

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Nixon Gomes
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

2 October 2016

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

At one time or another we all go through periods of difficulty, crisis or conflict. Bad situations can arise that disturb us and rob us of inner peace. We can find ourselves in a dark place, not knowing where to turn. In some moments we might think that God doesn't care, or even question whether he exists.

In our first reading, the prophet Habakkuk was in a similar place. When faced with the threat of a violent enemy he asks, 'how long Lord must I cry for help, while you will not listen? Outrage and violence is all I see, all is contention and discord flourishes.' Habakkuk witnesses man's capacity for evil and he wonders whether evil will triumph.

It can often happen that we go through periods of desolation when we feel that God is distant or absent. Yesterday we celebrated the feast of St Therese of Lisieux. She devoted her life to God as a contemplative nun, so you might expect she would always feel very close to God. But by the door of her cell in the convent, she had scratched into the wood, 'Jesus is my only love.' She did that at a time of near despair, when she experienced nothing but absence, emptiness and darkness. But she still clung to the assurance of being loved and carried in His arms. That is faith at a heroic level.

In the Gospel, the apostles ask our Lord to increase their faith. Faith is the gift from God that moves us to trust in him, but it is also our free action to seek him and to do his will. Jesus emphasises how precious faith is, because even the slightest amount can do wonders. Think of all the times in the Gospel that Jesus says, 'Go your faith has saved you', or, when 'Seeing their faith...' he works a miracle. Another time he asks, 'when the Son of Man comes again, will he find any faith on earth?' The slightest amount of faith can work wonders because it disposes us to act, and for God to act through us, to accomplish things that seem amazing to us, even impossible. As one of the psalms says, 'trust in the Lord, and he will act.'

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 17th October at 7.30pm in the Church. Godparents are also very much encouraged to come, if possible.

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

MISSION FOLLOW-UP – TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: As a follow-on from our successful parish mission in July, Fr Soji's team are in the parish this Sunday to provide training to young people (aged 15-25) to help them feel more confident about their faith and sharing it with others. The day begins with the 10am Mass, followed by tea and coffee and then a meeting in the newly refurbished back rooms of the parish hall.

PARISH ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: Following the departure of Fr Patrick, over the next two weeks, Fr Maurice will be meeting with representatives from the different committees in the parish, to clarify roles and responsibilities.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: The Confirmation programme for next year will begin in January 2017, and planning is currently underway. Young people in school year 10 and above, wishing to be confirmed next June, should come personally to speak to Fr Maurice and collect a form to express interest, and return it by October 23rd. These forms will be available from next weekend. Fr Maurice will then contact you to arrange a meeting, provide more details and give you a full application form.

FAMILY FAST DAY: Next Friday is family fast day. Please take an envelope after Mass and return it with the collection next Sunday.

SIGNING OF SECONDARY SCHOOL FORMS: Fr Maurice will be available for signing secondary school forms in the Church meeting room on the following evenings **only:** 10th October, 6-9pm, 17th October, 6-9pm, 24th October, 6-9pm. For secondary admissions, the closing date for the return of the forms to the school and the Waltham Forest application form to the Borough is 31st October 2016.

RCIA (BECOMING A CATHOLIC): The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 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. Sessions take place on **Thursday evenings at 8pm in the Church meeting room**. If you would like more information about the RCIA process please speak to one of the priests or contact Bernadette Wilson on 07804 611 914.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016/17: The programme for the First Communion begins next Saturday 8th October. Children must be dropped off at the parish hall for registration at 9.45am, and parents will thereafter go to the lower site of Our Lady & St George primary school for their session, which begins at 10am. The sessions will run in parallel and conclude at 12pm. The following Sunday, 16th October, the children and parents will all gather for the 10am Mass.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL SURVEY: As you know, Bishop Alan has established a strategic planning group for the diocese. Part of its work is to gather the thoughts and feelings of parish communities on a number of issues that can be fed back to the Bishop and help the parish reflect on its own needs and future. To this end, the Stewards of the Gospel group, led by Conrad Almeida, is conducting the diocesan survey in our parish from next week until the middle of November. There will be many opportunities to view and respond to the questions:

- The questions will be on the parish website

- They will be on display in the Church meeting room from next week, and response can be left in a special box in that room.
- They will be distributed in a special booklet next week, and responses can be dropped into the box in the meeting room.
- Parish groups will be asked to respond to the questions in their regular meetings.
- The older pupils will be surveyed in our schools
- Outreach groups will be formed to contact those who no longer come to Mass on Sunday
- Conrad has a dedicated email address (conrad.sotg@gmail.com) to which answers can be sent.

Please do take some time to respond to the survey.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL MEETING: A meeting for the SOTG working group will be held on Wednesday 5th October at 7.30pm in the Church hall.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: If you are preparing for marriage in the next year, we have two sessions on the Sacrament of Marriage, which will take place on the 10th and 17th November, 7.30-9.00pm in the Parish Hall. Any couples wishing to marry in the parish must attend these sessions. In addition, attendance at a 1-day marriage preparation workshop, organized by Marriage Care, is also required – details of these dates will be made available later. For more information about getting married in the parish, please speak to Fr Maurice.

TUTORING: Icilda Stewart will be running small group tuition for children and young people from October 2016 in the parish hall, including preparation for SATs. To register your interest please call Icilda on 07949 528 873.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: Registering to donate to the parish via the offertory 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 call Armie on 07962 501 555.

RIP:

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of:

Anthenia Trim who died last week. Her requiem Mass will take place on Friday 21st October at 10am here in the Church.

Ann Georgiou, mother of our Holy Family lay chaplain Michael Georgiou. Her requiem Mass will take place at Holy Ghost Church, Balham on Monday 3rd October at 12.30pm

May they rest in peace

ROTAS – OCTOBER

Counting	2/10 D	9/10 C	16/10 B	23/10 E	30/10 D
Christian Kitchen	1/10 Nor	8/10 B	15/10 C	22/10 D	29/10 E
Hospital	2/10 A	9/10 B	16/10 D	23/10 A	30/10 B

The offertory collection last week was £1553.11. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Assis Dias (RIP)
Sun 2 Oct	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
8.30am	Special Ints
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Georgina Dillon (RIP)
Mon 3 Oct	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints & Tony Eastman (RIP)
9.15am	Madeline Forkin (RIP)
Tue 4 Oct	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Jen Prendergast (RIP)
Wed 5 Oct	St Francis of Assisi, Religious
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Tony Keane (RIP)
Thu 6 Oct	St Bruno, Priest
7.00am	Bruno D'Souza (RIP)
9.15am	Special Ints
Fri 7 Oct	Our Lady of the Rosary, Harvest Fast Day
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Betty Ramsey (Ints)
Sat 8 Oct	St Osyth, Religious (Diocesan Memorial)
10.00am	Special Ints
6.00pm	Fr Joe Dias (RIP)
Sun 9 Oct	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Special Ints
12.00pm	Mark & Yjyste Pellumbi (RIP) & Tony Eastman (RIP, Anniv)

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, 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, Margaret Hicks

Morning Prayer:

Rosary:

Reconciliation (Confessions):

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45am

Weekdays after morning Mass

Sat. 10.30am – 11.30am. 5.00pm – 5.45pm. 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.
