

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 December 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Today we celebrate *Gaudete Sunday*, the third Sunday of Advent. The word 'Gaudete' means 'rejoice'. Christmas is around the corner, which is a cause for joy; yet there are times we don't feel like rejoicing, or we may feel we have nothing to rejoice about.

Yet, today's first and second readings call for joy in the midst of circumstances that would not suggest it. The prophet Zephaniah in the first reading writes to a people whose country has been invaded and devastated, telling them to shout for joy, be glad and exult. St Paul in the second reading, writing from prison, tells the Philippians to rejoice, and not to worry. In both cases people are being told to be glad even if they feel down in the dumps.

It seems the people in these situations are being told to change their emotions at once. But emotions are not chosen, they just happen. We cannot directly force our emotions to change and make ourselves feel glad if we are not; that would not be genuine. But we all prefer joy to grief, happiness to misery; so how can we change the way we feel?

The answer is that to change our emotions we must first change our attitudes. Our attitudes influence and guide our actions; so the right attitudes will lead to right actions, and joy is a consequence. If, for example, we have a resentful attitude towards others, we will act towards them in a certain way; if our attitude is fundamentally one of forgiveness we will act differently. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist gives his listeners, and us, practical suggestions for changing our attitudes. We are to share with those in need, not to cheat or intimidate others, and are to do our daily work honestly. It is in our ordinary encounters, at work, school and home that our attitudes come into play.

If our lives lack joy, we should look outwards, beyond ourselves, to the needs of others. We experience joy when we bring joy to them, not when we are closed up in ourselves. The people in the Gospel were so moved by John's preaching on the coming Redeemer, that they wanted to prepare themselves, so as not to be chaff, but wheat. There is much chaff in each of us, which we need to be rid of in order to experience joy. If we are mentally lazy, weak of will, attached to sin or individualistic, we should not be surprised if we do not experience joy. For some people, being unhappy can be a deep-seated habit, perhaps fuelled by self-pity. How can we therefore shift towards joy?

The shift will come through charity, from the Latin word *caritas*, meaning 'love'. Love is willing the good of the other. If we will the good of others and choose to act accordingly, the fruit of this will be joy. And the bringing of joy to others is what Christmas is about. What we are preparing for is the choice that God made: instead of punishing, He forgives; instead of rejecting us, He became one of us. Christ gives us joy by giving us Himself, and if we live in Him, that will direct our attitudes and actions. We will then experience joy and radiate it.

Fr Maurice

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

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

SEMINARIAN VISIT: One of our Brentwood seminarians, Paschal Uche, will be staying in the parish from early January until the 24th for a pastoral placement. During this time he will be assisting with parish groups. Paschal previously worked as a lay youth chaplain in Holy Family School, and we look forward to having him with us again. Please keep him and our diocesan seminarians in your prayers as they continue their studies for the priesthood.

SCHOOL BREAK: This Friday our schools break up for the Christmas holidays. We wish our students and staff a restful and happy Christmas.

WALK WITH ME ADVENT BOOKLETS ON SALE: The Walk With Me booklets are a good way to prepare spiritually for Christmas, and are still available in the repository priced, now at a clearance price of 50p.

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, including in Polish, Malayalam and Spanish. Receiving the Sacrament of Penance is a wonderful way to prepare for the birth of Christ.

CHRISTMAS MASS & RECONCILIATION TIMES: A card detailing the times of Masses and opportunities for reconciliation over the Christmas period is available from this weekend. You are encouraged to share these with family members or friends living locally who may have lost contact with the Church.

NEW CHURCH CARPETS: After consultation with the parish maintenance committee and the Church cleaning team, it has been decided that the carpet in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and in the center aisle of the Church will be replaced before Christmas, as the current carpets are quite badly stained and damaged in places. The full cost of the work will be approximately £2800. Any donations towards this cost will be gratefully received.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: The parish Christmas Carol service will take place next Sunday 20th December at 6pm in the Church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. An appeal will be made and a collection taken up for the Brentwood Children's Society.

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. **The group is currently on a break for Christmas but will recommence in the New Year.**

CHRISTIAN FISH T-SHIRTS (BARGAIN): Leftover from the Christmas bazaar are some good-quality T-shirts in ash-grey or plain white with the simple Christian fish symbol on the front. These shirts are £15-£20 on the Internet but the parish Justice and Peace Group is selling them for just £9 including delivery. Proceeds will go towards the parish bazaar fund, so please consider buying one, maybe as a stocking filler for Christmas. Phone Lloyd on 07906 255052 for details. Sizes are M, L, and XL.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will cease from 21st December, and recommence on 4th January 2016.

DIVINE MERCY HEALING SERVICES: The last Divine Mercy Healing Service will be on Sunday 13th December. These will resume on Sunday 9th January 2016.

FIRST COMMUNION: The next session for the First Communion Programme will be Saturday 9th January 2016. As usual the children meet in the parish hall, and the parents in the Lower Site of OLSG School, at 10am.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is Sunday 10th January at 4pm in the Parish Hall. In addition, there will be a Mass of Inscription on Sunday 17th January at 12 noon.

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

OLSG SCHOOL INTAKE: Parents wishing to apply for a **reception** place for their children at OLSG School must do so before 15th January 2016. Parents wishing to apply for a **nursery** place must do so before 11th February 2016. For more information please phone the school on 0208 520 8500. Fr Maurice is available to sign school forms on request.

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.

TIM CAMPBELL RIP: On the 11th December it was six months since the passing of Tim Campbell. Bruce Pereira would like to thank friends and parishioners for their prayers, cards and concern, which have been overwhelming.

RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of two long-standing parishioners:

Jan Zielinski, whose Requiem Mass will take place on
Tuesday 15th December at 10.30am in the Church.

Patrick O'Sullivan, whose Requiem Mass will take place on
Tuesday 15th December at 12.15pm in the Church

May they rest in peace.

ROTAS – DECEMBER

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

The offertory collection for 5th/6th Dec was £1413.39
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Edward Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 13 th Dec	Third Sunday of Advent (C) (<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Liam McGoldrick (Ints)
12.00pm	Armelito Valdez, Aida Rodrigues, Asuncion, Ramon & Edwin Asuncion (Ints)
Mon 14 th Dec	St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Gema Mortell (RIP)
Tue 15 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Lily Mackie (Ints)
9.15am	Audrey Mackie (RIP)
Wed 16 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	John & Mary Staunton (RIP)
9.15am	Michael O'Laughlin
Thu 17 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Michael O'Laughlin
9.15am	Special Ints
Fri 18 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Thanksgiving
Sat 19 th Dec	Feria
10.00am	Thanksgiving
6.00pm	Lila McCusker (RIP)
Sun 20 th Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)
8.30am	John & Margaret McDonagh & family (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, Colin Nye, Pdraig 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.