

MASS TIMES AND MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday 13th December - Sunday 21st December

Sat 13th December

(MHR) 6.30pm:

Sun 14th December

(StD) 9am:

11am:

Mon 15th December

(MHR) 9.30am:

Tues 16th December

(StD) 9.30am:

Wed 17th December

(MHR) 9.30am:

Thurs 18th December

(StD) 9.30am:

Fri 19th December

(MHR) 9.30am:

(MHR) 10.00am:

Sat 20th December

(MHR) 6.30pm:

Sun 21st December

(StD) 9am:

(MHR) 11am:

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT (A)
(Gaudete Sunday)

Peggy O' Neill R.I.P. - F/M

Nicolina (Lina) Stivala R.I.P. - Mary & Family
 People of the Parish

Monday of the Third Week of Advent
 Seamus Burke R.I.P. - E.Lacey

Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent
 Sheila Humphreys R.I.P. - Fred & Jean Rayner

Weekday of Advent - 17th December
NO MORNING MASS

Weekday of Advent - 18th December
 Mary Vadakara R.I.P.- Lima Vadakara

Weekday of Advent - 19th December
 Sheila Humphreys R.I.P. - Michael Lenihan
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT (A)
 People of the Parish

Teofil Zych R.I.P. - Magdelana
 Vocation to the Priesthood & Religious Life - K.S.C. Romford

MORNING PRAYER : Before Mass 9.15am on Mon - Fri ,
ROSARY : after Morning Mass Mon & Fri (MHR), after Morning Mass Tues and Thurs (StD).

CONFESSION: at MHR (By Request)

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH AND HOUSEBOUND

Brian Angel, Jason Angel, Rita Bracher, Christine, Deborah DiMoriaku, Stacey Doyle, Mary Eckett, Louise Flores, G. Golding, Tania Kavanagh, Daniel Kelleher, Karen Kennedy, Billy Koseda, Luke, Madeleine, Charlotte Massey, Susan Newman, Elsie Pridemore, Dee Skene, William Taylor, Tony Tyres, June Warrington, Eileen Lacey, Andrew White, Lynsey Mitchell, John Barry, Trish Connolly, Fran Manderson, Veronica & John Campling, Sarah Harding, Claire Monkcom, Andy & Doreen, Nadia Bolton, Donna McKearney, Tina Perotti, Brenda White, Ann Carr, Janet O'Brien, Jacqueline Pears and Steve Stripe, Paul Singleton, Mary Boyle, Tom Green, Val Kelleher, Nicky Burgess, Eve Lawrence, Sue Edwards, Stephanie Bedding, Ken Page, Sheila Murphy, Baby Emily, Lydia Luke, Neil Humphries, Pat Humphries, Joseph Exley, Suzanne Bonelli, Elizabeth Yee, Margaret T, Francis and Shaun, Rose Louise McDonagh, Amie Hughes, Will Manderson, Baby Arthur Connolly, Bridget Geraldine Carr, Lukose Vadakara, Matthew, Josie Piper, Bailey Merritt, Chris Lewis, Tracy Stuart, Maisie & Baby, Cecilia Thompson.

ANNIVERSARIES WE REMEMBER AT THIS TIME.

Fr. George Carolan, Fr. John Evers, Dorothy Thomas, Vincent Pisani, Timothy Murphy (Funeral), William Patmore, Annie Llewellyn, Maureen (Mavis) Hewett, Fr. Gerard Kerr, Nicolina (lina) Stivala, Margaret Geaney, Bill Hennessy, Ellen O'Connor, Tom Ward, Bettie Bernacki, Vincent Bernacki, Frederick Allen Miles, Anthony Camelo, Joseph Synpas, Martin Kelly, Nellie Newman, William Hunt, Jim Morton, Lil Wells, Harry Stickles, Helena O'Connor, Nora Berrigan, Michael Waters. Fr. A. Madden. Eileen Brown, Ernest Callaghan, Eugene Riordan, Fr. William Guinevan, Maureen Barrow, Bridie Stanton, Anne Treacy, Peter McCormack

