

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

132 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU

Tel: 020 8520 5877 Fax: 020 8520 4805

E-mail: parishoffice@olsg.co.uk

Website: www.olsg.co.uk

**Fr Maurice Gordon, Fr Mark Swires,
Fr Joseph Anthiamkulam (Syro-Malabar Chaplain)
Fr David Waller (Ordinariate Priest) (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

6th April 2014

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

On the last two Sundays we have heard the Gospel accounts of Jesus meeting the woman at the well and Jesus healing the blind man. Today, Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead. In all these situations, the person Jesus encounters is transformed, as are those witnessing the event. The woman at the well is caught up in a destructive lifestyle, thirsting for forgiveness and love – Jesus offers Himself as the living water that satisfies. The blind man lives in darkness and Jesus draws him into the light. In today's Gospel, Lazarus is dead, and Jesus calls him forth to life.

Death is a reality that all of us are familiar with. We all know the sadness of death. Jesus too, wept at the death of Lazarus, out of compassion for His friend and for those who were grieving. Jesus asks Martha if she believes her brother will rise, and she indicates that she does. This is typical of a pious Jew, because the Jews believed in resurrection, as expressed in first reading, 'I will raise you from your graves.' But Jesus now makes resurrection personal. He asks Martha, 'do you believe that I am the Resurrection and the Life?' He points to Himself as the way to eternal life, and seeks Martha's declaration of faith in Him. She says she believes and He works the miracle, bringing her brother back from the dead.

Jesus asks us the same question, 'Do you believe that I am the Resurrection and the Life?' In other words, 'do you believe that I offer you life; not only resurrection in the future but also the fullness of life now in the present? As He summoned Lazarus from the dark tomb, He calls us to 'come out' from the darkness of sin and into the light of His love. If Jesus can restore a body that had been in the tomb for four days and had begun to decay, He can certainly mend the brokenness and wounds of our lives. Like today's Psalm tells us, we should cry out to the Lord from the depths of our hearts and wait for Him. He will not always act in our time – Martha and Mary had to wait and suffer the anguish of losing their brother. But there is no doubt that He will act in our lives in His time, if we are patient and open to Him.

We will all have to face death one day. We are a pilgrim people and we prepare for eternity, deciding our destiny by the way we live this life. With God's helping and healing graces, our work is to do good and avoid evil, co-operating with the divine plan. The Church encourages us to prepare ourselves for the hour of death. This penitential season reminds us to seek the mercy of Christ, to look beyond the immediate to the eternal. Lent is a time of purification, of renewing our hearts again. This renewal has to be done constantly, because we know neither the day nor the hour of death.

We need not fear death if we are alive in Christ. As we enter the last week of Lent before Holy Week, we consider that our Christian hope is centered on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. These free us from sin and death, but the Lord seeks our faith, as He sought faith from the woman at the well, the blind man, and in today's Gospel, from Martha and Mary. He has done it all for us, but awaits our response.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 28th April at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER CARDS: Cards detailing the times of the Masses and services for Holy Week and Easter are now available at the back of the Church. Please take one and pass copies on to any friends or family members, especially to Catholics who no longer come to Mass.

EXTRA LENTEN MASS: Every Friday during Lent there is an extra Mass at 8.00am.

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

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The new offertory envelopes for the coming year are now available. If you are enrolled in the gift aid scheme, please collect your envelopes from the back of the Church. 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 or for further information, please contact Hana on 07939 485957.

CATHOLICISM SERIES: During Lent we are screening the Catholicism Series, a documentary on the Catholic faith. We

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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. Thanks to all who have attended so far: **this coming Wednesday's episode will be on Ss Peter and Paul**. All are welcome. For more information about this highly acclaimed documentary, visit www.catholicismseries.com.

LENTEN TALK THIS SUNDAY: Our second and final Lenten talk will take place this Sunday 6th April at 6.00pm in the Parish Hall. Fiona Mansford, Director of Youth 2000, a Catholic youth ministry organization, will speak on the 'Theology of the Body', the teaching of Pope (soon to be Saint) John Paul II about the human person and human sexuality. All are invited to attend, and parents and young adults are especially encouraged to come along.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: The next Confirmation session is next Sunday 13th April, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall.

