

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 10th April 2016 **Third Sunday of Easter (C)**

Today's Gospel shows Jesus forgiving and restoring His apostles, after most of them had abandoned Him during his Passion. They've gone back to their old livelihood, fishing, and perhaps they are feeling dejected and regretful after all that has happened. They are now not even able to catch any fish.

As the night passes away, Jesus is there on the shore. He tells them to put out their nets, and they produce a miraculous catch, by which they recognise Him. Jesus could have scolded the apostles for their lack of faith, and for abandoning Him, but He instead shares a meal with them, and so gently draws them back to Himself, restoring them to communion and friendship. He dispels any awkwardness or shame they may be feeling.

Peter, in particular, had much to be ashamed about. He had boasted, "Lord, even if all these others abandon you, I will never abandon you", shortly before three times denying he knew Jesus. Here, Jesus gives Peter the chance to repent and to repair their relationship by affirming his love three times, and so undo the triple denial. Peter makes the full response 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you' - and he is given the mission to feed the Lord's lambs and sheep.

This responsibility, to tend the Lord's flock, will require of Peter that he lay down his entire life in imitation of His master. In the First Reading, we hear Peter and the other apostles, now filled with courage, proclaiming the Gospel to the people of Jerusalem. They give a summary of the Good News: that Jesus came to save sinners, was put to death unjustly, but raised to life on the third day, and that forgiveness of sins comes through Him. The apostles had personally witnessed all of this, and spoke as authentic witnesses 'filling all of Jerusalem' with their teaching.

This first reading shows us that faith in Jesus Christ is not just a private matter, it is meant to be shared. We do not bow to the standards of the world in accepting or compromising with evil, but at the same time, the way in which we share our faith is important. Just as Jesus was gentle with His apostles in restoring them, we too should generally be gentle with other people, talking about and explaining our faith calmly and lovingly. In that way we will attract them, and so become apostles ourselves, bringing others to the Lord.

We need to ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of courage to help us with this, because faith today is generally side-lined, or treated like a hobby. But if Jesus Christ is the Truth, as He said He is, then He has something to say and to offer every single person, and we may well be the only means by which He will reach those in our circles.

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.

SCHOOLS REOPEN: This week our schools reopen for the summer term. We wish our students and teachers a happy and productive term.

FINANCE MEETING: The next meeting of the parish Finance Committee will take place on Monday 11th April at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are requested to attend.

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

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 following the Easter break this Thursday 14th April, at 8pm.

AFRICAN CHAPLAINCY MEETING: The next meeting of the African Chaplaincy group will take place this Sunday 10th April at 3pm in the Church. Deacon Joseph will lead the meeting, and all members of the African communities are invited to attend.

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS ROTA: The new rotas for the Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are now available in the Church porch. Readers are requested to be at Mass at least 10 minutes early to check their readings.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS PHOTOGRAPHERS: A professional photographer has been arranged for all of the First Holy Communion Masses. They will provide a photograph of the child, the child and priest, and the immediate family on a CD for a total cost of £20. You can contact Joanne Thompson on 07894 692 403 for further information.

COLLECTION COUNTERS: The parish is in need of some volunteers to assist on with counting the weekly collections, on a rota basis, once every 5 weeks for a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon. If you have any experience with handling money, or finance, please speak to Fr Maurice.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The new sets of offertory envelopes are now available. Please collect yours if you are registered for the scheme. 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.

FREE STRING INSTRUMENT CONCERT: A group of local string-playing friends (East London Strings) conducted by Tony Gamage, and including our parishioner Chris Gundry, is putting on a free, easy-on-the-ear concert of light classics, next Saturday 16th April at 7.30pm at St Mary's in the village (8 Church End, E17 9RJ). They will be playing Elgar's *Nimrod*, John Rutter's *Suite for Strings*, and an Abba medley together with works by composers including Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Rimsky-Korsakov. There will be interval refreshments and a retiring collection to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Guide Dog Association. No need for booking or tickets: just turn up!

5-DAY SUMMER BIBLE STUDY RETREAT, AYLESFORD: The Book of Revelation; 22-26 August 2016. Fr John Jesus Maloney will be leading a 5-day summer Bible session in the beautiful Aylesford Friary. Come and Study the Book of Revelation. During the course Fr John will walk through the whole book in 10 phases with two classes per day. Participants will learn what all the mysterious figures and images of Revelation represent and how the whole book reveals to us the mystery of the Catholic Mass. There will be daily Mass, adoration and rosary – it promises to be a time of deep spiritual renewal. Full board from coffee on Monday afternoon to tea on Friday afternoon: Single room £315, shared room £301, senior citizens (over 65), £297. Book before 31st May 2016 by phoning 0203 664 9760 or emailing forestgate@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

GLOBAL CATHOLIC TV NETWORK - EWTN: Are you getting EWTN Catholic television and radio? It's free and easy to access! EWTN is a global Catholic television and radio network packed with Catholic teaching, events, discussion, news, family entertainment, conversion stories, saints' lives and more. View live Catholic events from around the world, including the Holy Father's weekly audience and Sunday Angelus from Rome. EWTN is available through numerous means, including Sky TV (channel 589), and online. For more information, and a live stream, visit www.ewtn.co.uk.

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:

Hannah Higgins, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 15th April at 10am.

Elizabeth Carroll, a longstanding parishioner, who died last week.

Her funeral arrangements will be announced later.

May they rest in peace

ROTAS – APRIL

Hospital	3/4 A	10/4 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 for last week was £1427.37. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Tommie Higgins (RIP) and deceased members of the Higgins family
Sun 10 Apr	Third Sunday of Easter (C)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Pat O'Sullivan, Brendan, Lily, Louie and Marie (Ints)
12.00pm	Margaret Messenger (RIP)
Mon 11 Apr	St Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr
7.00am	Elizabeth Carroll (RIP) and family (Ints)
9.15am	Christopher Chase-Currier (Ints)
Tue 12 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Swan Kwok (Ints)
9.15am	Tessie Kalpee (Thanksgiving)
Wed 13 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Maureen Bee (RIP)
9.15am	Malcolm & Julia (Ints)
Thu 14 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Larry Mills (RIP)
9.15am	Joanna Whitney & family (Ints)
Fri 15 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Sr Patrick (Ints)
9.15am	Anne Hutton (Ints)
Sat 16 Apr	Feria
10.00am	Patty Garland (RIP)
6.00pm	Sheila & Bernard Moss (RIP)
Sun 17 Apr	Fourth Sunday of Easter (C) [World Day of Prayer for Vocations]
8.30am	Sybil Fergus (Ints)
10.00am	Dick Doughty (RIP)
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.