

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

27 November 2016

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Today marks the beginning of Advent, and the start of a new Church year. At the start of a new year, we are called to have a new perspective on life. The first reading speaks of going up a mountain. To climb a mountain we must keep looking upwards if we wish to reach the summit. Advent is like climbing a mountain; we are challenged to be watchful and broaden our perspective so we can climb the mountain of life and not be entrapped by things that distract us, slow us down or keep us back. We should use this season to look beyond the anxieties and troubles of this world and focus on the world to come.

When climbing a mountain we need to know the terrain we are walking on, so we know what to expect and what pitfalls to avoid. Our culture presents a certain kind of terrain that is full of opportunities, but also pitfalls for our spiritual life, and the pitfalls are even attractive to us because of our fallen nature. So we must take extra care to know the risks and to avoid them, if we are to keep our footing and ascend the mountain. Mountain climbers must also go equipped; they need the right clothes and gear to help them overcome the elements and protect them. St Paul speaks in the second reading about putting on the armor of Christ. Perhaps today each one of us can reflect on our own life, and specifically on the areas in which we know we are vulnerable. 'Forewarned is forearmed', and so if we know where we are weak, we become watchful to defend ourselves. St Paul is alluding to prayer and the sacraments as the means of arming ourselves, equipping ourselves, to make the journey.

Although it is difficult, climbing a mountain can be very enjoyable. Right now we may find ourselves in a valley, but the Lord calls each one of us up to the summit. Keep the summit in mind, and it will give your life a new perspective. If we live with the vision of eternity before us, it is not just 'pie in the sky', but it becomes real in this life too: we will really see and recognise the value of our neighbour in the sight of God, and we will be able to love them in a real way; to desire what is best for others, and practice works of mercy and charity. That way of living is attractive and contagious.

As we begin this season of Advent we ask Jesus to come spiritually into our hearts and to spur us on, to keep us awake. Let us keep our eyes on the summit and press forward.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 5th December at 7.30pm in the Church. Godparents are also strongly encouraged to attend.

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

PASTORAL LETTER: This week Bishop Alan has written a pastoral letter for the first Sunday of Advent. A copy is on display on the noticeboard at the back of the Church.

ST GEORGE'S ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) CONFERENCE: There will be a second collection today to help with the work we do in the parish in helping the needy & towards our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, especially at this special time of the year. We hope you will continue to support us in our work.

CONFIRMATION 2017: All those who have already submitted expressions of interest for Confirmation 2017 are asked to come to the presbytery to pick up a full application form and timetable. This needs to be completed and returned to the presbytery by **this Sunday 27th November**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016/17: The next session for the First Communion Programme will be next Saturday 3rd December. 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 4th December.

NEW ROTAS FOR READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: The rotas for the period commencing 10 December are now available in the Church Porch. Please inform your coordinator or find cover if you are unable to attend on a given day. Readers are required to be at church 15 mins before Mass to check their readings.

FOUND WALLET: A wallet belonging to Mr Ryan Samarakoon was handed in at the presbytery. If you know the owner, please ask him to enquire at the presbytery.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE: There will be a meeting of the Parish Maintenance Committee on Monday 28th November at 8pm in the presbytery.

CONFIRMATION CATECHIST MEETING: There will be a meeting for Confirmation Catechists on Saturday 3rd December at 3pm in the presbytery. All catechists are asked to attend.

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. Following initial enquiries, we expect to arrange an 8-day pilgrimage to Lourdes, visiting Paris and Lisieux briefly on the return journey, from Saturday 22nd – Saturday 29th July 2017, with approximate costs of £449 per adult (11+), £399 children aged 3-11, £229 infants aged 0-3. There will be an initial information evening on **Sunday 4th December at 7pm in the Church meeting room**; anyone interested in going should attend. Soon thereafter we will request deposits to secure places.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Monday 5th December at 8pm in the presbytery.

