

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

10th January 2016

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season. Tomorrow we begin 'Ordinary Time' in the Church's calendar and go back to green vestments. But this is not an ordinary year. Pope Francis has called an extraordinary jubilee year dedicated to the theme of mercy. It began in December and continues until November 2016.

The Year of Mercy was marked with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. The idea of a Holy Door dates from the 15th century; it is a special door in the major churches of Rome, which are ceremoniously opened only during jubilee years, and the faithful can receive special graces (indulgences) by visiting the Churches and going through them. But we needn't travel to Rome: Pope Francis asked that all Dioceses in the world designate a door for the Year of Mercy – and both Brentwood and Westminster Cathedrals have one. During this year, it would be good for us to visit one of these cathedrals and go through the door of Mercy.

The door is the means of entry into a place; it marks the crossing of a threshold, a transition from outside to inside, a movement into a new space. In many ways, going through a door is symbolic of Baptism. Baptism is the door by which we enter into the life of God.

Baptism is the key theme of today's Gospel, which describes the baptism of our Lord. Jesus is without sin, and has no need for the baptism of repentance that John preaches. Nonetheless, he undergoes baptism in solidarity with us sinners. When Jesus is baptised, the Father affirms Him as the beloved Son and the Holy Spirit descends upon Him. When we are baptised, we are drawn into this life of the Trinity. God in His goodness dwells within us and we become temples of the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus opens the door of salvation to us, and by our Baptism, we pass through that door.

But during our lives we often fail to retain the grace of God, that is, His divine life, in us. Serious sin can kill the life of grace in us. But the wonderful thing, which is being stressed in this year of Mercy, is that through repentance, the mercy of God can restore us to the life of grace. When we fall short and lose the life of grace, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession / Penance), is the way that we experience God's mercy, and become a new creation again. Mercy is the tender love of God for the sinner who seeks Him.

As we head into Ordinary Time, do not miss the extraordinary opportunities being offered. Seize the moment! The doors of mercy are open to us; let us not be afraid to walk through.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 25th January at 7.30pm in the Church.

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

WEEKDAY MASSES FROM 18th JAN: From 18th January, for three weeks, there will be **only one weekday Mass at 9.15am** (i.e. no 7am Mass). 7am Mass will resume on the 8th February.

SEMINARIAN VISIT: One of our Brentwood seminarians, Paschal Uche, is staying in the parish 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 are blessed to have 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.

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.**

FIRST COMMUNION: The next session for the First Communion Programme will be Saturday 16th January 2016, at which the children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Parents and children are asked to be seated in the Church by **9.45am.**

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this 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. The Confirmation candidates are asked to arrive at 11.30am on this day. 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.

OLSG SCHOOL: A reminder for parents that the closing date for all Reception places for September 2016 is Friday 15th January 2016. Please ensure that you complete both the Supplementary Information Form (required by the school) and the Common Application Form (required by the Borough). If you need any further information please telephone the school office on 020 8520 8500

YEAR OF MERCY MASS: As part of the Year of Mercy, Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral would like to invite all those men and women who are separated, divorced, remarried or who are experiencing difficulties in their marriage to come to the Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese, and join the Cathedral parish community at Mass on Sunday 17 January at 6.30 pm. The preacher will be Mgr Gordon Read, the Chancellor of the Diocese.

MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES: On Sunday 7 February at 3 pm, Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass at Brentwood Cathedral in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Patroness of our diocese and all who are ill. Join the bishop to pray for our diocese, anyone who is ill and if you have a devotion to the shrine of Our Lady at Lourdes. This Mass is a wonderful opportunity to thank Our Lady for graces received at the shrine or should you be planning to make a pilgrimage.

ORDINATION OF BR. PIUS COLLINS, O.PRAEM: The ordination of Br. Pius to the priesthood will be celebrated at Our Lady Immaculate, Chelmsford, (178 New London Rd, Chelmsford CM2 0AR) on Monday 1st February at 7.30pm. If you would like to attend the ordination please email office@olichurch.co.uk or phone 01245 352 898.

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 Magri 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 2nd/3rd January was £1662.50.

Standing orders for recent months were as follows:

Sept: £1116.85; Oct £1456.85; Nov 2015 £1384.85; Dec £1109.85

Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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)
Mon 11 th Jan	Feria
7.00am	Special Intentions
9.15am	Sr Mary (Ints)
Tue 12 th Jan	Feria
7.00am	Alice Bacon (Ints)
9.15am	Sean O'Keefee
Wed 13 th Jan	Feria
7.00am	Jose & Bridget Monks (Ints)
9.15am	Kathleen & Bertie Coleman (Ints)
Thu 14 th Jan	Feria
7.00am	Fr Maurice Gordon (Ints)
9.15am	Fr Patrick Daly (Ints)
Fri 15 th Jan	Feria
7.00am	Nicola & Jason Brunton (Ints)
9.15am	Radhika Sesha (Thanksgiving)
Sat 16 th Jan	Feria
10.00am	Mrs Sesha & family (Ints)
6.00pm	John William Turvey (RIP)
Sun 17 th Jan	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30am	Patrick Joseph Geelan (RIP)
10.00am	Rodar & Dolly (Ints)
12.00pm	Parish

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.