

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Patrick Daly
Fr Joseph Anthiamkulam (Syro-Malabar Chaplain);
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

13th September 2015

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (B)

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks His disciples two questions. First He says, 'who do people say that I am?' This is easy for them to answer; they report what they have heard, 'Some say you are John the Baptist, others Elijah, others again say one of the Prophets'. But Jesus' second question confronts them personally. Who do **you** say that I am? This is harder, because they are now compelled to declare what they believe about Him. They have been with Him a long time and know He is no ordinary man; they witnessed his miracles and have been taught by Him. Peter is the only one brave enough to say what they all know; 'You are the Christ'. Perhaps they were frightened of the consequences of declaring Christ as God: if He truly is the Christ, then they must give their whole lives to Him.

Jesus elaborates on His mission, given Him by the Father. He is destined to suffer grievously, be rejected, suffer, die and rise again. But this is apparently too much for Peter. He is happy with a divine Lord, but not a suffering one. He fails to perceive that, as Isaiah prophesied in today's first reading, Jesus is the suffering servant, who offers no resistance to his murderers, but is obedient to the Father's will, who takes up His cross and goes to Calvary to redeem humanity. Peter is harshly rebuked; 'Get behind me, Satan!' Our Lord calls Peter 'Satan', because he tries to tempt Him away from the cross.

Peter is very human like all of us, and he tries to resist the cross. He is not yet able to face it. But Jesus says, 'if anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross and follow me.' To be a Christian means to take up the cross. Difficulties, sicknesses, sudden crises, personal defects, and family conflicts – all of these form the cross in our daily life. Jesus calls us to bear the burden and follow in His footsteps. He is with us, and gives us the grace we need to endure. We can merit and profit from suffering, if it leads us closer to union with Him. The alternative is to avoid the cross, or to let its weight drive us to despair, or perhaps to refuse to face it. All of these are temptations presented by Satan, who hates the cross. He tempts us to deceive us. It is through the cross that our salvation comes; there is no crown of glory without the cross.

Enduring suffering ourselves can make us more responsive to the sufferings of others, because we come to recognise the suffering Christ in our brothers and sisters who also suffer. The letter of St James stresses that faith without good works is dead. Our faith must move us beyond ourselves.

Jesus does not promise us a rose garden. Being His disciple brings both pain and joy. He himself has suffered, died and risen again. That is the pattern for us too. He does not abandon us. To carry the cross with Him and to forget ourselves is what brings us peace and strength that the world cannot give.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required. Please speak to one of the priests for more information.

BISHOP VISIT: This week Bishop Alan will be visiting both sites of Holy Family College to meet students and staff, and to bless the new Sixth Form Block, which has opened for this academic year.

'ASSISTED SUICIDE' BILL: Many thanks to everyone who contacted their MPs to oppose the Assisted Suicide Bill, and prayed for this intention. The bill was defeated overwhelmingly in Parliament on Friday. Archbishop Peter Smith of Southwark said, 'I welcome Parliament's recognition of the grave risks that this bill posed to the lives of our society's most vulnerable people. There is much excellent practice in palliative care which we need to celebrate and promote, and I hope now the debate on assisted suicide is behind us, that this will become a focus for political action.'

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2015/16: Parents wishing their child to make their First Holy Communion in 2016 must attend the parents meeting on **Monday 14th September 2015** at 8pm in the Church. The child must be in school year 4 or above. Please speak to Fr Patrick for more information.

40 HOURS ADORATION: There will be 40 hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our parish from Saturday 3rd October at 3pm to Monday 5th October at 7.00am. The main intentions will be Family Life, World Peace and Vocations. A list of the intentions for each hour is on the board in the foyer. Please sign up for any hours you will be able to attend.

RCIA (BECOMING A CATHOLIC): The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) group will be starting up again on Thursday evenings at 8pm in the Church meeting room, from 10th September. This group is for people interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, and exploring the possibility of entering the Church. For more information speak to one of the priests.

PARISH BAZAAR: It has been agreed that there will be a parish bazaar on 27th and 28th November. The bazaar planning committee will first meet on Monday 28th September at 7.30pm in the Church meeting room. Anyone interested in helping is very welcome to come to this meeting.

