

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

132 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU

Tel: 020 8520 5877 Fax: 020 8520 4805

E-mail: parishoffice@olsg.co.uk

Website: www.olsg.co.uk

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

30 October 2016

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

'The Son of Man has come to seek out and to save what was lost.' Zacchaeus, the man at the centre of today's Gospel, was lost. Everyone despised him because as a chief tax collector, he would exploit people for his own gain. Deep down he must have been unhappy, because when Jesus came into the town, he was 'anxious' to see him.

Perhaps the anxieties that troubled Zacchaeus may also trouble us. We may know of things that need to change in ourselves: attitudes, habits and lifestyles. We may wonder, 'Can I really change now? Isn't it too late for me to undo the past, and all the time I have wasted?' With Zacchaeus, something moved him towards Jesus – more than just curiosity. You would expect a hated person to keep his head down, but Zacchaeus puts aside his self-respect and risks the crowd's anger to climb the Sycamore tree and 'catch a glimpse of Jesus.'

He gets much more than a glimpse – Jesus looks up at him and calls him down by name. The Son of Man seeks him out in order to save him, and does not scold him, but treats him with great graciousness, mercy and kindness; 'I must stay at your house today.' Zacchaeus welcomes him joyfully, and feels the mercy of God, which causes his heart to change; he abandons his old ways of extortion and will give generously to those he has defrauded and to the poor.

This account is a challenge to those of us who are tempted to write-off, or disregard other people as hopeless. Jesus can and will save those who repent of their evils and seek his mercy – including ourselves. The son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost, and no sin is too great, and no sinner too great, to find the mercy of God and be forgiven if they are repentant.

This is the theme of the Year of Mercy, which will shortly be drawing to an end. The possibility that God would be so merciful to a sinner can unsettle us somewhat, as it did with the crowd surrounding Zacchaeus. But as Jesus came to seek and save the lost, we likewise do not label and condemn sinners, but seek them out as the Lord did, in order to help them find their way back to God.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required.

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

ALL SAINTS (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION): Tuesday 1st November is the Solemnity of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be Masses at 7.00am, 9.15am (with OLSG School), and 7.30pm.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED: November is the month the Church designates as a special time for praying for all of our deceased loved ones. You may write the names of your deceased loved ones on the sheets available at the back of the Church and place these into the purple box, which will be left near the Altar during this month. We will hold our annual Mass of remembrance on **Friday 18th November at 7.30pm** in the Church followed by refreshments.

SOCIAL IN OUR NEW PARISH HALL ROOM: This Sunday 30th October, 3-5pm. Come to the new social area of the parish hall (recently refurbished back room), for a karaoke sing-a-long to raise funds in support of the SVP Christmas dinner (11 Dec), and for the Holy Land. Tea and coffee will be available; bring your own drinks and snacks! Joe Elwood (MC Joe) will lead the afternoon's entertainment.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016/17: The next session for the First Communion Programme will be on Saturday 5th November. As usual, children will register in the parish hall at 9.45am and the parents' session will begin at 10am in the hall of the Lower Site of OLSG School next door. Parents and children will then all gather for the 10am Mass on Sunday 6th November.

YOUTH MEETING NEXT SUNDAY: There will be a youth meeting conducted by the Sehion UK Youth Team next Sunday November 6th after the 10am Mass. The team will come down from Birmingham and will lead young people in prayer for 2 hours in the back rooms of the parish hall. The meeting will consist of songs, testimonials and praise and worship. Young people aged 16-30 are welcome to attend.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL SURVEY: At Masses this weekend you will receive another sheet of questions from the Stewards of the Gospel booklet. The questions relate to 'Finance', 'Facilities', and 'Geographical Distance'. You may wish to refer to the explanatory narrative to each question in your booklet for guidance. As before, we have included comments we have received to some of the questions and we hope that these will prompt you to come up with different ideas and thoughts. Please place your response in the suggestion box in the church porch or email conrad.sotg@gmail.com or by writing on the sheets in the meeting room. Thank you for returning the earlier sheets of questions. Please come them coming. Conrad Almeida.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2017: As next year is the 100th anniversary of the Diocese of Brentwood, in thanksgiving to Our Lady we would like to organize a parish pilgrimage. I have made initial enquiries, and expect that we can organize a coach pilgrimage to Lourdes in July 2017. The annual diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage will be happening at the same time, so we can join with much of their programme. We are currently investigating options and seeking quotations, so please let Fr Maurice know if you would be interested in making this pilgrimage, so that he can assess interest.

ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION, OLSG SCHOOL: If your child was born between 01.09.2012 and 31.08.2013 they are due to start school in September 2017. To apply for OLSG School, please see further information on the Church noticeboard for details of the forms to be completed. There will be **Admission Information Meetings** at which parents can look around the school on **Wednesday 2nd November at 10am or 2pm, Thursday 3rd**

November at 10am, 2pm and 6.30pm. Parents wishing to attend one of these meetings should email office@olsweb.org or phone 0208 520 5800 to book a place.

SIGNING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL (RECEPTION) FORMS: Fr Maurice will be available for signing primary school forms for Reception classes, in the Church meeting room at the following times **only**: Saturday 19th November 2-4pm; Sunday 20th November 5-7pm.

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.

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.

YEAR OF MERCY CLOSING: Christ the King Parish, Chingford, is holding an afternoon of prayer to close the Year of Mercy. This will take place from 1pm at Christ the King, 455 Chingford Road, E4 8SP, starting with lunch and ending with benediction.

TUTORING: Icilda Stewart is running small group tuition for Year 5 & 6 children in the parish hall, including preparation for SATs. Support is also available for young people preparing Personal Statements for University Entrance. To find out more please call Icilda on 07949 528 873.

FRIENDS OF HOLY FAMILY WINTER TABLETOP SALE: Saturday 19th November, 10am-1pm, Walthamstow Site, 1 Shernhall Street, London E17 3EA. Sat 19th Nov 2016. Doors open to the public from 10:00am - 1:00pm, and to sellers to arrive at 9am. To book a table, email the Friends for a booking form at t.friends@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk or phone the school office on 020 8520 0482. Tables £10.00 in advance, £15 on the day subject to availability. Admission 50p adults, children free.

TONY KEANE (RIP): Mary and the family would like to thank all the parishioners for their support and messages of condolence. £1,700 was raised for the Lung Cancer Foundation and National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, in loving memory of Tony.

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 £1283.25. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Special Ints
Sun 30 Oct	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
8.30am	Special Ints
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Brown Blay Rancy (RIP)
Mon 31 Oct	Feria
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Tony Kean (RIP)
Tue 1 Nov	ALL SAINTS (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)
7.00am	Tony Keane (RIP)
9.15am	Michael Sihba (RIP)
7.30pm	Phil Mitchell (Ints)
Wed 2 Nov	Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
7.00am	The souls of family and friends of Agnelo & Louella (RIP)
9.15am	Abandoned Souls (RIP)
Thu 3 Nov	Feria
7.00am	Madaline Forkin (RIP)
9.15am	Pat McManus (Ints)
Fri 4 Nov	St Charles Borromeo, Bishop
7.00am	Mick & Ann Fitzpatrick (Ints)
9.15am	Tim Campbell (RIP)
Sat 5 Nov	Our Lady on Saturday
10.00am	Deceased members of Spanos family
6.00pm	Lance Scott Walker (RIP)
Sun 6 Nov	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
8.30am	Teresa Coker (Ints)
10.00am	Tony Keane (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, 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, Kojo Gyebi-Ababio

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.
