

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Patrick Daly
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

7th December 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)



Today is the second Sunday of Advent – we are nearly half way through. The season is short and Christmas will soon be upon us, so how can we use this time to best effect, when there are so many things to do, and so many distractions of one kind or another? It is easy to be caught up in the material preparations and arrive at Christmas exhausted and spiritually dry. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts – these days can bring much spiritual fruit if we only make the effort.

Today's Gospel reading is from the beginning of Mark. Mark quotes from the Prophet Isaiah, in words that we hear in today's first reading, 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight.' Isaiah announces that God will act to free the people from captivity and lead them back home to safety. Mark is declaring that Jesus is the definitive fulfilment of this promise – and he introduces the 'voice crying in the wilderness' as John the Baptist, who prepares the way for the Lord.

John's mission is to prepare the people for what Jesus will do. John preaches a baptism of repentance, exhorting the people to turn away from their sins, and to look to the one who will save them. John's message of repentance is also for us. Each one of us must make straight the paths in our lives by removing the obstacles and barriers that prevent Jesus' entry or keep us from closer union with Him.

People flocked to John from all over Judea, They left the bustle of the city and went out into the wilderness. The harsh conditions of the desert force one to consider what is really important and what is not. Perhaps during this Advent we can make time to leave distractions behind, to 'enter the wilderness' through prayer – and become more conscious of the way we are living, and the direction our lives are taking. If we give time to prayer – even just 10 minutes morning and evening, and invite the Lord in, He can show us what we need to change. He nudges us forward, if we are willing to listen. When we acknowledge our faults and seek forgiveness, we are repenting; turning over a new leaf.

Repentance is not easy – it requires us to face ourselves honestly. John's message was not a soothing one. It doesn't brush aside the enormity of sin, but it still meets a spiritual hunger in the people who come to him from all over. In our world today, there is a great spiritual hunger, and people are searching for peace in all manner of religious movements and new age philosophies.

Yet Christ is the only one who can offer forgiveness of sins – He is the one who leads us to safety like a shepherd leading the flock. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we receive His forgiveness and the certainty that our sins, confessed with true sorrow, are forgiven. There is nowhere else in the world that we can have this certainty. What prevents us from coming to Him? He does not desire that we carry needless burdens, for He came to set us free.

Fr Maurice

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

BAZAAR OUTCOME: Many thanks to all those who prepared and participated in this year's bazaar. We thank the social committee for their hard work and dedication over the past months, and those who ran stalls, prepared food and drink, organized entertainment and those who managed the logistics. It was a great parish event and around £6000 was raised, which will help to maintain our schools and the Church and Hall buildings.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE: There will be a maintenance committee meeting on Monday 15th December at 8pm in the presbytery.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this Sunday 7th December at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Candidates are reminded to come on time.

FIRST COMMUNION: The next session for the First Communion programme will take place on 13th December at 10am.

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.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE: The new copies of the Brentwood Diocesan Directory are now on sale in the repository, priced at £2.75 (regular binding) or £4.00 (ring bound version).

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.

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.

PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE: On Thursday 11th December please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For more information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact the Good Counsel Network on 0207 723 1740 or visit www.goodcounselnet.co.uk.

OLSG SCHOOL: RECEPTION INTAKE: If your child was born between **01.09.2010 and 31.08.2011**, the Waltham Forest Primary Brochure containing criteria for all schools and information on how to apply is now available. For more information please contact the school on 0208 520 8500.

OLSG NURSERY INTAKE: Children born between 01.09.2011 and 31.08.2012
Parents wishing to apply for a nursery place for September 2015 should contact the school on 0208 520 5800.

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.

IN CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP ALAN: – 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 – call Fr Dominic, Vocations Director, on 01268 281732 or email frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org

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 souls of:

Grzegorz Oczkowski, whose Requiem Mass will take place on 10th December at 11am.

Ronald Osaren whose Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 22nd December at 12 noon

May they 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 £1415.41
Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Aaron Dillsworth (RIP)
Sun 7 th Dec	Second Sunday of Advent (B)
8.30am	Magdalene Correa
10.00am	Elaine Francis (RIP), the Francis family and OLSG school (Ints)
12.00pm	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 8 th Dec	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7.00am	Coeur-de-Lion family (Ints)
9.15am	Deceased members of the Kalpee family (RIP)
Tue 9 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Deceased members of the Berney family (RIP)
9.15am	Deceased members of the Bañez family (RIP)
Wed 10 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Radomilovic family (Ints)
9.15am	Deceased members of the Beleno family (RIP)
Thu 11 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Timothy Joseph Sullivan (RIP)
9:15am	Deceased members of the Bisquera family (RIP)
Fri 12 th Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe
7.00am	Krishna Kalpee (Ints)
9.15am	Deceased members of the Bholai family (RIP)
Sat 13 th Dec	St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
10.00am	Elliot Anderson Scott, Roderick Alfred Fairy, Douglas Scott (RIP)
6.00pm	Lila McCusker (RIP)
Sun 14 th Dec	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
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>

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)