

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

22nd March 2015

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

As we approach the end of Lent, today's readings capture the meaning and background to what we will soon celebrate during Holy Week. In the First Reading, God, speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, recalls the covenants He had made with His people. These covenants were more than just agreements; they were a mechanism for God to be in close relationship with His people. God desires to share His divine life with His people. In the Old Testament we see animals such as lambs being sacrificed and their blood being sprinkled on the people as a sign of atonement for sin. Blood is a symbol of life, and so in doing this, the people intended to strengthen their bond with God. However the people were not faithful to the Law and Commandments of God, and so God promises a new and definitive covenant, written on the people's hearts, deep within them. The new covenant would draw people into close communion with God and they would learn to know Him.

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples He was inaugurating a new covenant, 'This is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.' Jesus, in doing this, calls to mind the previous covenants and now claims to fulfil them: it is His own body sacrificed and blood poured out that will bring mankind forgiveness of their sins and the possibility of a new and deep friendship with God.

God in the first reading says 'deep within them I will plant my Law.' Jesus in the Gospel says that a wheat grain must fall to the ground and die in order to yield a rich harvest. In His own life, Jesus was able to accomplish the will of the Father by 'submitting humbly' (as St Paul tells us) to the suffering and death of the cross. Through that, He reaped a harvest of eternal life for us.

The reading teaches us that our lives too will not bear fruit and will be unfulfilled unless we die to self. Our Lord says, 'Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.' Jesus is not teaching us to despise ourselves but to put aside our instinct for self-preservation and trust in Him. If our lives are only ever focused on ourselves and on gratifying our own passions, we will not be able to produce fruit.

Dying to ourselves means putting others ahead of us, taking care of their needs, sacrificing for the good of our neighbour; this is the essence of love. Followers of Jesus believe that any effort, any penance, any sacrifice of comfort and convenience will bear fruit, if not in this life, then in the next – especially if the effort is made out of love for Christ and our neighbour.

Lent is about dying to self, so that God can live and work through us. In the Eucharist we have the supreme fulfilment of the First Reading and New Covenant. Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, and when we receive Him, He is planted in our hearts. We receive grace through this Sacrament, which is the life of God in us. With the life of God in us we are empowered to go out and bear fruit. The smallest act of sacrifice, done with love will bear fruit for eternal life.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next Course will take place on Monday 23rd March at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required. There will be talks on marriage during Lent; details below.

LENTEN TALKS AT OLSG: Our Lenten talks this year have been around the theme of marriage. The final talk is on Thursday 26th March at 8pm in the Hall and is entitled 'Proclaiming the ideal of Christian Marriage', led by Father Patrick Daly. All are welcome, especially those who are married, or who are preparing for marriage.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Stations of the Cross take place every Friday during Lent at 7.15pm in the Church.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE: The Lenten Reconciliation service will take place on Tuesday 31st March at 8pm. A number of visiting priests will be available to hear individual confessions. All are strongly encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter.

CLOCKS GO FORWARD: A reminder that the clocks go forward by one hour next Sunday.

PALM SUNDAY 10AM MASS: Next Sunday's 10am Mass begins with a procession from the Parish Hall. Please gather in the Hall from 9.45am.

ALTAR SERVER'S PRACTICE: There will be a meeting of Altar Servers next Saturday 28th March, 2-4pm, to discuss and rehearse the Holy Week Masses and services. All servers should attend, and sign up on the list in the sacristy to indicate which services they will attend over Holy Week.

CHRISM MASS: The Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral takes place on Wednesday 1st April at 7pm. A coach will depart from outside the Church at 5.30pm. If you would like to go please sign up at the back of the Church. We request a donation of £5 per person to defray costs – this will be collected on the day. Please be on time for the coach.

CONFIRMATION: The next Confirmation session will take place this Sunday 22nd March at 4pm in the Parish hall. The following session will be next Sunday at the same time. All candidates must attend.

FIRST COMMUNION: The next session of the First Communion programme will be a practice session on Saturday 18th April at 10am in the Church. Parents and children should all attend this session.

HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: There will be a half-day retreat for all the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in the parish next Saturday 28th March from 9am – 12.30pm. Tea / coffee will be provided.

MASS NEXT SATURDAY MORNING: Please note that next Saturday's morning Mass will take place at 9.00am, and not 10.00am, owing to the retreat taking place that morning for Extraordinary Ministers.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Please note that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will cease from Monday 31st March and resume after Easter on April 13th.

OUR LADY & ST GEORGE SCHOOL VACANCIES: There are currently vacancies in Nursery, Year 2, Year 3, and Year 5. If you are interested in sending your child to a Catholic

school or would like more information about the school before making a decision please contact the school office on 0208 520 8500.

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. Thank you to all those who completed the Gift Aid forms last week; they will be distributed again this week for those who did not have a chance to complete them. This will help us to update our database. The Gift Aid Scheme provides much-needed additional income for the upkeep of the Church and support of our schools. For more information please contact Hana on 07939 485957.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: On Tuesday 24th March, the Vigil of the Annunciation, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. **Pray especially that 'bubble zones' will not be introduced around abortion 'clinics'.** Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. www.goodcounselnetwork.com

WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN (20s and 30s): Theme: discerning God's call in my life. Dates 22nd-24th Mary 2015. Location: Broadstairs, Kent. The weekend is organized by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org

PIANO & ORGAN RECITAL FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: There will be a piano and organ recital at Holy Trinity Church, 185 Hermon Hill, South Woodford on Easter Saturday, 4th April at 7.15pm in aid of the UK-registered charity 'Iraqi Christians in need'.

TEACHERS REQUIRED at St Peter's RC Primary, Dagenham: vocational, happy and energetic teachers needed for September start. Please call the school office and speak to Head Teacher Mr Dan Craft on 0208 270 6524 if interested (Experienced or NQT).

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

John Edgar Palmer, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 25th March at 9.15am.

Cecilia Mary Burnett, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 31st March at 12 noon.

May they rest in peace.

ROTAS – MARCH:

Hospital	1/3 B	8/3 D	15/3 A	22/3 B	29/3 D
Counting	1/3 F	8/3 B	15/3 E	22/3 D	29/3 C
Christian Kitchen	7/3 Nor1	14/3 E	21/3 Nor2	28/3 F	

Last week's collection was £1500.92. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

Sat 21 st Mar	Lenten Weekday
6.00pm	James Harte (RIP)
Sun 22 nd Mar	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)
8.30am	Catherine Murnane (RIP)
10.00am	Famyle Kujtim Reka (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish
6:30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 23 rd Mar	Feria
7.00am	Michael Linehan (RIP)
9.15am	Stella Turay (Ints)
Tue 24 th Mar	Feria
7.00am	Clara Ross Pitts (Ints)
9.15am	Joseph McManus (RIP)
Wed 25 th Mar	The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)
7.00am	Mary & Cris Weir (Ints)
9.15am	John Edgar Palmer (Requiem Mass)
Thu 26 th Mar	Feria
7.00am	Fiona & Steve Robinson (Ints)
9.15am	Bernadette Zovaro & Derek (Ints)
Fri 27 th Mar	Feria
7.00am	Claire Dancaster (Ints)
9.15am	John Luton (RIP)
Sat 28 th Mar	Feria
9.00am	Lina Jose Rino (RIP)
6.00pm	Sheila & Bernard Moss (RIP)
Sun 29 th Mar	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)
8.30am	Frank Murphy (RIP)
10.00am	Ellie & John McGoldrick (RIP)
12.00pm	Martin McCrossan (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, 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, Luis & Lukas.

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)