

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

3rd January 2016

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The word epiphany means a revelation or the sudden dawning or realisation of something. The epiphany being recalled today is that Christ came for all people, all nations, and all cultures. In our preparations for Christmas, we hear the prophets foretelling the coming of Christ, as the Saviour of the Chosen People, being born as one of them. But this feast is a further development, showing us that Christ came not only for the Jews, but to redeem everyone, and to offer eternal life to all.

St Paul alludes to this in the second reading, speaking of the mystery that has now been revealed; what emerged through the Jewish people is now available to everyone; hence, as he says, the pagans share the same inheritance, they are part of the same body.

This is demonstrated by the coming of the pagan wise men 'from the East', in today's Gospel. They fulfil what Isaiah spoke of in the first reading, following a light and searching for the Lord, seeking to worship Him. In our day, the wise men represent men and women who are honestly seeking God through the various world religions and philosophies, but who have not yet found the Lord. God can make use of the elements of truth that reside in many of these philosophies and religions to lead people to the fullness of truth. The wise men were led to transition from paganism to worshipping the child Jesus. As well as the long journey they made to Bethlehem, they also made a journey within their hearts to faith in the Lord.

Many people in our time are, deep down, similarly seeking the Lord, but the culture in which we live is very confusing and can be fraught with dangers. The wise men encountered a number of difficulties on their journey. Upon entering Jerusalem, they proceed first to the palace of Herod, expecting the new King to be born in luxurious comfort. But the reality does not fit their expectations, and in seeking Him here, they get off the track and temporarily lose sight of the star. Moreover, they face the deception of Herod, who in his jealousy wishes to eliminate the child.

Our spiritual lives can be similar; our own illusions and expectations, as well as the snares of the enemy can lead us off-course. For the wise men, it was the prompting of the Holy Spirit, speaking through the prophecies of Scripture that get them back on track to Bethlehem, and they rejoice when, on leaving Herod's palace, the star reappears. We too must be open to the Holy Spirit speaking to us, through scripture, through the Church, and in our conscience, to guide us through the difficulties of life, moving us ever closer to Christ.

The wise men display a certain holy cunning. They have a spiritual shrewdness, which enables them to recognise danger and avoid it; they do not go back to Herod, but avoid him. These wise men teach us how to defend ourselves from the shadows that seek to consume us. It is easy to be tempted and misled by deceptive voices of the so-called enlightened and sophisticated world in which we live. Faith is a gift and we have to guard it, by means of holy cunning, and prayer, love and charity. We aim for simplicity, but also need to be astute: as Jesus told His disciples, 'Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.'

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.

CHRISTMAS 2015: We would like to thank all those who helped to make our Christmas celebrations such joyful events. Special thanks to all those who prepared the Church beforehand and took part in the Masses – the cleaners, flower arrangers, those who prepared the crib, choir, musicians, altar servers, readers, extraordinary ministers, ushers, collectors, etc. and to who came to join in the celebrations.

Frs. Maurice, Patrick, Joseph and Deacon Joseph would like to thank all parishioners for their cards, presents and generous Christmas offerings.

SCHOOLS REOPEN: This week our schools recommence after the Christmas break. We wish our students and staff God's blessings for a productive and successful term.

SEMINARIAN VISIT: One of our Brentwood seminarians, Paschal Uche, will be staying in the parish from next week until the 24th January 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.

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. Parishioners are asked to please help keep the new carpets in good condition, to take care not to spill wax on or otherwise stain them or to walk on them with muddy shoes. Thanks for your cooperation.

VOTIVE CANDLES: Parishioners wishing to light votive candles (near the icon of Our Lady), please note that a donation of 30p per candle is requested to cover costs. If lighting multiple candles, please be considerate of others. Thank you.

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 will recommence this coming Thursday 7th at 8pm.**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will recommence from Monday 4th Jan.

DIVINE MERCY HEALING SERVICES will resume on Sunday 9th Jan.

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. Please keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

MASS OFFERINGS: Please note that Mass intentions for weekday Masses are booked until the 8th 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.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING: There will be an afternoon training session for all altar servers on Saturday 6th February at 2pm in the Church meeting room. The session will discuss all aspects of serving, and will focus on the development of the servers, to give greater confidence in carrying out their very important duties. At the 6pm Mass on that day, a number of servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen and will receive medals in recognition of their service. **All current servers are requested to make every effort to attend.** Any young person who has made their first communion and would like to join the servers is very welcome to come along. We thank Jason our MC for his leadership.

VOCATIONS GROUP: The next meeting of the vocations group will be on Saturday 13th February at 4pm in the Church meeting room. This group is open to all young people, and we discuss how the Christian life is lived through marriage, priesthood, religious and single life.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Many thanks to all parishioners who purchased a copy of *Be Still*, Kristina Coeur-de-Lion's latest CD. A total of £421 was raised and all proceeds will go to Aid to the Church in Need.

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.

ROTAS – JANUARY

Hospital	3/1 A	10/1 B	17/1 D	24/1 A	31/1 B
Counting	3/1 B	10/1 D	17/1 F	24/1 C	31/1 D
Christian Kitchen	2/1 Nor1	9/1 G	16/1 Nor2	23/1 A	30/1 B

RIP:

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Rose Magry who died recently.
Her Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 15th January at 12 noon.
May she rest in peace.

The offertory collection for 19th/20th Dec was £1413.12
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Kelly Moss (RIP)
Sun 3 rd Jan	The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Susan Brady (Ints)
12.00pm	Margaret Mkemaa (Ints)
Mon 4 th Jan	Feria of Christmastide
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Pat Sullivan (RIP)
Tue 5 th Jan	Feria of Christmastide
7.00am	Pat McKenna, Peg Burchell, Teresa McGahren
9.15am	Christine & Seamus (Ints)
Wed 6 th Jan	Feria of Christmastide
7.00am	Margaret & John Moore (Ints)
9.15am	Robert Stinton (RIP)
Thu 7 th Jan	Feria of Christmastide
7.00am	John Francis McHugh (RIP)
9.15am	Joseph & John Mills (Ints)
Fri 8 th Jan	Feria of Christmastide
7.00am	Alan Finnegan (RIP)
9.15am	Mary Quinn (Ints) & Colm McGrath (Ints)
Sat 9 th Jan	Feria of Christmastide
10.00am	Eileen McStoy (Ints)
6.00pm	Sr Anne Marie (Ints)
Sun 10 th Jan	The Baptism of the Lord (C) Feast
8.30am	David & Martin Abraham (Ints)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	John & Alice D'Arcy (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, 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.