

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

25th January 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (B)

One of the greatest gifts we possess is our mind. Our minds are what make us human and more rational than the lower animals. Our minds assist us in making choices and guide our actions. That is why it is very important that our minds are filled with good things. Naturally, our minds are like sponges, absorbing whatever we expose them to. This means that what we fill our minds with affects our behaviour. The idea of doing all we can to preserve a clean and healthy mind is a frequent teaching of the scriptures. St Paul says, 'fill your minds with everything that is true, honourable, pure, lovely, gracious; then the God of peace will be with you.' He also says to the Philippians, 'in your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus', and our Lord Himself says we must love God with our 'whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.'

There are many snares in this world that attempt to get at our minds. Much of what is available on the TV or Internet does not help us to have the same mind as Jesus. Our minds being like sponges can soak up dirt like a sponge. The good news is that we can wash a sponge, and we can also wash and cleanse our minds. This desire to cleanse our minds and keep them clean is also known as repentance, which is the major theme of today's readings.

Repentance means to acknowledge our sins and turn away from them, towards God. In the first reading the Prophet Jonah preaches a message of repentance in Nineveh, a very big city. He warns them of retribution from God if they do not repent, and the people take heed of his warning and renounce their evil behaviour. They repented out of fear of punishment. It is also possible for us to renounce our own evil behaviour when reflecting on the justice of God, knowing that He will judge us. But a better and more perfect form of contrition comes when we are genuinely sorry that we have offended one who has loved us so much. Knowing that God loves us to the extent of coming down and giving His life for us, we are moved to amend our lives, and resolve to abandon our selfish ways.

Repentance is an act of the will; it is something we must decide to do. But we need God's grace to act upon it. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, in which we confess our sins to a priest and receive God's forgiveness, will help us to grow in holiness, and will deepen our relationship with God, especially if we make use of it quite regularly. This sacrament helps to keep us on the right track, and makes us more eager to remain close to the Lord and avoid what is evil in the future.

Life is short and we do not know when it will come to an end for us. We can sense the urgency of repentance in the second reading, 'Brothers, our time is growing short.' Paul is not advocating indifference to our families, but we should view this life from the perspective of eternity. Therefore, where is the pattern of my life leading me? Are my actions directed to the glory of God, or to the passing things of this world and my own ego? If the latter, then repentance is necessary for us. Jesus says the same in the Gospel, 'the Kingdom of heaven is at hand: repent and believe in the Good News'. Like the disciples in the Gospel, when we leave old ways behind and make up our minds to follow Him, we can attract others to Him. People will see the change in us and will desire for themselves that same change, which brings a peace of soul that the world cannot give.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 2nd February at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: Next week there will be an appeal and second collection for the Holy Family Sisters of the Needy.

MONDAY HOSPITAL MASS: This Monday 26th January there will be a Mass at 2.15pm in Whipps Cross Hospital Chapel. We hope to make this a regular feature, although the time may be subject to change. Watch this space.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme will take place this Sunday 25th January at 4pm in the Church. Please continue to keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The next session for the First Communion programme will be on Saturday 7th January 2015 at 10.00am. All the children and parents are expected to attend. As usual the parents' session will take place in the Lower site of Our Lady & St George primary school, and the Children's session will take place in the parish hall.

RCIA meetings have resumed on Thursday evenings at 8.00pm. Anyone interested in becoming Catholic, being Confirmed as an adult or learning more about the faith is welcome to come along.

ELAINE FRANCIS MEMORIAL MASS: A memorial Mass will be held for Elaine Francis on Tuesday 27th January at 10.30am. All welcome.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The next finance committee meeting will take place on Monday 26th January at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are requested to attend.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: The next social committee meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd February at 7.30pm.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE: The maintenance committee will next meet on Thursday 19th February at 8pm in the presbytery.

HCPT DINNER & DANCE: Saturday 21st March – Dust off your ball gowns and polish those dancing shoes! Returning by popular demand is the HCPT Dinner and Dance. Tickets £25 per person. Book your ticket(s) early to avoid missing out – speak to Peter, Anita or Em (or call 07976 41 96 80).

PASSION OF THE CHRIST: A movie screening of 'The Passion of the Christ' will be held on Friday 6th March at 8pm. Please note this will be limited to 12 places only – please call Stella on 0208 527 3879 for more details.

MARRIAGE CARE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Marriage Care Ilford Centre are looking for suitable volunteers (male or female) to be trained as Marriage Preparation Providers and Counselors. Training will be provided. For further information please contact Glenda Spencer on 0208 590 7775.

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.

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES: Join Bishop Alan and parishioners from across the Diocese at Brentwood Cathedral at 3.00pm on Sunday 15th February, for Mass to celebrate one of the Patrons of Brentwood Diocese, in the week of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Many hundreds take part in our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes each year – Cathy O’Connor, the pilgrimage administrator, will be on hand to answer any queries you have, and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service will also be assisting, just as they do in Lourdes. For more information about the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes please visit www.brentwoodlourdes.org or call Cathy on 01206 501146.

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

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Edicia Joseph, whose Requiem Mass will take place on
Wednesday 28th January at 11.00am

Michael Herraghty, whose funeral will take place at the City of London Crematorium
on Wednesday 28th January at 2.30pm.

Bernard Butcher, whose Requiem Mass will take place on
Wednesday 4th February at 12 noon.

Patrick Deere, whose Requiem Mass will take place on
Thursday 12th February at 1.30pm.

May they rest in peace.

ROTAS – JANUARY

Counting	4/1 D	11/1 C	18/1 C	25/1 E
Hospital	4/1 D	11/1 A	18/1 B	25/1 D
Christian Kitchen	3/1 Nor	10/1 F	17/1 G	24/1 A

Last week’s collection was £1472.80. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Deceased members of the Moss & Nagle families (RIP)
Sun 25 th Jan	<i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</i>
8.30am	Henesa Cartright (RIP)
10.00am	Margaret & Norris Levine (Ints)
12.00pm	Special Ints
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 26 th Jan	<i>Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops</i>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Wynne Family (Ints)
Tue 27 th Jan	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Tom Downey (RIP)
Wed 28 th Jan	<i>St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Dawn Allen (RIP)
Thu 29 th Jan	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Tom Downey (RIP)
Friday 30 th Jan	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Bond family & Shields family (RIP)
Sat 31 st Jan	<i>St John Bosco, Priest</i>
10.00am	Special Ints
6.00pm	Mrs Teri Cole
Sun 1 st Feb	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</i>
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Deacon Joseph & family (Ints)
12.00pm	Robert Stinton (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:

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)