

# 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

## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016** **First Sunday of Lent (C)**

My Dear People,

Moses addressed the people, "My father was a wandering Aramaean..." These words we heard in the first reading became a formula that the people regularly recited in the temple, a shared story, perhaps the oldest part of the Old Testament. It tells how the Lord accompanied his people on a journey and was always with them through change and challenge until he brought them to a new land.

This theme of the closeness of God is taken up in the second reading. "The word is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart."

Discerning together the future of our diocese involves storytelling and listening. We need to listen to each other's stories of how God has worked in our lives; and is still accompanying us. In sharing our stories we then begin to write together a new narrative.

Moses' words united the people. He articulated what they all held in common, - Faith in God who had always been with them. Jesus, too, filled with the Holy Spirit, was led on a journey by the Spirit, through trials and temptations but he, like Moses, knew that God was with him.

Next year, 2017, our diocese will mark its 100th anniversary. We have a shared story, which we will be retelling in various ways as part of the celebrations. And like the people of God who have gone before us, we can't stay still! Society and the world around us has changed; we have changed. The Gospel story stays the same but where and how we re-tell it brings new and exciting challenges.

After the Synod on the Vocation and Mission of the Laity some years ago Pope Saint John Paul II talked of the need to develop, "Dialogue and discernment... consultation and collaboration with the lay faithful, women and men". The Diocesan Strategic Planning Group was formed last year to begin to address this.

Now we would like to appoint "Stewards of the Gospel", one individual in each parish, who together with parishioners and local clergy, will listen to the people and then be part of the collaboration between clergy and laity in writing the next chapter of the story of the Diocese.

They will assess the resources available at local level in order to maximize opportunities for evangelisation and sacramental provision. The intention is that these individuals would volunteer their time and their talents to work closely with the clergy and parishes as part of the diocesan planning process. Comprehensive training and support will be made available to the Stewards in order to prepare them for their important role in their parishes.

What Will It Involve? The Stewards will:

...continued overleaf

- Form a parish consultation group with the support of the Parish Priest - Listening to people's stories
- Assess the resources of the parish in association with the consultation group and clergy
- Liaise with the diocesan planning group on the outcomes of the parish group meetings
- With the priest and people, form a vision and plan for the future of their parish, - the writing of the next chapter.

Who Should Volunteer? A job description is on the flyer inserted in your newsletter. If you meet most or all of the criteria and would like to know more, please speak to your Parish Priest.

We have just begun a wonderful "Season of great grace" and I wish you all a happy and holy Lent.

With all good wishes,  
+ Alan Williams SM  
Bishop of Brentwood

**BAPTISMS:** By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Church.

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

**PRAYING FOR, AND PLANNING THE FUTURE OF, OUR PARISHES.** Please read the inserted flyer in today's newsletter. Let us pray for the spread of the Gospel and our work in proclaiming the Good News. If you have skills and experience in managing change, please speak to your Parish Priest about the role of "Steward of the Gospel".

**PRAYER:** Merciful Father, author of creation, your Spirit enriches our world. Through your Son, who shares our humanity, you have called us to participate in your divine creativity and to build the kingdom of God here on earth. Form us, we pray, as one community under the leadership of our Bishop Alan, to serve the people of our Diocese of Brentwood.

Inspire us to discover new ways to spread the joy of the Gospel. Open our eyes to see Christ in others, especially the poor, the sick and the marginalized. Empower us to be the hands and feet of Christ in our parishes and communities. Help us to welcome all into His embrace.

Guide us in our discernment. Help us to choose wise Stewards of the Gospel who will work in each parish to see new paths of possibility: for a spirit of mission that invigorates our every effort; and for the strength to be unafraid of what is new.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**LENTEN 'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS:** *Walk with Me* is a prayer and scripture journey for Lent and Easter. The booklets contain a brief reflection, either on the scripture readings of the day or on a catechetical theme. The beauty about *Walk with Me* is the size of the booklet (it's an ideal fit for a pocket or handbag), and is written in a simple and accessible style. Price £1 available from the repository (in the porch).

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** during Lent take place in the Church on Friday evenings at 7pm.

**HEALTH & SAFETY:** Please would any parishioner with Health and Safety or Fire Prevention experience make themselves known to Fr Maurice or Fr Patrick.

**FAMILY FAST DAY:** Next Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February is the CAFOD family fast day. Donation envelopes are included in this week's newsletter, should you wish to contribute.

**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.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** The next session for the First Communion Programme will be Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February. As usual the children meet in the parish hall, and the parents in the Lower Site of OLSG School, at 9.45am.

The allocations of First Holy Communion Masses have now been completed. Details are available from Fr Patrick.

**CONFIRMATION:** The next session for the Confirmation programme is next Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Please keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

**GIFT AID QUERIES:** Any parishioner with queries/issues/requests relating to Gift Aid, or wishing to join the scheme should please email [finance@olsg.co.uk](mailto:finance@olsg.co.uk). Gift Aid allows the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated, at no additional cost to the giver.

**NURSERY PLACES AT OLSG PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL:** We have extended our closing date until Friday 18th March 2016 for our September 2016 intake. Parents with children born between 01.09.2012 – 31.08.2013 can apply for a place in our Nursery. We have full time (cost involved) and part time places (15 hours per week free). For further information or to get an application pack either download the form from our website [www.olsgweb.org](http://www.olsgweb.org) or call into the school office. Alternatively you can telephone the school office on 020 8520 8500 option lower site for further information.

**DIOCESAN YEAR OF MERCY EVENTS: SPRING: *Wrestling with forgiveness*** - Saturday 5th March, 10.30am - Bishop Emeritus, Thomas McMahon  
All events take place at Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. Telephone: 01277 265 285. Email:[lisagunther@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:lisagunther@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**ORDINARIATE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM / PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING CHINGFORD:** Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Evening Prayer (Evensong) & Benediction – 6pm. On Tuesdays during Lent: Mass at 7.30pm (Divine Worship Missal); 8.00pm Stations of the Cross.

**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 – FEBRUARY***

Hospital	7/2 <b>D</b>	14/2 <b>A</b>	21/2 <b>B</b>	28/2 <b>D</b>
Counting	7/2 <b>F</b>	14/2 <b>E</b>	21/2 <b>D</b>	28/2 <b>F</b>
Christian Kitchen	6/2 <b>Nor</b>	13/2 <b>D</b>	20/2 <b>E</b>	27/2 <b>F</b>

The offertory collection for 7<sup>th</sup> February was £1389.67  
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Sheila, Bernard Moss (RIP)
Sun 14 Feb	<b>First Sunday of Lent (C)</b>
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Paul Kyauka (RIP)
12.00pm	Jacqueline Keavey (RIP)
Mon 15 Feb	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Gertrude Charles (Ints)
Tue 16 Feb	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Sr Angela (Ints)
9.15am	Bernard Carey (RIP)
Wed 17 Feb	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Antoinetta Clare (Ints)
9.15am	Tony Keane (Ints)
Thu 18 Feb	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Pat McKenna (Ints)
9.15am	Margaret Moore (Ints)
Fri 19 Feb	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Alice Kehoa (RIP)
9.15am	Mercy A Ojunwoke (Ints)
Sat 20 Feb	<b>Feria</b>
10.00am	Conrad Custodio (RIP)
6.00pm	Mary Callanan (RIP)
Sun 21 Feb	<b>Second Sunday of Lent (C)</b>
8.30am	Bernard Finney (RIP)
10.00am	Mary Pride (RIP)
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, 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, 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, Pdraig Hester, Regina Jose, Tony Keane

### **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.