to be finalised. If you are interested, and several people have expressed an interest, please try and keep that period of time free in your diaries. More information will be forthcoming shortly.

## PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas Lunch this year will be held on Saturday 15th December from 12 noon in the parish hall. Please put the date and the time in your diary and if you know of anyone who would like to come please let us know asap. If transport is required then you would also need to let us know very soon.

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:

8.00 (quiet Mass), 9.30am (family Mass) 11.00am (sung Mass)

## HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS

**December: Evangelisation: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith.** That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

## RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Please remember that you should fast from eating food or drink, apart from water, for at least one hour before the time you actually receive Holy Communion. If you receive Holy Communion in the hand please always remember to place the Host (the Body of Christ), into your mouth before you move away from the Minister. Please come forward quietly and prepare yourself to receive Holy Communion. **Please bow before receiving the Body or the Blood of Jesus** as a sign of reverence. Remember to say a prayer of Thanksgiving after receiving Holy Communion when you are back in your place. **Please always try and be on time for Mass. Arriving late can mean that you have not prepared adequately for the celebration. You should certainly arrive before the reading of the Gospel. Please do not chew gum or eat sweets or biscuits in church. All of this will help us to remember that Holy Mass and receiving Holy Communion are very special events for Catholics. Please also remember to dress reasonably modestly when coming to church. We must not be a distraction**

## COME AND JOIN THE

# PARISH CHOIR

*We welcome new members. We are a friendly mixed ability group of adult singers who enjoy singing and praising the Lord, thanking Him for all the blessings He gives. We also need young people to help start a YOUTH singing group. If you play an instrument and have a love of music come along. Contact Danny on 02082456975*

## THE WATCHFUL HOUR

Advent is a time of quiet waiting and expectation. We await the coming of our God.

To help us prepare in a prayerful and spiritual way, every day during the season, there will be extended periods of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. In the mornings from 7.00am to 9.15am, as usual, and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm in the evenings ending with Evening Prayer. A great opportunity for you to spend quiet times in prayer and thoughtfulness with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS

We can receive donations using text messages on smartphones

Just text **PARISH PONDE** and send text to **70800**

£5 will be added to your mobile phone bill as a donation which will come directly to our parish. If you have any questions ask Fr John or call the Diocese on 020 7798 9375. Many thanks.

## Please pray for the sick

Agnes Guveya, Agnes Robinson, Marjolaine Babet, Jenna Joson, Josephine Yawe, Uchenna Michael Nnaji, James Scott, Theresa Matovu, Margaret Creed, Agnes Walsh, James Gubagana, Juliet Nabutende, Scola Namyalo, Henry & Justine Rutabyama, Leslie & Violet Fraser, James Scott, Agnes Walsh, Mary Conway, Ailsa Wintle, Richard O'Reilly, Sudath Kumarasinghe, Scarlet Freestone, David Kirunda, Angela McKeown, Marie Francaisa Babet, John Shepherd

**Pray also for those who have died recently:**

Katherine Montgomery, Paul Fitzgerald, Patrick Doyle, Robin Doel, Dante Falzone, Gabriel Okechukwu, Eleanor Gould, Rose Katende.

**Anniversaries:**

Margaret Chetty, Salvador Fernandes, Anthony D'Silva, Noel Marah, William Reilly, Lisa Marie McDonagh, Severina Fernandes, Maria Lisanti, Noel Sebulinda, Cora Coman, John Conway.