

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Patrick Daly
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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 28th February 2016

Third Sunday of Lent (C)

The readings for today, the Third Sunday of Lent, present an urgent call to repentance; to recognise and acknowledge God's infinite power and glory, compared to our human weakness and sinfulness, and to seek His help and guidance in all the events of our lives.

Moses in the first reading speaks to God who is present in the Burning Bush. God commands Moses to take off his shoes as the place where he stands is holy ground. Moses has to humble himself in the presence of God, and to recognise his littleness in the sight of God. Taking off his shoes makes him vulnerable; he cannot walk as confidently in this way. We too must recognise our vulnerability in the presence of God. We are not in control of events. When Moses asks God for His name, he is told 'I Am who I Am'; God cannot be controlled by us. It is only in humble acceptance of God's position that He can work through us. In this way, Moses humbled himself and was chosen to fulfil God's plan to lead the enslaved Israelites out of Egypt.

Looking at our human condition in the light of God's sovereignty is the first step for repentance. When we see and experience suffering and natural and human disasters, we are also reminded of the urgency for repentance. St Paul in the second reading speaks about the sufferings of the Israelites in the desert, and in the Gospel the crowds ask Jesus' opinion on a massacre that Pilate has authorised in the Temple. It is not that these tragedies were caused by those people's sins; tragedies can strike at any time, and accidents do happen. We know how fragile human life is. Every time someone close to us dies, we are reminded of the shortness of life. One thing we all have in common, no matter who we are, or how distinguished we are, death will come to all of us.

That is why Jesus asks the crowds whether the people who were killed by Pilate were greater sinners than anyone else – they were not, but their time was up. Thus he tells everyone to repent, while they have the chance; in other words – while they are still alive.

The fig tree in the Gospel is a metaphor for repentance. For three years the owner comes to it and finds no fruit, and is inclined to cut it down. The gardener says he will leave it one more year, give it some help and manure it, and if it does not produce fruit the next year, will have it cut down. The fig tree represents our souls, which should produce good fruits. For this to happen, we need the disposition to let ourselves be worked on, to be humble enough to turn to God, accepting that we are sinners in need of grace and forgiveness. Then we can be renewed and begin to show good fruits.

We are now half way through Lent. We know how fast the time is passing; we have barely finished Christmas and we are now at the start of March. The call for us is not to delay our conversion. We have here and now an opportunity, the graces given by another Lent, to come back to the Lord and strive to do His will again.

It is important to remember that God is not absent from our sufferings. He came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ to suffer in love for us, that we might unite our sufferings with His, and in that way receive His grace and strength.

We are all in need of His grace and strength. It takes humility to admit that. St Paul says in the second reading that even 'the man who thinks he is safe must be careful he does not fall.'

The purpose of repentance is to receive the forgiveness of God, and peace in our souls. As the psalm today says, 'It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave.'
Let us seize the opportunity that Lent offers us to repent and turn back to God. **–Fr Maurice**

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 29th 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.

LENTEN TALKS: There will be DVD screenings of some of the main catechetical (teaching) talks from the recent Eucharistic Congress in the Philippines, which will take place in the Church Meeting Room over the next few Sundays, starting this weekend. The recorded talks will be as follows:

1) 'The Eucharist: Celebration of the Paschal Mystery' – Bishop Robert Barron. Sunday 28th February at 7pm.

2) 'The Eucharist: Dialogue with the Poor and the Suffering' – Cardinal John Olorunfemi Inaiyekan. Sunday 6th March at 7pm.

3) 'The Eucharist and the Dialogue with Cultures' – Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle. Sunday 13th March at 7pm.

Each talk is just over 1 hour in length and will be followed by a short time of discussion.

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

CHRISM MASS: The annual Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral will take place on Wednesday 23rd March. At this Mass the priests of the Diocese gather with the Bishop to renew their priestly promises, and the Bishop will bless the oils, which are distributed to each parish and used in celebration of the sacraments. A coach will depart from outside the presbytery at 5.15pm, returning by 9.30pm. Next week a list will be available on the noticeboard to sign up. A contribution of £7 per seat is requested to cover travel costs.

UPCOMING PARISH MISSION: We intend to have a Parish/School Mission from the 11th – 15th July 2016. The mission will be a week of talks and prayer aimed to renew us in faith and to reflect particularly on the gift of God's mercy, during the current year of mercy. Fr Soji Olikkal and a team of helpers will facilitate the week. Please keep an eye out for further announcements.

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 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 this Sunday 21st February at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Please keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE FOUNDATION GOVERNORS: Could you be a Foundation Governor at Holy Family? We currently have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor on the governing body of the school. Foundation governors must be practising Catholics who are appointed to ensure that the school works in accordance with the aims of the Catholic Church and fulfils its mission statement. We would welcome expressions of interests from parents, or others, who have skills useful to the governing body. We would be particularly

interested in anyone with skills and experience in project management, legal or financial work, marketing, school improvement work, experience with young people. You may not be able to serve yourself but perhaps you know someone who can. If so, do encourage them to get in touch. Remember too that common sense and life experience are also valuable skills for governors to have.

If you would like to have an informal discussion about this role then please contact the Headteacher, Dr Stone, by email a.stone@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk, or call the main school phone number, and ask to speak to the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Fray (0208 520 0482).

AFRICAN MISSION MEETING: African Catholic Mission Meeting will be held on Sunday 6th March 2016 at 2.30pm for 3pm prompt at St. George's Catholic Church Meeting Room. The main item for discussion is the Pan-African Annual Mass to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the introduction of African Ministry in London, which is to be celebrated by Archbishop Peter Smith of Southwark. Members of the African Communities are cordially invited to attend in their numbers.

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. Gift Aid allows the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated, at no additional cost to the giver.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: Clare McCullough talks about the inspiring Pro-Life work of The Good Counsel Network that is bringing hope to women and saving countless babies' lives from abortion. You can watch episode 5 of Three Wise Women on EWTN at 11am on Monday 7th March, 8pm on Wednesday 9th March or at 00.30am Saturday 12th March 2016. You can watch EWTN on Sky 589 or online www.EWTN.co.uk. For more information about The Good Counsel Networks life changing and lifesaving work see; www.goodcounselnetwork.com

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 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

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

The offertory collection for 21st February was £1198.96
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Richard & Nora Keane (RIP)
Sun 28 Feb	Third Sunday of Lent (C)
8.30am	Boyce Chandisingh (RIP)
10.00am	Nazir Khiljee (RIP)
12.00pm	Johnny Neylon (RIP)
Mon 29 Feb	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Bruno D'Souza (RIP)
Tue 1 Mar	St David
7.00am	Christopher Chase-Currier (Ints)
9.15am	Marie Foley (Ints)
Wed 2 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Christopher Chase-Currier (Ints)
9.15am	Sareh Kelly (Ints)
Thu 3 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Christopher Chase-Currier (Ints)
9.15am	Marie Foley (Ints)
Fri 4 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Christopher Chase-Currier (Ints)
9.15am	Malachy Hynes (RIP)
Sat 5 Mar	Feria
10.00am	Christopher Chase-Currier (Ints)
6.00pm	Tina Horn (RIP)
Sun 6 Mar	Fourth Sunday of Lent
8.30am	Agnes Byrne (Ints)
10.00am	Bridie Lacon (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, 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, 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.