

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 3rd April 2016

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) (C)

Since the sixteenth century and earlier, there has been great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Church. People have reflected on the love that Jesus has for us in His heart, the amount of heartache that he willingly suffered for us, how his Heart was pierced with a lance on the cross, with blood and water flowing out, and how His heart still aches for us to turn from sin and to love Him.

When the soldiers pierced Jesus' side, they left a wound in his side. In today's Gospel, Jesus appears to the apostles after his resurrection, and takes Thomas' hand and places it into his wounded side. Thomas can now reach in and touch the heart of Jesus, and precisely when he does, his whole outlook changes. He is overcome because he sees Jesus' heart wounded for the love of humanity. This is what love is: love suffers for the other, and Thomas now sees the suffering love of Jesus before his eyes. Thomas also sees the pain caused by man's ingratitude and lack of belief, including his own lack of belief. This moves him very deeply. Jesus' heart, he perceives, is full of mercy; Jesus takes upon Himself the sin of mankind instead of inflicting on humanity the just punishment for sin.

Divine Mercy forgives, heals and restores. As Thomas encounters the Sacred Heart of Jesus he is forgiven, healed and restored. His heart is changed into a heart of love; his doubt changes to belief and he says 'my Lord and my God'.

Today is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Divine Mercy is another devotion, based on visions that a Polish nun (and canonized Saint) called Sr. Faustina Kowalska had of Jesus. In the visions, she saw streams of red and white light flowing from His heart, symbolizing the blood and water that flowed from it on the cross. Sr Faustina received many messages from Jesus expressing His longing for sinners to return to Him. Jesus said to her, 'I desire that the Feast of mercy' - (which is today) - 'be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.'

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus explains how His mercy will be dispensed. It will be through the power He gives His apostles to forgive sins in His name, 'whose sins you forgive they are forgiven, whose sins you retain they are retained.' This is the power that Jesus Christ gives to his priests, and which is available to us all in the Sacrament of Penance.

Like St Thomas, if we reach out to touch the Lord's heart, we will find healing for our own wounds. Jesus wants to change us, and to configure us to Himself, so that we resemble Him more and more in the way we live and act.

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.

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

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: Weekday Masses resume this week at 7.00am and 9.15am.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION recommences on Monday 4th April.

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

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.

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.

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.

AFRICAN CHAPLAINCY MEETING: The next meeting of the African Chaplaincy group will take place next 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.

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 on 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!

TEACHING VACANCIES: The Ursuline Academy Ilford has three teaching vacancies from September 2016. They are 1) Subject Leader, Religious Education (up to UPS3 (Outer London) + TLR1), 2) Teacher of Maths (Main Pay Scale, Outer London), 3) Teacher of English (Main Pay Scale, Outer London). Closing dates vary. For further information please visit www.uai.org.uk or email bbarnes@uai.org.uk

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.

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

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

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)
12.00pm	Tim Campbell, Elaine Francis, Christine Walton (RIP)
Mon 4 Apr	The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Special Ints
Tue 5 Apr	St Vincent Ferrer
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Peter & Maria Manai (Ints)
Wed 6 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Chris Fitzgerald (Ints)
Thu 7 Apr	St John Baptist de la Salle
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Susan Brady (Ints)
Fri 8 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Stephen Picus (RIP)
Sat 9 Apr	Feria
10.00am	Sr Perpetua (Ints)
6.00pm	Tommie Higgins (RIP) and deceased members of the Higgins family
Sun 3 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)

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.