

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 24th April 2016 **Fifth Sunday of Easter (C)**

The readings of today's Mass speak to us about new life, new creation.

The second reading comes from the last chapter of the last book of the Bible, the Apocalypse. When you or I are gripped by an exciting novel or drama, we cannot wait to get to the end, to find out how the story ends. This reading from the Book of Revelation is the climax of the story of salvation history. All the books of the Bible form a coherent whole, telling the story of man's creation, fall, and redemption. Today's second reading gives a glimpse of the world to come, a glorious new heaven and new earth.

But this story is not yet complete. In fact, we are living it in the here and now because God continues to work through his people. The image of the new Jerusalem coming down 'out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband' (Rev 21:2) is a direct reference to the Church. Even now, God comes to dwell among us in His Church. The Eucharist we celebrate foreshadows the eternal banquet, when we receive the Eucharist we receive the new life of the Risen Christ, which makes our hearts more receptive to the workings of God in us. This is a continuous work; God is never finished with us!

We all have sufferings and hardships to endure, as Paul and Barnabas did in the first reading. Paul said 'we all have to experience many hardships before we enter the Kingdom of God.' But God is continually working even in the most difficult situations of life – drawing good from evil. The recent bombings at Brussel's airport, showed some of the worst aspects of human nature and the response showed some of the best. While suffering is still a painful mystery, and there is no easy answer, we have the hope, that, as the second reading puts it, in the new heaven and new earth all tears will be wiped away. There will be no more death, no more mourning or sadness.

To establish this new heaven and new earth, Jesus gives us a new commandment in the Gospel

"Love one another, just as I have loved you." The more we live this commandment, the more the world is transformed into His likeness.

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.

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.

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.

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

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this 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 meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Church meeting room.

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.

Next Sunday, Masses for First Holy Communion candidates commence. 65 young people will receive the Sacrament at Masses over the next two weekends; 30 April & 1 May and 7 May & 8 May. Please keep these children and families in your prayers.

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.

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.

Funeral announcement

Please pray for the soul of Elizabeth Carroll who died a few week ago. She was a long standing parishioner of the our community. Funeral arrangements will be announced later on. May she rest in peace +

Change of Mass time for Monday 25 April 2016

Our school and parish are celebrating our parish feast day this Monday 25 April by having a Mass at 10:15am. Please note there will be no 9:15am Mass on Monday as a result.

The offertory collection for last week was £1365.42. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Adeline Rosario (RIP)
Sun 24 April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)
8.30am	Della Rodrigues (RIP)
10.00am	Caoimhe 'Kefer' McCulloch (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish community
Mon 25 April	ST MARK, Evangelist
7.00am	Bruno D'Souza (RIP)
*10.15am	Mgsr Zachary D'Souza (RIP)
Tue 26 April	Feria
7.00am	Rego D'Souza (RIP)
9.15am	Lazaro D'Souza (RIP)
Wed 27 April	Feria
7.00am	Sr Jacinta D'Souza (RIP)
9.15am	John Lopes (RIP)
Thu 28 April	Feria
7.00am	Elizabeth Lopes (RIP)
9.15am	Bonafilia Fernandes (RIP)
Fri 29 April	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, V, D
7.00am	Romano Fernandes (RIP)
9.15am	Savio Fernandes (RIP)
Sat 30 April	Feria
10.00am	Carmen Fernandes
6.00pm	Eleanor Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 1 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)
8.30am	Pat McKenna (ints)
10.00am	James Gerety (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish community

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.