Churchill Estates has already agreed to sponsor the event, with their advertising board scheme. They will donate £10 for each board displayed outside a parishioner's home. To sign up for this scheme, please add your name to the list at the back of the Church.

VOCATIONS GROUP: The next meeting of the vocations group for young people will take place on Saturday 19th September at 3.30pm. All young people from year 6 and above are welcome. We will discuss the call that we all have to holiness, and how this is lived out through marriage, the priesthood, the single or religious life. All young people are welcome.

SYRO-MALABAR FEAST: The Syro-Malabar community is holding a 3-day celebration in honour of Our Lady, beginning on Friday 25th September with Mass at 7pm, followed by novenas and prayers; the same on Saturday 26th September at 7pm, and concluding

with a Procession and cultural programme on Sunday 27th at 2.30pm. For more information see the poster on the noticeboard. All parishioners are welcome to come.

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP: There will be a Quiz night on the 3rd October at 7.30pm; all money raised will go to CAFOD to support refugees. Tickets will be on sale from Saturday 19th September. There is also a climate change petition organized by CAFOD, which is available in the porch if people wish to sign it. There will be a talk on climate change on Sunday 4th October at 6pm in the parish hall.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting of the finance committee will take place on Monday 28th September at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

STATUE OF OUR LADY: During the month of October, the month of the Rosary, a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be available to parishioners to have in their homes for a day. If you would like to have the statue in your home, please contact Louella (07545 625 109) or drop your details into the presbytery in an envelope marked 'Statue of Mother Mary' stating the dates of your choice. Every effort will be made to accommodate your choice where possible.

CONFIRMATION 2015/2016: The new Confirmation programme will start in October. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for more information.

SICK CALLS TO HOSPITAL: In light of strict data protection rules it is important that on entering hospital you tell the nurses that your details or those of your relatives be passed to the Catholic chaplain, if you wish to be visited. We visit the wards during the week and also provide a 24-hour on-call service in case of emergency.

AFRICAN CHAPLAINCY MASS: The annual Mass for the African Communities will take place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark (SE1 7HY) on Sunday 20th September at 3pm. The main celebrant will be Bishop Patrick Lynch. For more information speak to Deacon Joseph.

ROTAS – SEPTEMBER

Hospital	6/9 B	13/9 D	20/9 A	27/9 B
Counting	6/9 C	13/9 D	20/9 E	27/9 D
Christian Kitchen	5/9 Nor1	12/9 E	19/9 Nor2	26/9 F

CONGRATULATIONS: We congratulate Luong The Tran & Harmeet Singh who were married at the Church last Saturday. We wish them all of God's blessings for their future happiness and wellbeing.

RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of

Norman Frederick Testar, whose funeral will take place at the City of London Crematorium on Wednesday 16th September at 4.00pm.

May he rest in peace.

The offertory collection for 5th/6th September was £1359.26.
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	John & Josie Keenan (RIP)
Sun 13 th Sept	Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)
8.30am	Tim Campbell (RIP)
10.00am	People of the Parish
12.00pm	Len Church (RIP)
Mon 14 th Sept	The Exaltation (Triumph) of the Holy Cross
7.00am	J&K Coeur-de-Lion (Thanksgiving)
9.15am	John Hillen & family (Ints)
Tue 15 th Sept	Our Lady of Sorrows
7.00am	Kenney (RIP)
9.15am	Carmel Butler (Ints)
Wed 16 th Sept	Ss Cornelius (Priest) and Cyprian (Bishop)
7.00am	Maurice Kerley (RIP)
9.15am	Padraig Noone (RIP)
Thu 17 th Sept	St Robert Bellarmine
7.00am	Michael Pilby (RIP)
9.15am	Besard Seferi (RIP)
Fri 18 th Sept	Feria
7.00am	Jim Reka (Ints)
9.15am	Ann Kent (Ints), Gordon & Daniel Kent (RIP)
Sat 19 th Sept	Feria
10.00am	Holy Souls
6.00pm	Victoria J Baptiste (RIP)
Sun 20 th Sept	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
8.30am	Eileen Mary Frances Caplehorn (RIP)
10.00am	Tim Campbell (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish

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, Anne Hutton, Comfort Kwawu, Judith Hilton, Gloria and Tracy Joseph.

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. During these times the priest is in the Reconciliation Room, inside the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, to the left. Confessions are also available at other times on request; please call at the house.