

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 13th March 2016

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

The readings of our Mass this Sunday all focus on the theme of moving forward and making a new start, of leaving the past behind and going forward in co-operation with Christ.

Today's Gospel is the account of the woman caught in adultery. Although the woman has committed sin, we should consider the corruption of the Scribes and Pharisees, who are not really concerned about the Law or the woman's wellbeing, but derive pleasure from condemning and humiliating her. In their corruption they also try to trip Jesus up. Jesus answers with that famous line, 'if there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' He bends down twice to write on the ground; this disarms them, and gives them time to think and something serious to think about: they are made to look at their own sins.

Eventually, only Jesus and the woman remain. In justice, He himself could have stoned her, as He is without sin. But he does not condemn her. In this situation, the woman in her extreme misery encounters the Face of Divine Mercy. Jesus says, 'go away, and do not sin anymore.' Jesus does not condone her sin, but He loves her and wants her free of it. So he tells her to go on her way but to leave the sin behind. In other words, He begins something new for her, and she leaves renewed.

This episode is repeated every time someone comes to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They come to the Lord, bearing the burden of sin and guilt, and may well be miserable too. But Jesus is present in that sacrament, loving each penitent, and longing to free him or her from the sins that bind them, and make us new again. When we lose the grace of Baptism, it can be restored through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is crucial that as Catholics we make use of this Sacrament, because it is an encounter with the Lord Himself.

We will have our parish reconciliation service on Tuesday 22nd March at 8pm and many priests will be available. Confessions are also available in the Chapel on Saturday mornings at 10.30 and Saturday evening at 5pm, and at other times on request. It does not matter what we have done or how long it has been: grace, forgiveness and peace are available if we wish to change. As St Paul told the Philippians, he does not try for perfection by his own efforts – but he relies on Christ. St Paul knows that it is an on-going process; he says 'I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me'. We too are running the race of this present life, hoping to share in the power of Christ's resurrection.

As we draw near the end of Lent, we are called to turn away from our sins and once we have, to forget the past, striving ahead and upwards to fulfil the purpose for which God created us, and which He won for us through his death and resurrection.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 4th April 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 have been video screenings of some of the main catechetical (teaching) talks from the recent Eucharistic Congress in the Philippines, taking place in the Parish Hall over the Sundays of Lent. The final talk will be as follows:

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

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER CARDS: Cards with the dates and times of the Holy Week & Easter Masses and Services are now available. Please take one for yourselves and also for friends and family who may have lost contact with the Church.

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

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: The Lenten Reconciliation service will take place on Tuesday 22nd March at 8pm in the Church. A number of visiting priests will be available to hear confessions. Parishioners are strongly recommended to avail of the Sacrament of Penance before Easter.

CHRISM MASS: The annual Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral will take place on Wednesday 23rd March, and a coach will depart from the Church on that day at 5.15pm. If you are attending please be on time. A donation of £7 per seat is requested to cover costs.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The finance committee will meet on Monday 14th March at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are requested to attend.

LENTEN BREAKFAST: OLSG school will be holding a Lenten Breakfast on Wednesday 16th March on the Upper Site, from 7.30am-8.30am. Families and friends from both sites are welcome to join, and the cost is £1.50 per person. Proceeds will go to CAFOD.

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS' ROTA: The names of those parishioners covering Palm Sunday and the Easter Triduum are now up on the noticeboard. Please tick your name to confirm you are still able to participate. Readers are requested to be at the services at least 15 minutes in advance to check their readings.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this Sunday 13th March at 4pm in the Parish Hall.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: There will be no Eucharistic Adoration from Monday 21st March. Adoration will recommence on 4th April.

NOVENA FOR DIVINE MERCY: The Novena for Divine Mercy will commence on Friday 25th March (Good Friday) at 7pm, followed by prayer around the cross. The Novena on Holy Saturday (26th March) will be done privately. From Easter Sunday (27th March) to the following Saturday (2nd April), Novenas will be at 7pm.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO DOOR OF MERCY, BRENTWOOD: To mark the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis asked each diocese in the world to designate a 'Holy Door' in the local Cathedral, and invited the faithful to visit these doors, to obtain the indulgences and graces available during the jubilee year. Our Parish will be going to visit the Holy Door at

Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 28th May, and a coach will be booked. Further details will be available soon.

UPCOMING PARISH MISSION: There will be 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.

DOCTORS NEEDED FOR DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes would like to increase further the medical cover it provides for its pilgrims. If you are a doctor, please consider joining the pilgrimage this year (14-19 August). Your care of our pilgrims is greatly needed, will be greatly appreciated, and is immensely rewarding. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Cathy O'Connor on 01206 501 146 or email cathy@brentwoodlourdes.org

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.

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.

RIP:

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of:

Margaret Perry, whose body will be received into the Church on Monday 21st March at 5pm.
Her Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 22nd at 11am.

Fr Ivor Morris, an Ordinariate priest, formerly based at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Chelmsford, who died recently. His Requiem Mass will take place at Blessed Sacrament Church, 116 Melbourne Ave, Chelmsford CM1 2DU on Wednesday 16th March at 11am.

May they rest in peace

ROTAS – MARCH

Hospital	6/3 A	13/3 B	20/3 D	27/3 A
Counting	6/3 E	13/3 C	20/3 F	27/3 E
Christian Kitchen	5/3 Nor	12/3 G	19/3 A	26/3 B

The offertory collection last week was £3527.69. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Parish
Sun 13 Mar	Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)
8.30am	Catherine Murnane (RIP)
10.00am	John Edgar Palmer (RIP)
12.00pm	Reggie Jose (Ints)
Mon 14 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Rose Allen (RIP)
Tue 15 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Rose Allen (RIP)
9.15am	Dermot O'Leary (Ints)
Wed 16 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Sr Rosario (Ints)
9.15am	Martin, Tony & James McDonough (RIP)
Thu 17 Mar	St Patrick, Bishop, Apostle of Ireland (National Feast)
7.00am	Tony Keane (Ints)
9.15am	Elizabeth McGann (RIP)
Fri 18 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Joe & Annie Murtagh (RIP)
9.15am	Mich Murtagh (RIP)
Sat 19 Mar	St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
10.00am	John Teahan (Ints)
6.00pm	James Harte (RIP)
Sun 20 Mar	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (C)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Hilda Collett and family (Ints)
12.00pm	Berlynda Moise (Ints)

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.