

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 17th April 2016 **Fourth Sunday of Easter (C)**

'My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me', says Jesus in today's Gospel reading. The theme of today's Mass is Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and we are His sheep. We might not like the idea of being a 'sheep' - it could imply we are dumb or just follow blindly. Of course, unlike sheep, each one of us has an intellect and will, and so we are not just dumb animals. But in other ways, we often do act like sheep without a shepherd: lost and wandering, vulnerable to attack by many destructive forces and voices, human and demonic. We experience fears and failures, disappointments and confusion, physical and psychological wounds, and the reality of sin and death. We might try to hide our weakness and vulnerability behind a facade of confidence and ego, but in reality we are often confused, afraid and threatened, like sheep.

But once we acknowledge our human condition, we can be joyful, because we know that we have a Good Shepherd, and that we belong to Him. The second reading speaks about the 'huge number, impossible to count of people tribe from every nation, race, tribe and language', who are in the presence of the Good Shepherd in heaven. Each one of us is called to follow the Good Shepherd's voice and so to join them one day. While the flock is huge, we are not lost in the midst of it; He knows and loves each one of us individually. That is why our Good Shepherd also became the Lamb; He became one of us, to sacrifice Himself, like the Passover lamb, to save his flock. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Today is also Vocations Sunday, so we pray for many men and women to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and to lay down their lives for Christ's sheep. Our Diocese puts before us the example of Fr Thomas Byles, who was parish priest of Ongar, Essex, in our diocese, ordained in 1902. Fr Thomas was asked to celebrate his brother's wedding in New York, and so on 10th April 1912, he boarded the Titanic with a £13 second-class ticket. On Sunday 14th April 1912 he preached a sermon referring to prayer and the sacraments as being lifeboats back to God. That very night the ship hit a large iceberg and began to sink. In the two and a half hours it took the ship to sink, Fr Thomas made his way to various decks, helping people board the lifeboats, comforting and encouraging them, hearing confessions, giving absolution, praying the rosary and preparing people to meet God. He repeatedly refused to board a lifeboat himself, sacrificing himself so that others could be saved - in body and in soul. He prayed and sang with those who couldn't find a place on the lifeboats. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Fr Thomas' last sermon spoke of prayer and the sacraments as lifeboats back to God. If we want to follow our Good Shepherd, Jesus, we need to know His voice. How do we come to know the voice of Jesus, amongst all the other voices that clamour for our attention? As Fr Thomas said, it is through prayer and the Sacraments and teaching of the Church that we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and remain close to Him. If we do not make time to pray, with words, but also in silence, we will never be able to hear His voice.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 23rd May. Godparents are also encouraged to attend.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required. Please speak to one of the priests for more information.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS: Today is Vocations Sunday and so we will hold a special Holy Hour, with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Sunday 17th April at 4pm in the Church. We will be praying especially for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE: The next meeting of the parish Premises and Maintenance Committee will be on Monday 18th April at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are requested to attend.

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 is now booked to depart the parish at 11am. Upon arrival we will go through the Holy Door, then have lunch. After lunch, confessions will be available, Mass will be celebrated at 3pm and we will return to Walthamstow by 5pm.

A list is now available at the back of the Church to sign up. We request £8 per seat, collected on the day, which includes a small donation to the Cathedral for use of its facilities. All attending will need to bring a packed lunch. The coach has 53 seats.

PARISH MISSION PLANNING GROUP: The Parish Mission planning group will next meet on Monday 25th April at 7.30pm in the Church meeting room.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is next Sunday 24th April at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Please continue to keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 stores, 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.

COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATE: Are you a computer science graduate interested in training as a teacher? Do you have a good degree in Computer Science, 2:1 or above? Are you interested in re-training to become a teacher of Computer Science? If so please contact Mrs Sam Gillary on 0208 504 3419, ext. 170 or email sam_gillary@fc.tchs.uk.net 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.

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 £1689.71. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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
Mon 18 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Patty Garland (RIP)
Tue 19 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Peter & Amal Raffo (Ints)
9.15am	Franklin family (Ints)
Wed 20 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Margaret Burke (RIP)
9.15am	Emily Murphy (Ints)
Thu 21 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Agnes Okotie (RIP)
9.15am	Jack Browne (RIP)
Fri 22 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Mary Bannow (Ints)
9.15am	Della Rodrigues (RIP)
Sat 23 Apr	St George, Martyr, Patron of England (National Solemnity)
10.00am	Romeo Rodrigues (RIP)
6.00pm	Adeline Rosario (RIP)
Sun 24 Apr	Fifth Sunday of Easter (C)
8.30am	Della Rodrigues (RIP)
10.00am	Caoimhe 'Kefer' McCulloch (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.