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

The Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
and
St Dominic's Catholic Church

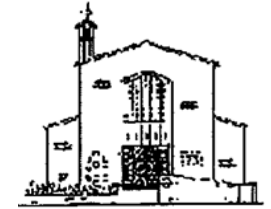


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Diocesan Website :
www.mostholyredeemerharoldhill.org.uk



St Dominic's
281 Straight Rd
Harold Hill
Romford
Essex RM3 7JS

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT (A)
Gaudete Rejoice!

14th December 2025

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 **Second Reading**: James 5:7-10 **Gospel**: Matthew 11: 2-11

Today's readings invite us to rejoice at the rebirth of Jesus in our lives as we are preparing for our annual Christmas celebration. Today is called *Gaudete* Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "*Gaudete in Domino semper,*" i.e., "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" So, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior into our hearts and lives, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and so the priest may wear rose-coloured vestments.

The readings for the Third Sunday of Advent carry great joy and courage and is the reason why we call this Sunday, *Gaudete* for 'rejoicing' The Prophet Isaiah drew on nature to describe the transformation of those who make ready to welcome the promised Messiah at his coming. The joy that he described is equally a description of the joy that awaits us as the Spirit to leads us into the celebration of Christ's birth.

All three readings of today's Mass have comforting words. In the First Reading Isaiah says: 'Courage do not be afraid.' In the Second Reading St James says: 'Be patient! Do not lose heart.' And in the Gospel we have the lovely words of Jesus to his cousin, John the Baptist: 'Happy the person who does not lose faith in me.'

Isaiah spoke of wasteland and wilderness breaking into bloom, rejoicing to welcome the glory of God. These powerful images describe different aspect of sinful humanity in its journey to God.

Without God we become a wilderness, a wasteland in which faith, hope and love have begun to die. Advent, a time of waiting, affords us the opportunity to acknowledge that we can so easily become what the psalmist describes: a dry, weary land without water.

Advent is a summons that understands our frailty, that transforms our weakness with a strength that comes from God himself.

PARKING AT ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH - We kindly request that no vehicles be parked at the entrance to the car park. This area must remain unobstructed to ensure safe and accessible use of the ramp for individuals with disabilities and wheelchair users. Additionally, double parking is not permitted, as it causes difficulties for other drivers who need to exit the car park. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

MATCHED GIVING - Many employees offer Matched Giving Schemes that match funds raised for charitable events. If you are involved in any of our fundraising activities, please enquire whether your work place provides this facility, as it could significantly increase our fundraising total. See Theresa or Fr. Joseph.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - there will be a meeting for **PARENT'S ONLY** on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7pm Most Holy Redeemer Church in St. Anthony's hall. Please bring a passport size photo of your child, a copy of their Baptism Certificate **(IF NOT ALREADY HANDED IN)**.

MOST HOLY REDEEMER & ST DOMINIC'S REPOSITORY - currently has gifts: traditional cards and calendars for Christmas, Religious candles, Children rosaries, new holy water bottles, glass prayer plaques and many others. Everyone welcome to browse. Open after Mass.

CLEAN ALBS - Altar Servers take your Alb's home this weekend to be washed and ironed then returned for Christmas Celebration. Thank You for your continued support through out the year.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026 - are available for purchase at the back of the church- **£3.20 each**. Please place money in the wall or money box at the back of the church.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE CELEBRATION - Monday 22nd December at 5pm. All families are warmly invited to join us at The Most Holy Redeemer' Church, St. Georges Hall for our Christingle Celebration. Children are especially welcome to come along wearing Christmas jumpers to to the festive spirit. Please bring along a orange to decorate as part of our activity. We will also be supporting the Salvation Army Food Bank. Donations would be greatly appreciated! If possible, please consider bringing one item from the following list: Tinned Fruit, Cereal Bars, Instant Pasta, Tea Bags, Coffee Sachets, Tinned Soup, UHT Milk, Toiletries, Scarves, Hats, Gloves. Light refreshments will be served. A speaker from the Salvation Army will also join us to give a short talk.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING - Twice each year, at Christmas and Easter, the offertory collection constitutes a personal gift to Fr. Joseph. These donations represent a significant portion of his annual remuneration. Thank you for your support and generosity.

