

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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**Fr Maurice Gordon, Fr Mark Swires,
Fr Joseph Anthiamkulam (Syro-Malabar Chaplain)
Fr David Waller, Ordinariate Priest in Charge (020 8554 3763)
Rev. Joseph Baffour-Awuah (Permanent Deacon)
Sr. Anne Marie (Pastoral Care)**

Our Lady & St George's Primary School:
Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552
Holy Family Catholic College: 8520 0482/8520 3587

9th March 2014

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

My Dear People,

"What are you doing for Lent?" We've all been asked that question at one time or another and, by and large, our answers will range from the routine to the heroic. I want to suggest in these few thoughts that it is perhaps the wrong question to ask anyhow.

Simply *doing* something for Lent can mean that we're running away from the important challenge of this wonderful season of the Church's year. Lent isn't just about *doing* things, it's about a) looking at the face of Christ, knowing that when we find it, we will discover there an immense love for us b) Looking into our own lives and discerning what it is that keeps us from an ever deepening relationship with the Lord. Any form of penance, almsgiving and fasting that we embrace is meant to assist us in overcoming those inner drives that keep us from Him.

Asking about *doing* is putting the same question that the rich young man asked of Jesus in the Gospel. "What must I *do* to inherit eternal life?" I think he already knew the answer and was just seeking reassurance that he was all right. And if you read the story (Mark 10: 17-22) you'll see that Jesus tells him what to *do* – He lists the commandments for him. But that wasn't enough – more was needed. Jesus was trying to reach the young man's heart, not just hear what he was *doing*. We know this because the Gospel goes on to say that "Jesus looked steadily at him and was filled with love for him". The tragedy was that he wasn't ready to experience that face-to-face encounter with Jesus and the overwhelming love that flowed from it. He was unable to respond fully to what Jesus asked and "his face fell and he went away sad".

Lent is very much a time when Jesus looks steadily at us and loves us. He's not so much interested in what we *do* but in who we are. He wants to hold our eyes with His and lead us into the experience of His unconditional love for us.

Through today's Gospel He makes similar demands of us as He did to the rich young man to put aside the temptation to wealth, power, deception. Are we able to enter into ourselves and do battle with such things and make our lives what they could be, in the eyes of the one who created us? Or do we, too, go away sad and take refuge in something less demanding?

Through our journey of faith during Lent, may we come to the joy of the Easter celebrations and rejoice together in the great gift of God, which is the new life of the Risen Christ.

+Thomas McMahon

Bishop of Brentwood

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

EXTRA LENTEN MASS: Every Friday during Lent there will be an extra Mass at 8.00am, which will finish with enough time for young people to get to school afterwards. All parents, school children and young people are invited to come.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be on Friday evenings at 6.30pm. The Ordinariate group will hold Stations of the Cross on Thursdays at 8.00pm.

CATHOLICISM SERIES (STARTING THIS WEEK): During Lent we will be screening the

CATHOLICISM

Catholicism Series, a ten-part documentary on the Catholic faith. For the first time, in breathtaking and high-definition cinematography, the truth, goodness and beauty of Catholicism are illustrated in a multimedia experience. Journey with the host, Fr Robert Barron, to more than 50 locations throughout 16 countries. From the sacred lands of Israel to the beating heart of Uganda, from the glorious shrines of Europe to the streets of Mexico, Kolkata and New York City, the mysteries of Catholicism are revealed.

The screenings will be in the Church meeting room on **ten consecutive Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, beginning this Wednesday 12th March**. Each episode is about 50 minutes in length, with some time for discussion afterwards. The RCIA group (those currently preparing to enter the Catholic Church) will be attending, and we encourage parishioners to come too. It will be good spiritual preparation during Lent, and you are encouraged to invite anyone who may be curious about the faith. For more information about this highly acclaimed documentary, visit www.catholicismseries.com.

LENTEN TALKS: We will be having two talks towards the end of Lent. Fr Jim McManus CSsR will speak on Sunday 30th March at 6pm in the Parish Hall on 'Healing in the Family'. On Sunday 6th April, Fiona Mansford will speak on the Theology of the Body, the teaching of Pope John Paul II about the human person and human sexuality. All are invited to attend, and parents are especially encouraged to come along.

PARKING: Please note that the courtyard in front of the Church is for dropping off passengers only. For the safety of children and the disabled, **please do not park here at any time**. The priests also need clear access to answer emergency calls. Thank you for your cooperation.

PILGRIMAGE TO PADUA, ITALY in honour of St Anthony – 17-23rd September 2014. 6 nights half board £749 – visiting Venice & Verona. We are now taking the last bookings for this pilgrimage, so if you are interested contact Stella on 0208 527 3879.

CONFIRMATION 2014: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this Sunday, 9th March, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall.

CHRISTIAN KITCHEN: The Christian Kitchen needs your support to continue their work in helping the homeless and vulnerable in our community. This week there was a battle in the High Court against Waltham Forest Council to keep the service running, and a decision is expected in two weeks. Find out more on their Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/ChristianKitchenWF>. You might also like to sign an online petition in support (<http://tinyurl.com/pndryns>). Follow latest developments on the Kitchen's twitter feed, [@ChristianKitchn](https://twitter.com/ChristianKitchn).

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY – FRIDAY 14th MARCH: Tonight, one in eight of us around the world will go to bed hungry. For some, finding food is a daily struggle. CAFOD is working with poor

communities around the world to help put food on the table. Fast Days are our opportunity to support that vital work. Fast Day envelopes are now available – if you wish to contribute, please return these next week. Your support is much appreciated.

