

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Patrick Daly
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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 27th March 2016

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (C)

Today we join the Church throughout the world in celebrating the great Solemnity of Easter. As we look back on the events of Holy Week, in the light of the Lord's Resurrection, we gain new insights into all that has happened. The anguish, pain and darkness of Holy Thursday and Good Friday give way to renewed hope and purpose. What is the reason for this? It is that Christ has defeated sin and death.

But we are also aware that the struggle between good and evil continues. Evil often seems to have the upper hand, and death remains a certainty for each one of us. Our lives can be held captive by powers greater than our own. We can be enslaved by the power of habitual sin. Other times, our disappointments, our envies and engrained attitudes seem insurmountable.

Yet, as Cardinal Hume said, 'the great gift of Easter is hope, because death and sin can never have the last word.' The Resurrection gives our lives a different perspective. Through the power of the Risen Lord, we face the difficulties and challenges of our lives, knowing we have His help and grace available to sustain us.

When the reality of Christ's resurrection became clear to His disciples, their lives were transformed. Likewise, whatever crosses we have to carry, whether bereavement, sickness, relationship difficulties, work problems, faith struggles, we know we are not alone – the Risen Christ is with us and has the power to draw light out of the darkness. So we are never without hope, if only we trust in Him.

It can be easy for us to lose hope today, in the midst of the many complicated challenges and threats our society faces. We ourselves can be attracted by glitter and glamour, leaving little time to reflect on the deeper questions: 'why am I here?' 'where am I going?'. In a world in which everything is instant and tangible, we can find it difficult to believe in things we cannot see.

We think then of our Lord's words to St Thomas after the resurrection, 'You believe because you see me: blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.' In today's second reading, St Paul tells us, 'you must look for the things in heaven, where Christ is, not seeking the passing things of life, but look beyond the grave, look beyond the empty tomb.'

Easter brings us a deep awareness that renews our hope, because we know and believe that Christ has won the victory for us over sin and death. On this Easter Sunday, let us receive this deep love in gratitude.

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.

THANK YOU to all those who prepared for and participated in our services over Holy Week and Easter. Your contributions are deeply appreciated. Many thanks also for your ongoing prayers and support – Frs. Maurice, Patrick, Joseph and Deacon Joseph wish you and your families a blessed and happy Easter.

CONGRATULATIONS: At the Easter Vigil, we welcomed Cardine, Fatmata, Herry, Judith, Rebecca, Eugenia, Helen, Katie, Maggie, Rajkumar, Janet and Natalya into our community as fully initiated Catholics. We congratulate them and ask God's blessings upon them and their families as they take this important step in entering the Church.

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. The group will recommence again after Easter. For more information please speak to one of the priests.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Please note there will be no 7.00am Masses next week. There will instead be one daily Mass at 10.00am.

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 began on Good Friday and takes place every evening at 7pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel until the feast of Divine Mercy, Sunday 3rd April.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION: The feast of Divine Mercy is on Sunday 3rd April. Adoration and confessions will be available from 1.30pm on that afternoon, concluding with Mass at 4pm.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY – FR THOMAS BYLES: Sunday 17th April is Vocations Sunday. This year our diocese points us to the example of Fr Thomas Byles (pictured), who was a priest of the diocese (Parish Priest in Ongar, Essex, ordained in 1902). Fr Thomas was asked to celebrate his brother's wedding in New York and so on the 10th April 1912 he boarded the Titanic. On the morning of Sunday 14th April he preached a sermon referring to prayer and the sacraments as being lifeboats back to God. When the ship hit a large iceberg later that same day, and began to sink, he made his way to various decks, helping people board the lifeboats, hearing confessions, giving absolution, praying the rosary and preparing people to meet God. Fr Thomas refused offers of a place in a lifeboat, sacrificing his life so that others would be saved, and enabling him to help those left on the ship. Eyewitnesses said they heard Fr Thomas praying with the people on the ship as it was sinking into the icy depths. Fr Thomas' brother William later travelled to Rome and met Pope St Pius X, who described Fr Byles as 'a martyr for the Church'. In April 2015, Fr Graham Smith, current Parish Priest of Ongar, with the support of Bishop Alan, initiated the first steps towards declaration of Fr Byles as a Saint. On Vocations Sunday we will have prayer cards to distribute detailing Fr Thomas life and praying for his beatification. May he inspire us; especially our young people to give their lives in service of God.



CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is on Sunday 10th April at 4pm in the Parish Hall.

MASS INTENTION BOOKINGS: Please note that intentions for weekday Masses are now booked up until 5th May. Sunday 8.30am Masses are booked until June, 10.00am Masses until mid-August, 12pm Masses until June, and Saturday 6pm until the end of May.

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.

PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY: The annual Parish May Procession in honour of Our Lady will take place on Sunday 22nd May, starting at 2pm at the upper site of Our Lady & St George School. More details will be available soon, but please save the date.

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.

WOODFORD GREEN BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: Do you have counseling / listening skills? Are you looking for a worthwhile use for these in a voluntary capacity? A bereavement support group has been based at the parish of St Thomas of Canterbury (Woodford Green) for more than 20 years and in that time has supported many people through one-to-one support and annual events including a Service of Remembrance in November, an afternoon tea in the summer, and a service for bereaved parents, which is held in the spring. Three years ago a monthly support group was introduced, and we are looking to extend our support team. If you feel you have skills you could offer, please call Angela Barnes on 0208 505 0356.

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 soul of Hannah Higgins, whose body will be received into the Church on Thursday 14th April at 5pm. Her Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 15th 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 £1758.75. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Sat 26 Mar	Holy Saturday
8.00pm	<i>Easter Vigil</i> - Parish
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)
Mon 28 Mar	Monday within the Octave of Easter
10.00am	Brian Sapa (RIP)
Tue 29 Mar	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
10.00am	Darren Rodrigues (Ints)
Wed 30 Apr	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
10.00am	Special Ints
Thu 31 Apr	Thursday within the Octave of Easter
10.00am	William Balfe (RIP)
Fri 1 Apr	Friday within the Octave of Easter
10.00am	Deceased relatives and friends of Angelina Hoareau
Sat 2 Apr	Saturday within the Octave of Easter
10.00am	Sr Perpetua (Ints)
6.00pm	Colm McBennett
Sun 3 Apr	Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Kitty & Richard Mackey (Ints)
12.00pm	Guy Joseph Ngyutin (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.