

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

8th May 2016

The Ascension of the Lord (C)

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus. Over the last 6 weeks, we have been contemplating the Lord's resurrection and appearances to His disciples. He taught them many things: he reconciled Peter's denial, resolved Thomas's doubt, and opened all of their minds to realise that the scriptures of old were being fulfilled in His Person. During this time of his appearances, He continually offers them His peace and reconciliation, and their relationship with the Lord reaches a new level of maturity and intimacy. He has been forming them for the mission they will undertake.

In today's Gospel, the Risen Lord leaves the disciples, and ascends to the Father. By the Ascension we do not mean that Jesus is travelling into space like a rocket. Rather, the Ascension means that Jesus passes out of space and time altogether, into a different and higher dimension, into the dimension of God's own life. The disciples will now no longer expect to have him suddenly appear in their midst to converse with them, they will no longer be able to touch him, or eat with him as they did on the lakeside.

Christ ascended to heaven, but his ascent did not bring distance or sadness. On the contrary, the Gospel tells us the disciples were 'continually in the temple, praising God.' Where before they were closed in on themselves, paralysed by fear, now with joy they look up and worship God.' Their horizons were broadened, they could see beyond the limitations of this world, to the eternal. Where Christ had gone, they hoped to follow.

It is the same for our worship. When we come to Mass, we don't celebrate ourselves. The first thing we do is bless ourselves in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our minds and hearts are raised up to a heavenly dimension. The Mass is a participation **now** in the heavenly life. We invoke the angels and the saints in the Gloria and Holy Holy; at every Mass, heaven and earth are united in praising God. When we receive the Eucharist we receive the Bread of Angels and the Blood of Christ; this is a foretaste of the eternal banquet which one day we hope to enjoy.

Hope is the virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. We ourselves often do not look beyond the crosses of the present because our hope is weak, and our resurrection and future life is a distant concept. On this feast of the Ascension, we pray for the gift of hope. As St Paul prays in the second reading, 'may he enlighten the eyes of your mind, so that you can see what hope His call holds for you.'

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 23rd May at 7.30pm in the Church. Godparents are also encouraged to attend.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: This Sunday, Masses for the First Holy Communion children continue. There will be 32 children receiving the Eucharist for the first time this weekend; there were 33 last weekend. Please keep these children and families in your prayers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHY: 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.

TWO WEEKS TO GO: 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. After a blessing and crowing of a statue of Our Lady, we will process along Shernhall Street to the Church, where the rosary will be prayed in a number of languages. The afternoon will conclude with refreshments in the parish hall. Please do come along with your families, and invite others to come too. Processions are an outward expression of our faith, and we come together to honour Our Lady and ask for her maternal intercession.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting of the finance committee will take place on Monday 9th May at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are expected to attend.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this Sunday, 8th May 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 FOR SATURDAY 6PM VIGIL MASS: We are looking for new readers to join the rota for the Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass. If you would be interested in being considered for this, please give your name, address and email address to Fr Maurice in an envelope FAO Jenny Richmond. It would be necessary to attend a brief training session.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO DOOR OF MERCY, BRENTWOOD: 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. **The list at the back of the Church is now full, but keep an eye on it for cancellations.** 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.

SAFEGUARDING IN THE PARISH: For safeguarding purposes, we request that all small children be accompanied by their parents / carers when using the church toilets, as young children are often unable to close the doors by themselves.

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.

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.

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.

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:

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Frances South, whose funeral will take place at Manor Park Crematorium on Monday 16th May at 3.30pm.

Bernard Filby, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 18th May at 12 noon.

Reginald Victor Matovu, whose funeral will take place at St Patrick's Cemetery on Friday 20th May at 2.00pm.

Florendo Viado, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 23rd May at 12.15pm.

Elizabeth Carroll who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 25th May at 12 noon, followed by burial at Chingford Mount Cemetery.

ROTAS – MAY

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| Counting | 1/5 B | 8/5 D | 15/5 E | 22/5 B | 29/5 C |
| Christian Kitchen | 7/5 Nor | 14/5 G | 21/5 A | 28/5 B | |

The offertory collection for last week was £1898.20

Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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| 6.00pm | Maureen Bee (RIP) |
| Sun 8 May | The Ascension of the Lord (C) |
| 8.30am | John Joseph Cullen (RIP) |
| 10.00am | Pulcheria Kyauka (RIP) |
| 12.00pm | Benita Menasche (RIP) |
| Mon 9 May | Feria |
| 7.00am | Poole family (RIP) |
| 9.15am | Thanksgiving |
| Tue 10 May | Feria |
| 7.00am | Thanksgiving |
| 9.15am | Betty Foley (RIP) |
| Wed 11 May | Feria |
| 7.00am | Denny Lynch (RIP) |
| 9.15am | Clare Gallagher (Ints) |
| Thu 12 May | St John Houghton, Priest, Martyr |
| 7.00am | Ray & Martena Carrig (Thanksgiving) |
| 9.15am | Tim Woolf (RIP) |
| Fri 13 May | St Ecronwald, Bishop |
| 7.00am | Sr Bernadette (Ints) |
| 9.15am | Aggie Sweeney (RIP) |
| Sat 14 May | St Matthias, Apostle |
| 10.00am | Sr Kathleen (Ints) |
| 6.00pm | Michael Fitzpatrick (RIP) |
| Sun 15 May | Pentecost Sunday (C) |
| 8.30am | Parish |
| 10.00am | Joan Lambourne (RIP) |
| 12.00pm | Boyce Chandisingh (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.