

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Patrick Daly
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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

14th December 2014

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)



Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday – the third Sunday of Advent. The word ‘Gaudete’ means ‘joy’ in Latin, and today the readings prepare us for the joy of the nativity.

We see John the Baptist again in this week’s Gospel, making it clear to the crowds that he himself is just a voice in the wilderness, proclaiming and pointing to Jesus the Messiah. The crowds flocked to John, but John does not claim the limelight. Nor does he confuse the people; he knows he is not the centre and points to the Lord. Later, when John’s disciples begin to get concerned that his followers are going over to Jesus, John simply says, ‘He must increase, I must decrease.’ John knows his task and carries it out faithfully and humbly.

Faithfulness and humility are also two central qualities of Our Lady. In today’s Canticle we hear Mary’s response to the angel at the annunciation: ‘My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.’ Mary acknowledges her lowliness, her nothingness without God, just as John acknowledges his unworthiness to untie the Lord’s sandal strap. In their humility they recognise who they really are in God’s sight, and precisely in this way they fulfil the mission God had for each of them.

What can we learn from today’s readings about joy? Joy is an interior contentment that follows from faith, trust and dependence on God. We can be joyful even in the midst of great trials, because we do not rely on our own strength to get through them. Mary and John the Baptist both trusted in God and carried out their missions joyfully.

The second part of today’s first reading can be our prayer as we come closer to celebrating the birth of our saviour: ‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation.’ Through our baptism we put on the garment of Christ, and His saving work of binding up our broken hearts and liberating us from our faults began for us. He came to bind up our wounds and heal us, and free us from all that keeps us captive. When we experience this freedom through the sacrament of reconciliation, the healing we receive brings a joy that cannot be described.

God wants everyone to experience this joy. St Paul tells us in the second reading to rejoice at all times and pray constantly. Paul tells the Thessalonians to think before they do anything, to hold onto what is good and avoid every form of evil. If we likewise try to do God’s will in a spirit of humility, then joy will follow.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

CHRISTMAS CARD: The Christmas card with details of the Masses and services over the Christmas period are now available. You are welcome to take these and pass them on to family or friends who may no longer be in contact with the Church.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: Our schools finish for Christmas holidays this Friday. We wish all our staff and students a holy and peaceful Christmas.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: The last day for Eucharistic Adoration will be Saturday 19th December. Adoration will resume from Monday 5th January 2015. We wish all our adorers a blessed, joyful and restful Christmas.

RCIA meetings will resume on Thursday 15th January at 8.00pm.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE: The planned maintenance meeting has been moved forward to Monday 19th January at 8pm in the presbytery.

CAROL SERVICE: Next Sunday we will be having the parish Advent Carol service at 4pm, in aid of the Brentwood Children's Society. All are warmly invited.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: The Advent Reconciliation Service will take place on Monday 22nd December at 8pm in the Church. A number of visiting priests will be available for individual confessions. All are encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas.

ALTAR SERVERS' PRACTICE: There will be an Altar Servers' training session on Saturday 20th December at 11am, led by the new Parish MC Jason. All servers are requested to attend, as we will be preparing for the Christmas Masses.

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: The new rotas for the period up to 11th April 2015 are now available in the Church porch – please take a copy.

IN CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP ALAN – THIS THURSDAY: – an evening for young adults aged 17-35, with a unique opportunity to hear Bishop Alan share his vocational journey. Bishop Alan has served as a school chaplain, uni chaplain, parish priest, shrine director and superior of his religious order. He is a mountaineer and a scientist. But what inspired him to become a priest? **Hear his story on Thursday 18th December, Cathedral House Conference Room, 7.30-10.00pm including fish & chip supper.** Full details at www.brentwoodvocations.org or on the Brentwood Vocations Facebook Page. **The evening is free, but registration is required – a minibus will be going from the Church and there are still a few places left – speak to Fr Maurice as soon as possible if you would like to come.**

DIVINE MERCY HEALING SERVICES will resume on Sunday 11th January at 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

SVP ST GEORGE'S CONFERENCE: The Senior Citizens enjoyed their Christmas lunch last Sunday. On their behalf, the parish SVP Conference would like to thank the Mayor of Waltham Forest Cllr Terry Wheeler for visiting, Mrs McGlynn (Head

teacher) and other staff at Our Lady & St George School who prepared the lunch with their team, and the young people who served the meal and made all feel welcome. We would also like to thank Joe Elwood for providing entertainment, music, song and jokes.

