

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

25th October 2015

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (B)

If you or I were to go blind, we would no longer be able to perceive colours, shapes, people's expressions, and yet we would have memories of these things from before. I think this would have been the experience of Bartimaeus, the man in today's Gospel, who was once able to see but went blind. He is left isolated and can only beg at the roadside in a desperate state.

In our times many people suffer from a spiritual blindness. Perhaps they once lived or were raised with faith but lost it somewhere along the line. Maybe the ambitions of life and desire for status brought a self-sufficiency that saw no need for God. There are many problems in life that we can solve ourselves, by our own ingenuity and creativity. But the deepest needs of our hearts cannot be satisfied by our own activity, or even by any human relationship. Fundamentally, we need God to touch our lives; in that respect we are all beggars like Bartimaeus.

When Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, his first plea is not for sight, but for mercy. The crowd tell him to be quiet, but he persists. This gives us a good example for our prayer life. In prayer, we humble ourselves before God, asking Him to take pity on us in our weakness; recognising that we cannot help ourselves, we come to Him for healing. Bartimaeus faces opposition from the crowd, and often the same may happen to us when we try to approach Jesus. We could get downhearted or discouraged, and question the value of prayer. But we are called to persist in faith, as he did.

Bartimaeus is called to Jesus and jumps up, throwing off his cloak. This is a symbol of baptism, of putting off our old self, of being clothed anew and walking into the light. Jesus asks the blind man, 'what do you want me to do for you?' Obviously Jesus can see he is blind, but gives him the chance to articulate the deepest needs of his heart, 'Lord, that I may see.' Imagine if Jesus asked you today, 'what do you want me to do for you?' What would you say? Don't stay on a superficial level; think about the healing that Jesus can bring to your heart, where you are hurting the most, where you are most vulnerable, where you are most in need of His steady hand to hold you and to lead you. Our souls all thirst for God, our hearts get bored and restless with the passing things of life. Jesus calls us to go forward with Him, to live our lives always in His company, drawing our strength from Him. As St Paul says in the second reading, Jesus is our High Priest who offers Himself for us, and sympathises with us in our weakness. Instead of relying on our own strength, of trying to prove ourselves, let us emulate the humility of Bartimaeus and ask the Lord to take pity on us. We pray, 'Lord, that I may see!'

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 26th October at 7.30pm in the Church.

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

HALF TERM: This week our schools break up for the half term holidays. We wish our students and staff, and families a restful break. Schools reopen on November 2nd.

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE ROSARY: As October is the month of the Rosary, parishioners have been hosting a statue of Our Lady in their homes for one night each, and praying the rosary together as a family. This will bring many blessings to our parish community, and we thank those who have been involved.

MASS BOOKINGS: Please note that all Saturday 6pm Masses are booked until the end of Jan 2016; 8.30am Sunday Masses are booked until mid-Jan 2016; all 10am Sunday Masses are booked until the end of February; all 12 noon Masses are booked until the start of February. You are requested to submit Mass intentions well in advance of your anticipated date, and we will do our best to accommodate.

RCIA (BECOMING A CATHOLIC): The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) group meets on Thursday evenings at 8pm in the Church meeting room. 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.

PRIMARY SCHOOL VACANCIES: There are currently vacancies in our primary school in Years 6, 3 and 1. Please call the office on 0208 520 3552 (upper site) or 0208 520 8500 (lower site).

RECEPTION INTAKE, OUR LADY & ST GEORGE SCHOOL: If your child was born between 1.9.11 and 31.8.12 they are due to start school in September 2016. To apply to OLSG School, you will need to complete the common application form available at www.eadmissions.org.uk and return to Waltham Forest Admissions by 15th Jan 2016. You will also need to complete the Supplementary Information Form, available from www.olsgweb.org, which needs to be returned to the Lower Site School office by 15th Jan 2016. For more information contact Mrs Moloney on 0208 520 8500.

Parents are invited to look around the school on Wednesday 4th or Thursday 5th November at 10am or 2pm. Parents should telephone the school office and let them know what day and time they would like to come and visit.

OPEN AFTERNOON for Nursery Intake 2016 at OLSG School: Parents and carers are invited to come and have a look around the Nursery and speak to members of the Nursery Team on Thursday 5th November at 2pm. Please ring the school on 0208 520 8500 (option 'Lower Site') to book a place.

SIGNING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS: Fr Maurice will be available to sign primary school application forms at the following times ONLY: Saturday 14th November, 3-5pm and Monday 16th November, 6-8pm, in the Church meeting room.

PARISH BAZAAR: The parish bazaar will take place on 27th and 28th November. The bazaar planning committee will next meet on Monday 9th November at 7.30pm – anyone interested in helping is very welcome to come to this meeting. Raffle tickets continue to be available.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN, praying outside a central London abortion centre (Marie Stopes, 108 Whitfield St, W1T 5EA). Nearest underground stations are Warren Street and Great Portland Street. We will be there every day, including Saturdays and Sundays, from now until Sunday 1st November from 8am until 8pm. Please come and pray with us. Over 10,000 babies have been saved from abortion, 60 abortion centres have been closed down (including one in London), and 118 abortion workers have left the abortion industry. You can be part of this life saving work. Telephone 0207 723 1740, email info@goodcounselnetwork.com or visit www.goodcounselnetwork.com.

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.

JOB VACANCY: All Saints Catholic School, Dagenham are seeking to appoint a business manager. Further details on the post available from Mrs Hartley: 0208 270 4242; email office@allsaintsschool.co.uk

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: 19-24th September 2016, £649. See noticeboard for details or book directly through Pax Travel website www.paxtravel.co.uk. For more information contact Stella on 0208 527 3879.

RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Tony Eastman, whose body will be received into the Church on Thursday 29th October at 4pm, and whose Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 30th October at 12 noon.

We extend our deep sympathy to his family at this time.

May he rest in peace.

ROTAS – OCTOBER

Hospital	4/10 D	11/10 A	18/10 B	25/10 D	
Counting	4/10 C	11/10 F	18/10 E	25/10 C	
Christian Kitchen	3/10 Nor1	10/10 G	17/10 Nor2	24/10 A	31/10 B

The offertory collection for 17th/18th October was £1516.55

Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Joe Murnane (RIP)
Sun 25 th Oct	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Roderick & Dolly Mayers (Ints)
12.00pm	Nicholas & Henrietta Constantine (RIP)
Mon 26 th Oct	St Cedd, Bishop (Secondary Co-Patron of the Diocese)
7.00am	Mary Heagney & Rita Staunton (Ints)
9.15am	Special Ints
Tue 27 th Oct	Feria
7.00am	Holy Souls
9.15am	Dave McElligott (RIP)
Wed 28 th Oct	Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles (Feast)
7.00am	Brendan Beirne (RIP)
9.15am	C. Moise (Ints)
Thu 29 th Oct	Feria
7.00am	Philomena Spranklen (Ints)
9.15am	Jean Carr (RIP)
Fri 30 th Oct	Feria
7.00am	Kristina Klimasauskaite (Ints)
9.15am	Holy Souls
Sat 31 st Oct	Our Lady on Saturday
10.00am	Theresa Kalpee (Ints)
6.00pm	Kristina Coeur-de-Lion (Thanksgiving)
Sun 1 st Nov	All Saints (Solemnity)
8.30am	David & Martin Ciarba (Ints)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Tim Campbell (RIP)

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.