

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 7th February 2016 **Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**

Today's readings show us what happens when God unexpectedly breaks into people's lives. He shakes the foundations, and life is never the same again. While praying in the temple, Isaiah has an overwhelming vision of the holiness of God. This vision cuts him to the heart, because he sees clearly his own sinfulness, and that of the people. St Paul in the Second Reading reminds the Corinthians of what Christ has done for them; he died for their sins and rose from the dead. Like Isaiah, St Paul was cut to the heart when he met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul reflects on this invasion of grace, and sees himself as the 'least of the apostles' because he used to persecute the church. Again, in the light of God, he sees clearly his own sinfulness. Finally, in the Gospel, Jesus steps into Peter's boat without permission, and starts to give orders. Peter obeys the command to put out the nets, even though as a professional fisherman, he has caught nothing all night. And when Peter obeys, they are all astounded by the size of the catch. Suddenly Peter recognises who it is that has worked this miracle, and, falling to his knees he says, 'Leave me Lord, I am a sinful man.'

In these accounts, Isaiah, Paul and Peter have one thing in common. When faced with the light of God's goodness, they clearly see their own sinfulness. This is the experience of all the saints; the closer they get to God, the more they see their inadequacies. The bright light of the sun shows up the dirt on the windows. This is surely the experience of all of us too, as we strive for holiness.

Seeing our own sinfulness should not depress us, but should shake us and bring us to repentance. As the Lord burst into the lives of Isaiah, Paul and Peter, he invades our lives in the hope that we will change and cooperate with his grace. Isaiah was able to go out as a messenger for God, saying 'Here I am, send me!' Paul, once a persecutor of the Church, was able to go out and preach the Gospel with great conviction. Peter was able to leave everything and become a fisher of men.

Isaiah, Paul and Peter all have an encounter with God, which moves their hearts to repentance, and lead them to forget themselves and follow the Lord. We might ask: in what way can we encounter the Lord? Jesus gave us the gift of Himself in the Eucharist as His way of remaining with us, and sustaining us.

I have just returned from the Philippines where I attended the 51st Eucharistic Congress, a large international gathering, which takes place every four years in a different country, to commemorate and celebrate the great gift of the Eucharist. Over 1 million people took part, and at one Mass, 5000 children received first communion. I remembered and prayed for you all when I was there.

Coming to Mass, to be in the presence of the Lord, to encounter Him, and to receive Him into our souls, should be the highlight of our week. As with Isaiah, Paul and Peter, the Lord really has the power to transform us. His grace breaks into our lives, convicts us of our sins, offers forgiveness for them, and gives us a mission.

None of us is a Catholic only for ourselves. Our faith must be shared, and lived. We all have the ability to reach people that others cannot; in our own circles at work, family, friends etc. The Eucharist provides us with the nourishment and the energy that we need in order to carry out the mission that God has for 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY: This coming Wednesday 10th February is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. **Masses on this day will be at 7am, 9.15am and 7.30pm.** The Church emphasizes the penitential nature of Ash Wednesday by requiring us to fast and abstain from meat on this day. Catholics over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means eating only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in between. Catholics who are over the age of 14 are required to refrain from eating any meat. The fast does not apply to the sick, pregnant or nursing mothers.

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).

7AM WEEKDAY MASSES: The weekday 7am Mass resumes from Monday 8th February.

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 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 this Sunday 7th February at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Please keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The finance committee will meet this Monday 8th February at 8pm in the Presbytery. All members are kindly requested to attend.

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.

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.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE – 19th SEPTEMBER 2016: Please note due Knock being at full capacity, at this time, we are now taking final bookings for this

Pilgrimage. Please book via Pax Travel, www.paxtravel.co.uk or contact Stella 02085273879. All details on parish noticeboard. Thank you.

DIOCESAN YEAR OF MERCY EVENTS: SPRING: *Meeting the God of Mercy through the Sacraments* Saturday 13th February, 10.30am - Fr Martin Boland. ***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

CURRICULUM SUPPORT TO RAISE ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT OF PUPILS AT KS1 & KS2: The Marian Mission Educational and Family Support Centre is offering curriculum support in Maths & English to pupils of varied abilities at these key stages every Saturday during term time from 11am – 1pm. The London Borough of Waltham Forest funds the project. Places are limited. Registration form is available at the centre: 1 Colchester Road, Leyton, London, E10 6HA. Call 02085187499 or 07940143545

STUDY DAY WITH FR NICHOLAS KING SJ

Fr Nicholas King, well-known biblical scholar, will lead a study day at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH on Saturday 12th March from 10.30 until 3 p.m. The topic of the day will be 'The Helplessness of God'. Biblical texts will be explored to help us reflect on leadership and authority in the Church. The day is free, and tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch. It is essential to book your place and this should be done by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com

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

RIP: Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Cecil Hinds, who died recently. His funeral service will take place at the City of London Crematorium on Thursday 11th February at 3pm.
May he rest in peace.

The offertory collection for 31st January was £1248.24
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Bill Green (RIP)
Sun 7 Feb	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Katie Browne (RIP)
12.00pm	John Monaghan (RIP)
Mon 8 Feb	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Colin Nie (RIP)
Tue 9 Feb	Feria
7.00am	John Joseph Hayden (RIP)
9.15am	Jane Francis Nanyunja (Ints)
Wed 10 Feb	Ash Wednesday – Day of Fasting and Abstinence
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Fletcher family (RIP)
7.30pm	Parish
Thu 11 Feb	Our Lady of Lourdes
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Very Rev. Canon P. Prendergast (RIP)
Fri 12 Feb	Feria
7.00am	Ann Ryan (RIP)
9.15am	Bridget Larkin (RIP)
Sat 13 Feb	Feria
10.00am	Sarah Louise Payne (RIP)
6.00pm	Sheila, Bernard Moss (RIP)
Sun 14 Feb	First Sunday of Lent
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Paul Kyauka (RIP)
12.00pm	Jacqueline Keavey (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, 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

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.