We are looking for more members, whatever your age or gender, whether you have a few hours to spare or would like to make a more long-term commitment. Speak to Jenny Richmond at the repository after Mass for information on the SVP's work.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: The next meeting for the Extraordinary Ministers who were commissioned earlier this year, will take place on Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

PARISH ASSISI PILGRIMAGE: There will be a pilgrimage to Assisi in honour of St Francis, 22nd-27th September 2015 - £719, 6 days H/B. Deadline for receipt of deposits is 5th January 2015. This is a very popular destination so book now to avoid disappointment. For more information contact Stella on 0208 527 3879.

GIFT AID: Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows the parish to reclaim tax on all donations made by UK taxpayers, at no cost to you. 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. This provides much-needed additional income for the upkeep of the Church and support of our schools.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES WITH BISHOP ALAN – SUMMER 2015: Bishop Alan will lead the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Sunday 26th to Friday 31st July 2015. From £649 by air with full board for six days, five nights, or from £429 by coach. This pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs. It is also ideal for couples, individuals, and groups of friends. There is a full programme to opt in and out of, and everyone is welcome. Visit www.brentwoodlourdes.org for much more information and to order a brochure, or pick up a leaflet from the porch.

RIP:

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of:

David Macbeth, whose funeral will take place at the City of London Crematorium on 22nd December at 12.15pm.

May he rest in peace.

ROTAS –DECEMBER

Counting	7/12 C	14/12 B	21/12 D	28/12 B
Hospital	7/12 A	14/12 B	21/12 D	28/12 A
Christian Kitchen	6/12 Nor	13/12 C	20/12 D	29/11 E

The offertory collection for last weekend's Masses was £1370.77
Thank you for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George this week

6.00pm	Lila McCusker (RIP)
Sun 14 th Dec	<i>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)</i>
8.30am	Carmen de Souza (RIP) Andrea McGowan & Richard McCoyd (Ints)
10.00am	Leo Michael Taoiwa Makoni (Ints)
12.00pm	Thanksgiving
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 15 th Dec	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Deceased members of the Coeur-de-Lion family
9.15am	Rena Sam (RIP) and baby (RIP)
Tue 16 th Dec	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Fiona Robinson (Ints)
9.15am	Rahinda & Ethan Rebeiro (Ints)
Wed 17 th Dec	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Kristina Klimasauskaite (Ints)
9.15am	Cesar & Nelly (Thanksgiving)
Thu 18 th Dec	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Christopher Fonseca
9.15am	Noel Rebeiro (RIP)
Fri 19 th Dec	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Noel Rebeiro (RIP)
9.15am	Eddie Ooi (RIP)
Sat 20 th Dec	<i>Feria</i>
10.00am	Ram Ramsey (RIP)
6.00pm	Edward Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 21 st Dec	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
8.30am	Carmen Fernandes (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Elaine Francis (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, 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, Bill Walsh, Margaret Perry, Bridget Lyons, Kristina Klimasauskaite, Philomena Spranklen, Jeffrey Mitchell, Michelle Boyle, Carla Cornelius, Cecelia Gibbs, Arthur Gibbs, Ural Gibbs, Gilbert Gibbs, Archie, George & Issac, Boyce Chandasingh

Morning Prayer:

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45am

Rosary:

Weekdays after morning Mass

Adoration & Exposition:

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

Reconciliation (Confessions):

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