

# 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

*20<sup>th</sup> December 2015*

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)**

We are now only a few days from Christmas. The readings of today's Mass draw our attention to Jesus' mother Mary, and her crucial role in the work of salvation.

In the First Reading, the prophet Micah announces that from Bethlehem will come the Messiah, the saviour of all nations. The word 'Bethlehem' evokes the place where Jesus was born. And indeed, Micah's prophecy is fulfilled eight centuries later with the coming of Jesus. But for his original Jewish audience, Bethlehem would be well known as the birthplace of King David. When King David ruled, he established Jerusalem as the centre of political and religious life and arranged for the Ark of the Covenant to be brought there.

The Ark of the Covenant was a box containing the pieces of the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written, the rod of Aaron, and pieces of the manna God fed the Israelites in the desert. For centuries the Israelites carried this box with them, they saw it as somehow containing the presence of God. They worshipped before it. David brings this ark into Jerusalem, so it can become the centre of Jewish life. The Book of Samuel describes David dancing with joy as the Ark is brought into the city, and it is later placed in the holy of holies at the centre of the Jerusalem Temple.

With this context, we think about today's Gospel. Mary approaches Elizabeth bearing the unborn child Jesus in her womb. God in the flesh, the Saviour of the World whom Micah foretold, dwells within her. Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant, because she carries the true presence of God in her womb. In the Hail Mary we say, 'Blessed is the Fruit of your Womb'. Just as David leapt and danced before the Ark of the Covenant as it was carried into Jerusalem, in today's Gospel we see the unborn John the Baptist leaping before the Lord.

Today's Gospel is a real scene of joy - two women share in the wonder of miraculous pregnancies, and marvel at the work that God is doing through them, for the salvation of humanity. We are told that, at Mary's voice, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, and her child John leaps in the womb. Wherever Mary goes, she brings Jesus. As she conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary is called the spouse of the Holy Spirit, and if we remain close to Mary, the Holy Spirit can do great things in us.

**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.

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**NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK:** Please note there will be no newsletter next week; the next edition will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** The Parish Reconciliation service will take place **this coming Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 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, and all are encouraged to avail of the Sacrament before Christmas.

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

**MASSES AFTER CHRISTMAS:** Please note that there will be one Mass at 10am on the weekdays after Christmas.

**SEMINARIAN VISIT:** One of our Brentwood seminarians, Paschal Uche, will be staying in the parish from early January until the 24<sup>th</sup> 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:** Last Friday our schools finished up for the Christmas holidays. We wish our students and staff a restful and happy Christmas.

**PARISH CAROL SERVICE:** The parish Christmas Carol service will take place this Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**OLSG SCHOOL SUCCESS:** When the Evening Standard Primary School League Tables were published on 10<sup>th</sup> December we were delighted to see that OLSG was placed 14<sup>th</sup> out of 49 primary schools in Waltham Forest, and was the highest placed school in the Wood Street area (based on the Key Stage 2 results). The governors would like to thank Ms. McGlynn and the Senior Leadership team, all staff, parents, carers and children for their huge efforts during 2015 in bringing about this fantastic achievement.

**NEW CHURCH CARPETS:** The carpet in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and in the center aisle of the Church has been replaced. The full cost of the work is approximately £2800. Any donations towards this cost will be gratefully received.

**MASS OFFERINGS:** Please note that weekday Masses are booked until the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Saturday 6pm Masses are booked until mid-April 2016, Sunday 8.30am Masses are booked until mid-March 2016, 10am Masses until May 2016, 12pm Masses until mid-March 2016. If a requested date is not available, the next available will be allocated. Many thanks for your understanding.

**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.**

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

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

**FIRST COMMUNION:** The next session for the First Communion Programme will be Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm in the Parish Hall. In addition, there will be a Mass of Inscription on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> December, 7:30pm, St Edward the Confessor Parish Hall, Park End, Romford, Essex, RM1 4AT. For more details email: [eamonn@brentwoodvocations.org](mailto:eamonn@brentwoodvocations.org)

**OLSG SCHOOL INTAKE:** Parents wishing to apply for a **reception** place for their children at OLSG School must do so before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Parents wishing to apply for a **nursery** place must do so before 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **ROTAS – DECEMBER**

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

The offertory collection for 12/13<sup>th</sup> Dec was £1337.90

Many thanks for your generosity.

## **Upcoming Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George**

6.00pm	Lila McCusker (RIP)
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)</b>
8.30am	John & Margaret McDonagh & family (Ints)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Tim Campbell (RIP)
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Murray family (Ints)
9.15am	Elliott Anderson Scott, Roderick Alfred Fairy, Douglas Scott (RIP)

Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	James Murray (Ints)
9.15am	Kinnane & Mulhern families (RIP)
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Rose & Paddy   Joe O'Neil (Ints)
9.15am	Anthony Mulvey (RIP)
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Mary Cassidy (Ints)
9.15am	Roseleena & Patrick Murray (Ints)
3.30pm	<b>Christmas Vigil Mass at Whipps Cross Hospital Chapel</b> Staff and Patients of Whipps Cross Hospital (Ints)
6.30pm	<b>Christmas Family Mass</b> Sean McKenna (RIP)
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>The Birth of Jesus Christ the Lord (Solemnity): Christmas Day</b>
12.00am	<i>Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.30pm):</i> Parish (Ints)
8.30am	Special Intentions
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Philip & Esther Mitchell (60 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>St Stephen, the First Martyr</b>
10.00am	Danny Lewis (RIP)
6.00pm	Christine Walton (RIP)
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (C) (Feast)</b>
8.30am	Marie Green (Ints)
10.00am	Anna Harvey (Ints)
12.00pm	Parish
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>The Holy Innocents (Feast)</b>
10.00am	Roy Walker (RIP)
Tue 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>St Thomas of Canterbury (Bishop, Martyr)</b>
10.00am	Audrey Mackie (RIP)
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Sixth day within the Octave of Christmas</b>
10.00am	Bernadette Obika (Ints)
Thu 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b>Seventh day within the Octave of Christmas</b>
10.00am	Kathy & Micky Ogles (Ints)
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	<b>Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)</b>
12.00am	<i>Midnight Mass:</i> Parish
10.00am	Special Intentions
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	<b>Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, (Bishops, Doctors of the Church)</b>
10.00am	Christine Walton (RIP)
6.00pm	Kelly Moss (RIP)
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)</b>
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Susan Brady (Ints)
12.00pm	Margaret Mkemaa (Ints)

**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.