CHRISM MASS: The annual Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral will take on Wednesday 16th April at 7.00pm. A coach will depart from the Church at 5.30pm. A list to sign up for a seat is in the Church porch. A donation of £5 to cover transport costs is requested, which will be collected on the day.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE (CONFESSIONS): The Lenten Reconciliation service will take place on Tuesday 15th April at 7.30pm, and a number of visiting priests will be available to hear confessions. Priests are also available for confessions every Saturday, 10.30-11am and 5.15-5.45pm, or on request. It is very good to avail of this Sacrament during Lent. If you need help preparing, there are guides available in the Church porch.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES: Are you interested in improving your English, or do you know someone who is? St George's parish is hoping to begin free English language classes for anyone wishing to learn or improve their knowledge of English after Easter. If you are interested in joining such a class, please speak to Cliff D'Souza after Sunday Masses in the Church porch, or call him on 07801 628 799.

CHRISTIAN KITCHEN: The Christian Kitchen needs your support to continue their work in helping the homeless and vulnerable in our community. There was a recent battle in the High Court against Waltham Forest Council to keep the service running, and a decision is expected soon. Find out more on the Christian Kitchen's 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).

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CLOSING EVENT: Sunday 13th April at 7pm in St Benedict's Ealing Abbey parish hall, Ealing. An evening of brilliant pro-life speakers, testimonies and food and drink. Come and celebrate the end of London's only 40-day pro-life campaign as a result of which over 15 mothers have chosen life for their children! For more info call the Good Counsel Network on 0207 231 740 or email info@goodcounselnetwork.com

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: The annual Mass for migrants, in honour of St Joseph the Worker will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May at Westminster Cathedral, London. Mass begins at 11am and will be preceded by a banner procession, beginning at 10.30am. For more information contact Davina Bolt (01277 265 234 or email davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

SCHOOL STAFF VACANCIES: Trinity Catholic High School wishes to appoint a Data Manager as soon as possible. The successful applicant must be organized, flexible and computer literate. If you are interested in applying for this post, details and an application form are available on the school website <http://fc.tchs.uk.net> or email sam_gillary@fc.tchs.uk.net. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Monday 28th April 2014.

St Vincent's Primary School, Dagenham require a Deputy Head teacher from September. Application pack and further details are available from our website www.st-vincent.barking-dagenham.sch.uk or the school office. Tel: 020 8270 6695. Email: office@st-vincent.bardaglea.org.uk. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. Closing date: Thursday 8th May. Interviews: Monday 19th May.

ROTAS – APRIL

Counting:	6/4 B	13/4 C	20/4 A	27/4 E
Hospital:	6/4 D	13/4 A	20/4 B	27/4 D
Christian Kitchen	5/4 Nor	12/4 D	19/4 E	26/4 F

Offertory collection for 30th March was £1485.55
Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Richard & Nora Keane (RIP)
Sun 6 th April	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
8.30am	Teresa Cokan (Ints)
10.00am	Rose Manendjou (RIP)
12.00pm	Carlucci Biagio (RIP)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 7 th April	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
7.00am	Charles Clamcy (RIP)
9.15am	Valmir Jaku (RIP)
Tue 8 th April	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
7.00am	Francis George, Aloysius Nadel, Alfred, Adolfus, Agatha, Gladys (RIP)
9.15am	Thanksgiving
Wed 9 th April	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
7.00am	Valmira Doci (Ints)
9.15am	John Fonseca (RIP)
Thu 10 th April	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Paschal Hayden (Ints)
Fri 11 th April	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
7.00am	Sean Hayden (Ints)
8.00am	Holy Souls
9.15am	Ramadan Ramsey (Ints)
Sat 12 th April	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
10.00am	Tessie Kalpee (Thanksgiving)
6.00pm	Andrew & Tony Bandhu (RIP)
Sun 13 th April	<i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i>
8.30am	Peadar Deasy (RIP)
10.00am	Domingo Villaroll (RIP)
12.00pm	Irene Brennan (RIP)
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)