

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

17th May 2015

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus. The readings recall His final moments on earth before ascending into heaven. The disciples would have felt sadness and perplexity at His departure – it would be difficult to adjust to life without Him physically present. They would miss His human speech, His way of acting, looking, smiling, and of doing good. After the resurrection He appeared to them many times in His risen body and continued to teach them, in preparation for this moment, when He will physically leave them.

Christ ascended to the Father because His earthly mission was complete. He had redeemed humanity by His cross and resurrection, and established the Church to continue His work; as the Gospel tells us, it must 'go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.' Christ has elevated our human nature. At the fall, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and death entered the world, they were told, 'you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' But now, the Redeemer, having taken our human nature to Himself, raises that human nature through His total obedience to God. The Ascension, as the culmination of Christ's life and work, finally places human nature where it was created to be, back in union with God.

Jesus has gone before us to heaven, taking our human nature there, and He assures us that where He has gone, we too can follow. But this requires us to act in conjunction with Him – He cannot save us without our cooperation. Even the Apostles thought that Jesus would do everything for them, 'Lord, are you going to restore the Kingdom to Israel?' and when He disappears they stand gazing into the sky. Jesus makes clear that *they* have work to do: when the Holy Spirit comes upon them they will be empowered to be His witnesses and to go out preaching, not only to Israel, but to the ends of the earth. Jesus built His Church on the foundation of Peter and the apostles; because of their preaching and that of their successors through the ages, we have received the faith.

2000 years later, the work continues. We all have our part to play in carrying out His mission. When we remain in union with Him by keeping the commandments, receiving the Sacraments and staying close in prayer, we receive the power from on high that we need to carry out our roles in making the world holy. Because Christ has Himself entered our human experience, He has sanctified it – whatever honest work we do can make us holy, and influence society for good. The Christian is different because He is called to be Christ in the world. That is the tremendous dignity that you and I have.

Today's feast reminds us that Christ united earth with heaven in His own person. He established the Church, His body on earth, but did not abandon it. On the contrary, He sustains and feeds it, through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that all of the members will receive the grace they need to follow where He, the Head has gone.

So today we join our prayers with the company of heaven, in praising God.

Fr Maurice

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

THIS WEEKEND: PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY: Our fifth Annual Procession in honour of Our Lady will take place this Sunday 17th May at 2pm, beginning at the Upper Site of OLSG School, followed by the walk along Shernhall Street to the Church, where the rosary will be prayed in a number of languages, and Fr Maurice will consecrate the parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All are encouraged to attend.

SCHOOLS: This coming Friday our schools finish for the midterm break. We hope that our students and staff will have a restful break, and pray especially for all our young people currently completing exams.

CONFIRMATION: All Confirmation candidates are expected to attend the Procession in honour of Our Lady this Sunday. There will be a practice session on Monday 18th at 7.00pm in the Church, to which your sponsors are also invited.

FIRST COMMUNION: Congratulations to the 78 children who received their First Communion over the past two Sundays. The children and their families will also participate in the Procession in honour of Our Lady this Sunday. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday 7th June, at 10am, which all First Communion families are expected to attend.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: A reminder to all those who signed up for the pilgrimage to Walsingham next Saturday 23rd May – please be at the Church at 7.30am, as the coach will depart promptly soon after. The journey is long, so we will be unable to wait for latecomers. St Joseph's Parish in Leyton is also organizing a coach, and they have a few spaces left so if you would like to go with them, please ring their parish office on 0208 539 2908.

MASS BOOKINGS: Please note that all weekday Masses are booked until the end of May, and all weekend Masses are booked until mid-August 2015. When requesting weekend Masses, please book at least six months in advance to avoid disappointment. The 6pm Mass on Saturday evening is the most popular, so we recommend requesting intentions for this Mass a year in advance.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: There are currently some slots available for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Mondays, 12-1pm, 1-2pm and 3pm-4pm. We do require at least a couple of people to be present at all times when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. If you are able to commit some time in prayer with the Lord, please leave your details on the sign up sheet by the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, or contact Louella on 07545 625 109.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY: The School of Community is a group that meets weekly for one hour on Thursdays (6.15pm-7.15pm). The aim of the group is to pray together and discern the action of Christ in our everyday lives and show how our faith is relevant in daily life. No formal commitment is required to join the group; participants are free to come, as they are able. For more information contact walthamstow.soc@gmail.com

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The new offertory envelopes are now available in the Church porch. Please take your box if you are enrolled in the Gift Aid scheme. If you are not enrolled Gift Aid, please see below:

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.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: The next meeting will take place on Saturday 23rd May at the Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood, at 2.30pm. Professor Alexandra Walsham (University of Cambridge) will be giving a talk entitled 'Doubting of the Cup: John Payne and a Eucharistic Miracle in Reformation England.'

CITIZENS UK & TELCO CITIZENS: Please take 2 minutes to help a young person get a good job. Vote for TELCO CITIZENS to win funding for Bart's Health Stars apprenticeship project. Deadline May 30th. For more information – **please register to see details of project & vote for us now in the Aviva Community Fund for Barts Health Stars** <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/3948/>

THERAPIST: Fully trained Therapist, Member of BACP working towards Accreditation offering short-term counselling in your area. For an initial enquiry please call Catherine on 07952 977 230.

PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING: PENTECOST SUNDAY at SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, will take place this month on Pentecost Sunday, 24th May 2015, 7.30-9.00pm. Come and celebrate Pentecost with us.

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Boyce Chandisingh, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 29th May at 11am.

May he rest in peace.

ROTAS – MAY:

Hospital	3/5 B	10/5 D	17/5 A	24/5 B	31/5 D
Counting	3/5 E	10/5 B	17/5 D	24/5 F	31/5 E
Christian Kitchen	2/5 Nor1	9/5 B	16/5 Nor2	23/5 C	30/5 D

**The offertory collection for last week was £1688.15
Thank you for your generosity.**

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

6.00pm	Nora & Richard Keane (RIP)
Sun 17 th May	The Ascension of the Lord
8.30am	Remedio Lopes (RIP)
10.00am	Guy Joseph Ngyutin (RIP)
12.00pm	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
6:30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 18 th May	Feria
7.00am	Romeo Rodrigues (RIP)
9.15am	Sinclair Valladares (RIP)
Tue 19 th May	Feria
7.00am	Dick Williams (RIP) & Peter Kempton (RIP)
9.15am	Harry McCoyd (RIP)
Wed 20 th May	Feria
7.00am	Persecuted Christians
9.15am	Francesco Zeppetelli (RIP)
Thu 21 st May	Feria
7.00am	Brigitte Berney (RIP)
9.15am	Leo Rocha (RIP)
Fri 22 nd May	Feria
7.00am	Reeta Singh (RIP)
9.15am	Special Ints
Sat 23 rd May	Feria
10.00am	Ana Marie Puzon (Thanksgiving)
6.00pm	Hannah Goughan (RIP)
Sun 24 th May	Pentecost Sunday
8.30am	Sr Jacinta D'Souza (RIP)
10.00am	Gussie & Joe Kinnane (RIP)
12.00pm	Norris Levine (Ints)
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, 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, Luis & Lukas, Ann Hutton, Comfort Kwawu.

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)