MARRIAGE CARE: Marriage Care Ilford is looking for a volunteer to carry out administration work for Marriage Preparation. Training will be given. Marriage Care Ilford is also looking for suitable volunteers (male or female) to be trained as Marriage Preparation Providers and Counselors. Training will be provided. For further information on either of

these opportunities, please email marriagecareilford@hotmail.co.uk.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL: On 11 November, Fr. Nixon held a Service of Remembrance at Whipps Cross Hospital, accompanied by lay volunteers from our Parish. On 12 November, candidates and catechumens attending our RCIA programme, accompanied by Fr. Maurice and our RCIA lay volunteers, visited Westminster Cathedral and walked through the Holy Door of Mercy. On 14 November, the Bible Study Group met in the church meeting room to explore, reflect and mediate on the following week's Scripture readings. All this happens because of the leadership of our clergy and a dedicated group of laymen and women who make it possible. And so, our lay volunteers carry out two of the "Spiritual Works of Mercy" - 'Instruct the Uninformed' - teaching our faith to those who want to become Catholics and 'Praying for the Living and the Dead'. Our lay volunteers are few in number and volunteer their time serving on different ministries. In time, some will retire and withdraw from active involvement. Now, imagine if we were able to develop a network of laymen and women, trained to take on parish responsibilities to continue and build these ministries. If you are interested in becoming a lay volunteer, please contact me at conrad.sotg@gmail.com or drop your contact details in the "Stewards of the Gospel" suggestion box. Bishop Alan's "Stewards of the Gospel" initiative is an opportunity for us to work together so that our parish and neighbouring parishes can build for the future. Please continue to return your question sheets. Thank you. Conrad Almeida

Conrad is convening a meeting for all the Stewards of the Gospel from the Waltham Forest Deanery on the 5th December.

HCPT 161 - Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 15th December - Carol singing at Blackhorse Rd Tube Station. 5pm to 8pm,

Friday 3rd February - Bingo! Yes it's back by popular demand - details to follow.

Saturday 18th March - St Patrick's Gala Band Night and buffet! - more details to follow.

OLSG NURSERY INTAKE 2017/18: Children born between 01.09.2013 and 31.08.2014

Parents wishing to apply for a nursery place for September 2016 can download the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) from the school website www.olsgweb.org or collect the form from Lower Site School Office, 140 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU. There will be a choice of full time or part time places term time only. Part Time Hours: Mornings 8.45am – 11.45am; Afternoons 12.15pm – 3.15pm; Fulltime (8.45am to 3.15pm) part funded. Packs are available from the Lower Site School Office from Monday 14th November. **The closing date for completed forms is Thursday 9th February 2017.** If you have any queries please telephone Mrs Moloney on 020 8520 8500

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.

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.

ROTAS – NOVEMBER

Counting	6/11 F	13/11 C	20/11 B	27/11 E
Christian Kitchen	5/11 Nor	12/11 F	19/11 G	26/11 A
Hospital	6/11 D	13/11 A	20/11 B	27/11 D

The offertory collection last week was £1505.86. An additional £336.19 was raised for the youth appeal, and £1056 was raised the previous week for the Lourdes Jumbulance.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Len Finney (Ints)
Sun 27 Nov	First Sunday of Advent (Year A)
8.30am	Deceased relatives of R&S Rodrigues
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Clara Doherty (RIP)
Mon 28 Nov	Feria
7.00am	Lil Heaney (RIP)
9.15am	Esther Mitchell (Ints)
Tue 29 Nov	Feria
7.00am	Damien Golden (RIP)
9.15am	George Bartolo (RIP)
Wed 30 Nov	St Andrew, Apostle (Patron of Scotland) Feast
7.00am	Aidan Mannion (Ints)
9.15am	Maude Pope (RIP)
Thu 1 Dec	Feria
7.00am	Paula Monien (Ints)
9.15am	Special Ints
Fri 2 Dec	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Bernard Finney (RIP)
Sat 3 Dec	St Francis Xavier, Priest
10.00am	Len & Babs Finney (Ints)
6.00pm	Special Ints
Sun 4 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent (A)
8.30am	Margaret Hicks (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Special Ints

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, 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.

Bible Study:

Mondays at 8pm, Church Meeting Room
