

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) (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

11th May 2014

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Voices are very important. We can all recognise and remember distinctive voices – like particular sports commentators, news reporters and radio hosts. Some voices become household names. In today's era of digital television, the Internet and social media, there are so many voices out there vying for our attention. Which voices do we listen to, and which are truly good for us and our children? There are so many voices it can be overpowering. But Jesus tells us that there is one voice that truly fulfils, that is His own voice, the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, when we think of Our Lord as a shepherd leading us. He says, 'my sheep hear my voice.' How do we hear the voice of God? Or is there so much background noise that we don't hear the voice of God? It is not enough to hear passively – by 'hearing', Jesus means listening to and accepting.

The call of the Good Shepherd is a personal call; He calls us by name. There are many ways He speaks to us – through the Scriptures, and we can hear Him speak to us when we prayerfully reflect on them. He speaks through the teaching and Sacraments of the Church, to which He gave the authority to teach in His name, and to feed His sheep. He speaks through the lives of the saints, who are models of holiness for us. He speaks through the events and circumstances of each day, and through the needs of our brothers and sisters. He speaks through our conscience, which guides us to make correct decisions. Sometimes, if we have done wrong, our conscience will convict us and we will feel guilty. This is no bad thing, because it leads us to repentance and allows the good shepherd to lead us back to safety.

Sheep are docile. That means they follow and obey a good shepherd and so benefit from him. Docility is a virtue – it means observing, listening to, imitating and obeying the directions of those who know better than we do, and accepting correction. A docile person knows he does not know everything and is willing to learn. At the same time, a docile person will be prudent enough not to listen to just any voice claiming to be a shepherd. There are many false voices, 'thieves and brigands', which try to sow division and scatter the flock. We can go astray and get it wrong. What do we do then? As Peter told the crowd in the first reading, 'you must repent.' – turn back, listen to the Good Shepherd again.

Like sheep, we can sometimes get caught in a hedge or stuck somewhere and cannot free ourselves. Turning back to God, He will free us, and lead us again along the right path. As today's Psalm says, 'He guides us along the right path, and He is true to His name.'

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 19th May at 7.00pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY: This **Sunday 11th May** we will hold our third annual procession in Honour of Our Lady. The procession will begin at 2.00pm at the Upper Site of Our Lady & St George School (near Forest Road) and proceed along Shernhall Street to the Church, singing hymns along the way. There will be priests from various ethnic communities in attendance to lead decades of the rosary in different languages, along with families from the parish. You are encouraged to come along for this public display of our faith, and to bring flags or banners, or wear traditional dress from your home country. Don't forget your rosary!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Over the next three Sundays, 80 children in our parish will receive their First Holy Communion. Please be welcoming and understanding to any visitors, as certain pews will be reserved for the families.

CHARITY FUNDRAISER: On Friday 4th July from 8pm, we will be hosting a charity fundraising event in the Parish Hall. This is to support a family who were part of our parish in the past. Padraic and Paula Naughton, who were married here in 2003, have three children all of whom have Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, a terminal illness. They are in urgent need of support to provide for the future of these boys. The London Irish association is organizing the event, which includes a live band, a raffle, auction and licensed bar. If you are able to help with organization, there will be a meeting in the Parish Hall this Sunday 11th at 8.00pm. For further information about the family's situation, please visit their website: www.joinourboys.org

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE: I intend to set up a committee to advise on maintenance of the Church, the Presbytery and Parish Hall. If you have any ideas or expertise, please come along to a meeting this Thursday 15th May at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The next meeting for the Finance Committee is Monday 19th May at 8.00pm.

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: Thanks to all who have so far attended the screenings of the Catholicism Series, a ten-part DVD presentation on the Catholic faith.

CATHOLICISM

Episode 8 will be screened on Wednesday 14th May at 7.30pm, and the topic of this presentation is the Saints. All are welcome. For more information about this highly acclaimed documentary, visit www.catholicismseries.com.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY: This Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and there are some vocations bookmarks and other resources available to take. The Vocations website has also been refreshed – if you are interested, please visit www.brentwoodvocations.org. All of the resources to promote Vocations to Priesthood

and the Religious Life are paid for by the annual second collection, which will take place after Masses today.

25th ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Diocesan Pilgrimage leaves on Saturday 26th July, returning Thursday 31st. The programme includes a wide range of spiritual and social opportunities, plus a trip out into the Pyrenees for the afternoon. The pilgrimage is well supported by an excellent medical team, and many young helpers who can assist those who are in wheelchairs. Our hotels are very central, and a high standard, and the price includes all meals. From £618 by air, and £418 by coach – full details at www.brentwoodlourdes.org or call Cathy O'Connor about booking, 01206 501146.

ABBOTSWICK RETREAT: 'Chill & be Filled with the Lord!' – You are welcome to join us for a day of discovery in prayer on 7th June 2014 from 10.30am-4pm at Abbotswick, the Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood. This guided retreat led by Sr Ann O'Sullivan (Sisters of St Gilda's), will focus on the essential and walking with the Lord. A suggested donation £18 per person includes a light lunch and all refreshments. Please call Abbotswick on 01277 373959 or Sr Ann on 07752563520 for further information. Booking is essential and all are welcome!

THE URSULINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL ILFORD Governors are seeking to appoint a dedicated, talented, enthusiastic and caring well qualified PE teacher to join our happy, successful school. Applications are welcomed from new entrants to the profession and experienced teachers. Application packs are available from Louise Richardson, HR Officer: hrofficer@urspsi.org.uk or telephone 020 8518 4050 or the school website www.urspsi.org.uk

RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of

William James Farrell, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 16th May at 10.30am, followed by committal at the City of London Crematorium.

Bridget Davies, whose funeral will take place on Tuesday 20th May at 3.45pm at the City of London Crematorium.

May they rest in peace.

ROTAS – MAY

Counting:	4/5 D	11/5 B	18/5 A	25/5 C	
Hospital:	4/5 A	11/5 B	18/5 D	25/5 A	
Christian Kitchen	3/5 Nor	10/5 G	17/5 A	24/5 B	31/5 C

The offertory collection for 4th May was £1461.06
Thank you for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6.00pm	Eleanor Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 11 th May	Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) World Day of Prayer for Vocations
8.30am	John William Turvey (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Ted Daley (RIP)
6.30pm	[<i>Ordinariate Mass</i>]
Mon 12 th May	St John Houghton
7.00am	Augustina Osei (Ints)
9.15am	Confirmation candidates (Ints)
Tue 13 th May	St Erconwald
7.00am	Bishop-elect Alan Williams (Ints)
9.15am	Eilish Collins (RIP)
Wed 14 th May	St Matthias, Apostle
7.00am	Bridie Lacon (Ints)
9.15am	Sr Anne-Marie (Ints)
Thu 15 th May	Easter Weekday
7.00am	Holy Souls
9.15am	Students taking exams (Ints)
Fri 16 th May	Easter Weekday
7.00am	First Holy Communion children
9.15am	Parish
Sat 17 th May	Easter Weekday
10.00am	Romeo Rodrigues (RIP)
6.00pm	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
Sun 18 th May	Fifth Sunday of Easter
8.30am	Russell Rodrigues (Ints)
10.00am	James Bollard (RIP)
12.00pm	Samuel Charles (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. 9.45am

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)