

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 20th March 2016

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (C)

Today, Palm Sunday, we enter Holy Week. The Passion account contains many contrasts and contradictions. We have the betrayal of Judas versus the loyalty of Jesus; the boasting of Peter versus the humility of Jesus. We see the cowardice of the disciples versus the faithfulness of Jesus. We see the violence and mockery of the soldiers versus Jesus' patience and silent endurance of suffering. In the opening Gospel today we heard the crowd shouting 'Hosanna in the highest', and yet five days later on Good Friday, they shout 'crucify him!'

How can human beings be so fickle, so quick to change? Where are we in all of this? It is easy for us to try and draw a line between 'good people' and 'bad people'; we might say the crowd cheering for Jesus on Palm Sunday was 'good' and those calling for his crucifixion 'bad' – but in reality they were the same people. Categorising people into 'good' and 'bad' in this way does not work.

A Russian writer named Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn spent some years in one of Stalin's forced labour camps. Many of the prisoners were innocent and many of the guards were brutal, so initially he thought the prisoners were 'good' and the guards 'evil'. But over time he came to see that some of the guards were capable of kindness, and some of the prisoners could be very cruel. In this way he determined that there are not 'camps' of good and bad people, but that 'the line between good and evil runs through every human heart.'

Thus, each one of us capable of good, and also capable of evil. We are not so different from the many characters in the passion; at times we are good, but we are also capable of unfaithfulness, betrayal, malice, violence, mockery, ridicule, slander, envy etc.

So reflecting on the passion should move us to examine our own hearts and recognise what is evil within us, and bring it to Christ for healing. If we want to compare ourselves to anyone, let us compare ourselves to Him – then we will perceive what real goodness is.

Holy week is a very fitting time to examine our consciences and to bring to the Lord whatever is dark and bitter within us. In the Sacrament of Penance, which will be available in our Church on Tuesday evening at 8pm, we experience the Mercy of God poured out for us. Receiving this sacrament regularly, we obtain the grace and strength needed to more often and more easily do what is right, taking Christ as our model. In this way we will be able to more easily reflect His love in the world, and draw others to Him.

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.

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

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: The Lenten Reconciliation service will take place this coming Tuesday 22nd March at 8pm in the Church. We selected the time of 8pm to give people a chance to come after work. A number of visiting priests will be available to hear confessions in different languages. The languages available will be Polish, Spanish, French, Swahili, as well as English. Parishioners are strongly recommended to avail of the Sacrament of Penance before Easter, so don't miss the opportunity. There are leaflets available in the porch, which can help parishioners prepare for this Sacrament.

CHRISM MASS: The annual Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral will take place this coming Wednesday 23rd March, and a coach will depart from the Church on that day at 5.15pm. All seats are now filled; if you are attending please be punctual. If you signed up but are now unable to attend, please cross your name off the list, to make your space available to others.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: This Thursday our schools close for Easter. We wish our staff and pupils a happy and restful Easter break.

EASTER VIGIL: FOOD DONATIONS: At our Easter Vigil (Saturday 26th March, 8pm), 12 people will be baptised or received into the Church. After this celebration, we hope to have some food and drink served in the Church meeting room, to welcome the new members of our community. Donations of food and drink will be gratefully received; if you are able to donate something, please indicate this on the sheet in the Church porch. Many thanks.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The new sets of offertory envelopes are now available. Registering to donate to the parish via the envelopes allows the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 given, at no extra cost to the giver. This makes your generous donations go further, and supports the upkeep of the Church and its buildings, and our schools. If you would like to register for the Gift Aid scheme, or have any questions about it, please contact Joan on 07950 249 988.

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS' ROTA: The names of those parishioners covering 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 20th 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.

May she 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 £1483.10. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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)
Mon 21 Mar	Monday in Holy Week
7.00am	Special Intentions
9.15am	Elizabeth Carroll & family (Ints)
Tue 22 Mar	Tuesday in Holy Week
7.00am	Eileen Martyn (RIP)
9.15am	Christine Angland (Ints)
Wed 23 Mar	Wednesday in Holy Week
7.00am	Domingo Villaroel (RIP)
9.15am	Maureen Bee (RIP)
Thu 24 Mar	Maundy Thursday
8.00pm	<i>Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - Margaret Perry (RIP)</i>
Fri 25 Mar	Good Friday
3.00pm	<i>Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord</i>
Sat 26 Mar	Holy Saturday
8.00pm	<i>Easter Vigil - Parish</i>
Sun 27 Mar	The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday)
8.30am	Natalie Rosario (Ints)
10.00am	Deceased relatives of Monica Paul (RIP)
12.00pm	Tim Campbell, Elaine Francis, Christine Walton (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, 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.