

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

132 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU

Tel: 020 8520 5877 Fax: 020 8520 4805

E-mail: parishoffice@olsg.co.uk

Website: www.olsg.co.uk

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

29th November 2015

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Pastoral Letter of Bishop Alan Williams, sm
For the First Sunday of Advent

As we begin Advent today's Gospel strikes a note of urgency- "Stay awake, praying at all times", whilst our opening prayer asks for the "Resolve to meet your Christ".

During our Advent journey we will look to the examples of John the Baptist who prepared his people for the coming of the Saviour and Mary the Mother of Jesus who received God's Word in complete freedom and love.

Each day in the Divine Office- the official daily Prayer of the Church- we make the prayers of the Baptist and Mary our own: John's mission was to make "known to his people their salvation through forgiveness of all their sins" and it is Mary who "Rejoices in God my Saviour".

John preached to all kinds of people including soldiers and tax collectors who were familiar with the reality and tragedy of human sin but he also witnessed to the loving-kindness of our God which gives light to those in darkness.

In her prayer The Magnificat, Mary talks repeatedly of the mercy of God- "His mercy is from age to age on those who fear him".

During this Advent a Year of Mercy will be inaugurated by the Holy Father on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception- "This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind... When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive", (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, n3).

In any Holy Year pilgrimage always has a special place. It was Pope John Paul II who summed up the whole of life and human history as a "Pilgrimage to the House of God the Father". This year Pope Francis is asking us all to become pilgrims, to walk through a Holy Door- the Door of Mercy- whether in Rome or Brentwood Cathedral, that we might "experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instils hope".

This Advent may we all resolve to meet our Christ anew; in the words of the Venerable Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, "May God preserve you and bless you and grant you all the graces and precious gifts reserved for this holy time".

With all good wishes and continued prayers,

+Alan, sm

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 7th December at 7.30pm.

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

PARISH BAZAAR: Thank you to everyone who was involved in, contributed to and attended this year's parish bazaar, which was a great success. The bazaar is one of the few opportunities for the whole parish to come together and we deeply appreciate your support. The final total raised will be announced in due course; these funds will support the upkeep of the Church, OLSG primary school and their facilities.

WALK WITH ME ADVENT BOOKLETS: This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. The Walk With Me booklets are a good way to prepare spiritually for Christmas. They are available in the repository priced at £1.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: The Parish Reconciliation service will take place on Monday 21st December at 7.30pm in the Church. A number of visiting priests will be available for individual confessions. Receiving the Sacrament of Penance is a wonderful way to prepare for the birth of Christ.

FIRST COMMUNION: The next session of the First Communion programme will take place on Saturday 5th December at 10am. The children meet in the Parish Hall, and the parents will as usual meet in the Lower Site of OLSG Primary School.

CONFIRMATION: The next session of the Confirmation programme will take place on Sunday 6th December, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall. All candidates are asked to arrive on time for a prompt start.

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 – or for adults who may have been baptised but never received First Communion or Confirmation. For more information speak to one of the priests.

NEW CD FOR AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Our parishioner Kristina Coeur-de-Lion has recorded a new CD called *Be Still*, priced at £7. All proceeds will go to Aid to the Church in Need. The CD will be available in the Repository. For more information visit www.jesushopeinmyheart.com

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH: This year's Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch (organized by the SVP St George's Conference) will take place on Sunday 13th December at 3pm in the Lower Site of Our Lady & St George School. Further details and a sign up list for those who would like to attend are on the noticeboard in the porch.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: Clare McCullough who founded the Good Counsel Network almost 19 years ago will be appearing on the Catholic TV station EWTN shortly. Clare talks about the inspiring work of the Good Counsel Network, that is bringing hope to women and saving countless babies' lives from abortion. You can watch episode 5 of *Three Wise Women* on EWTN at 11am on Monday 30th November, 8pm on Wednesday 2nd December or at 00.30am Saturday 5th December 2015. You can watch EWTN on Sky 589 or online www.ewtn.co.uk.

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.

SIGNING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS: Fr Maurice will be available to sign primary school application forms by appointment, or after Masses on Sundays.

VOCATIONS EVENT: Monsignor John Armitage returns to the Diocese to share his adventurous story of the years when he first discerned a call to Priesthood. You are invited to ask him questions and then enjoy a free fish & chips supper. Hosted by Brentwood Vocations; we invite all women and men aged 17-45, especially those discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life, to this "In Conversation with" event, Monday 21st December, 7:30pm, St Edward the Confessor Parish Hall, Park End, Romford, Essex, RM1 4AT. For more details email: eamonn@brentwoodvocations.org

NURSERY INTAKE, OUR LADY & ST GEORGE SCHOOL: For children born between 01.9.2012 and 31.08.2013. Parents wishing to apply for a nursery place for September 2016 can download the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) from the school website www.olsgweb.org or collect it from Lower Site School Office, 140 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU. There will be a choice of full time or part time places term time only. Part Time Hours: Mornings 8.45am – 11.45am; Afternoons 12.15pm – 3.15pm; Fulltime (8.00am to 3.15pm) part funded. Packs are available from the Lower Site School Office from Monday 30th November. The closing date for completed forms is Thursday 11th February 2016. If you have any queries please telephone Mrs Moloney on 020 8520 8500.

MASS TO OPEN EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY: Bishop Alan will celebrate a Mass opening the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, on Tuesday 8th December at 7pm in Brentwood Cathedral, Ingrave Road, CM15 8AT.

HEALING SERVICE on Saturday 5th December at St. Dominic's Church, Harold Hill with Fr. Angelus. Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions available at 10am, Mass & Anointing of the Sick at 11pm, followed by a Eucharistic healing service. Come and experience the healing grace of God!

HEALING MASS at Abbotswick House of Prayer, Brentwood to be celebrated by Fr Eamonn Power at 2.30pm on Wednesday 9th December 2015. Please call 01277 373959 or visit www.abbotswick.org for more information. All are welcome!

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.

ROTAS – NOVEMBER

Hospital	1/11 A	8/11 B	15/11 D	22/11 A	29/11 B
Counting	1/11 D	8/11 C	15/11 F	22/11 B	29/11 E
Christian Kitchen	7/11 Nor1	14/11 C	21/11 Nor2	28/11 D	

The offertory collection for 21st/22nd Nov was £1380.70
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Veronica John-Baptiste (RIP)
Sun 29 th Nov	First Sunday of Advent (Year C)
8.30am	Deceased members of R&S Rodrigues' family
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Joseph & Cynthia Moise (Thanksgiving)
Mon 30 th Nov	St Andrew, Apostle
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Santiago D'Souza (RIP)
Tue 1 st Dec	Feria
7.00am	Sebastiana Cruz De Souza (RIP)
9.15am	Mr & Mrs Sebastian D'Souza (RIP)
Wed 2 nd Dec	Feria
7.00am	Santan D'Souza (RIP)
9.15am	John Joseph Breen (RIP)
Thu 3 rd Dec	St Francis Xavier
7.00am	John & Josephine (RIP)
9.15am	Tim Campbell (RIP)
Fri 4 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Pascal Hayden (RIP)
9.15am	Marie Theresa Kelly (RIP)
Sat 5 th Dec	Feria
10.00am	Joseph Sanches (RIP)
6.00pm	Michael Fitzpatrick (RIP)
Sun 6 th Dec	Second Sunday of Advent (C) (Bible Sunday)
8.30am	Tim Campbell (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Deceased members of Edmunds & Preville families

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, Colin Nye, Padraig Hester.

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.