HCPT 161 BINGO NIGHT: Saturday 29th March in the Parish Hall – more details to follow.

GIFT AID: Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows the parish to reclaim tax on all donations made. If you are not currently enrolled in the Gift Aid scheme, please pick up a Gift Aid form from the back of the Church. For further information, please contact Hana on 07939 485957. Many thanks.

OUR LADY & ST GEORGE NURSERY: Children born between 1/9/10 and 31/8/11 will be due to start nursery in September 2014. If you are thinking of choosing Our Lady & St George's Catholic nursery for your child you are invited to come along to the Lower Site for an application pack. There will be a choice of full-time and part-time places, term-time only. Part time hours: Mornings 8.45-11.45am; Afternoons 12.15pm-3.15pm. Full time (8.00am-3.15pm) part funded. Packs are available from the Lower Site school office from Monday 10th February 2014. The closing date for return of the completed form is Wednesday 26th March 2014. Please phone the school office on 0208 520 8500 if you have any queries.

HEALING MASS: celebrated by Fr Eamonn Power at Abbotswick House of Prayer on **Wednesday 19th March at 2.30pm**. All welcome. For further details, please visit www.abbotswick.org or call 01277 373959.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: St Vincent's Primary School Dagenham require a Head Teacher from September. Application pack and further details are available from www.st-vincent.barking-dagenham.sch.uk or the school office tel 020 8270 6695 or email: office@st-vincents.bardaglea.org.uk. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed; please contact Mrs Butt or Mrs Rector to make an appointment. Closing date: Friday 21st March; interviews Monday 31st.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?: Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) is a program for married couples that feel disillusioned, frustrated or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, a sensitivity group, a seminar or a social gathering. For confidential information about, or to register for the programme beginning with a weekend on 28th-30th March, email info@retrovaille.org.uk; call or text 07973 380 443 or visit www.retrovaille.org.uk.

RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of William Whitney, who died recently. His body will be received into the Church on Wednesday 12th of March at 5pm and his Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 13th at 10am.

May he rest in peace

ROTAS – MARCH

Counting:	2/3 B	9/3 C	16/3 D	23/3 A	30/3 E
Hospital:	2/3 A	9/3 B	16/3 D	23/3 A	30/3 B
Christian Kitchen	1/3 Nor	8/3 G	15/3 A	22/3 B	29/3 C

Offertory collection for 2nd March was £1170.86.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

6.00pm	Peter & Drane Huba (RIP)
Sun 9 th March	First Sunday of Lent (A)
8.30am	Adeline Rosario (RIP)
10.00am	Sr Felicity, Sr Margaret, Sr Mary Carmel (Ints)
12.00pm	Tomasa Diez (RIP)
6.30pm	[<i>Ordinariate Mass</i>]
Mon 10 th March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	Rita Green (Ints)
9.15am	Rita Green (Ints)
Tue 11 th March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	Barry Lane (Ints)
9.15am	Michael Dunning (RIP)
Wed 12 th March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	Eileen Dye (Ints)
9.15am	Carole Lane (Ints)
Thu 13 th March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	Mary O'Sullivan (Ints)
9.15am	Marie Conway (Ints)
Fri 14 th March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	Joe & Annie Murtagh (RIP)
8.00am	Holy Souls
9.15am	Della Rodrigues (RIP)
Sat 15 th March	Lenten Weekday
10.00am	Kelly Waters (Ints)
6.00pm	Kevin Harte (Ints)
Sun 16 th March	Second Sunday of Lent
8.30am	Christopher Almeida (Ints)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Norris & Margaret Levine (Thanksgiving)
6.30pm	[<i>Ordinariate Mass</i>]

We pray for those in our parish community who are ill:

Christopher Browne, Rose Dennehy, Carol Hogermeer, Brian Keane, Ignatius Keane, Tony McCarthy, Rose O'Neill, Andrea Roberts, Promise Shinondo, Victoria Wyndham, Christine Conway, Nora Meades, Veronica Nolan, Mr & Mrs Charles, Maureen Bee, Denis Collins, Esperanza Buenaventura, Joyce Ross, Christine Raymond, Jacky Boyrow, Thelma Lewis, Tasmin Sparks, Eileen Karim, Sandra Gibson, Angelina Hoareau, Archie Garrod, Gilda Baptiste, Margaret Messenger, Martin Keane, Muriel Chetty, Masangela Tardioli, Alix Charlery, Natalie Rosario, Ronald Rolle. Bridie Lacon, Peter Ikuptati. Mercy Fernando, Veronica Godsave, Mary and Anthony O'Boyle, Oliver Gaynor, Marjorie Singh, Gunanesan Singarajah, Joan Beirne, Bill Walsh, Margaret Perry, Bridget Lyons, Kristina Klimasauskaite, Philomena Spranklen, Jeffrey Mitchell, Mary Akinkuolie, Michelle Boyle, Carla Cornelius, Cecelia Gibbs, Arthur Gibbs, Ural Gibbs, Gilbert Gibbs, Augustina Osei, Archie, George & Issac, Boyce Chandasingh.

Morning Prayer:

Rosary:

Adoration & Exposition:

Reconciliation (Confessions):

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45 am

Weekdays after morning Mass

Mon – Fri: 7.30am-8.30am and at the following times:

Mon: 10.00am – 7.00pm Weds: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Fri: 9.45am – 10.45am, Sat: 10.30am-11.30am

Sat. 10.30am – 11.00am. 5.00pm – 5.30pm (Or on request)