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS - The Christmas flower arrangements will be prepared in St. Anthony's Hall , at Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill on **Tuesday 23rd December at 11am** - Please let Theresa know whether you be attending. Everyone welcome!

CONFIRMATION APPLICATION FORMS 2026 AVAILABLE - Any young people who will be 14 years of age or over by Easter 2026 and are interested being confirmed are invited to collect a form. Confirmation forms are available at the back of the church. Please see Francesca Uche , Confirmation Coordinator, Theresa Murray, Paula Jones, Fr. Joseph. Please return the form by **Sunday, 11th January 2026**. **Forms submitted after the deadline will unfortunately not be accepted.**

RECENT BEREAVEMENT - Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, Bishop Emeritus of Brentwood Diocese, who sadly passed away peacefully at his home in Stock on Monday 24th November. The body will be received into the Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen, 28 Ingrave Road, Brentwood, CM15 8AT on **Monday 15 December** where Vespers will be sung at **5 p.m.** The Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday 16 December** in the Cathedral at **11.30 a.m.** The burial will take place in the Cathedral cemetery. May he rest in peace.

PARISH MONTHLY GRAND DRAW - New members are always welcome - and joining couldn't be easier! For just **£2 per month**, you can take part in our Parish Monthly Grand Draw. Simply speak to Lizzy, Fr. Joseph, or Theresa for more details. Sign-up forms are available at the back of the Church and can be made by standing order or cheque. Thank you to all who has taken part and supported our Grand Draw - Your generosity makes a real difference!

EXISTING MEMBERS - We kindly request that all existing members ensure their subscriptions are fully up to date. Thank you for your continued support of our Monthly Grand Draw.

MARANATHA - Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! You are warmly welcomed to an evening of praise and worship, including mass and adoration. Save the dates: **Friday 16th of January and Friday 13th of February 2026**. Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm, including refreshments after. Venue: The Blessed Sacrament Church, 116 Melbourne Avenue, CM12DU, Chelmsford. Bring your friends! Organised by the CDSC (Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion).

ST URSULA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - NURSERY AND RECEPTION TOURS - We have added additional tour dates for prospective Nursery and Reception Parents on **Tuesday 16th December at 9.10am** & **Wednesday 17th December at 9.15am**. If you would like to book your space on one of the tours, then please call the school office on 01708 345200. (We kindly ask that you arrange child-care for your own child during the tour - to minimise the disruption to our pupil's learning and so that you can benefit from the information shared).

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE - The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection on **Saturday 20 December from 1 pm - 4:30 pm** at **St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF**. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

HEAD TEACHER VACANCY - The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch, are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher from April 2026. **Closing date: Friday 9th January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23rd January 2026**. Enquiries can be made by email to admin@stmcps.co.uk, or phone 01708 448430.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025

Children are welcome to wear any nativity costumes at these Masses.

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass for Children & Families:

Wednesday 24th Dec, at 4pm (MHR)

Sing-a-Long Christmas Carols: Wednesday 24th Dec at 9.30pm (MHR)

followed by **Midnight Mass 10pm**

Christmas Day Masses: **Thursday 25th Dec at 9am (StD)**
and **11am (MHR)**

St Stephen, The First Martyr: **Friday 26th Dec, at 10.30am (MHR)**

LOTTERY BONUS BALL

Wed 10th December 2025 Bonus Ball No: 38 "L. Tuck" £50
Congratulations to winner and thank you for supporting your Parishes