

# 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

## **11 December 2016** **Third Sunday of Advent (A)**

Waiting is associated with inconvenience, frustration, annoyance. We can see that very much at this time of year when everyone is rushing about. Our readings today teach us about patience. Patience is a habit by which we can wait for something good, or endure something difficult, without getting upset. We can measure our level of patience by our reactions to circumstances; if we lose peace, feel sad or irritable, complain or have bursts of anger, we need to pray for the grace of patience.

The second reading speaks of the patience of a farmer, who faithfully does his job, and sows the seed, but is then compelled to wait for the crop to emerge. St James compares this to the coming of the Lord. The prophets of the Old Testament longed for and foretold the coming of Christ, but the world had to wait, and most of the prophets did not live to see it with their own eyes.

The first reading describes what Christ came to do. It speaks of a desert bursting into bloom, the eyes of the blind being opened, the ears of the deaf cleared, the lame leaping and the mute singing. Christ came to transform the world, and put right what was wrong. He came to restore creation after the fall, which should never have happened, but did happen, due to man's pride, causing disharmony. But now, after much waiting and longing, Jesus comes to amend the destruction and disharmony, and through His power, there is no situation that cannot be restored.

Our Lord says in the Gospel today, 'happy the man that does not lose faith in me.' All of us need, in some way or other, to be restored. Like the farmer, we do our bit and we try to open ourselves to God and to wait. But we wait with faith, not with indifference or despair. St James tells us not to lose heart, and the first reading says 'to all faint hearts: courage! Do not be afraid.'

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.

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**PUNCTUALITY AT MASS:** Please make every effort to arrive on time for the start of Mass. Whilst we understand that various circumstances can sometimes cause unexpected delays, arriving on time enables us to recollect ourselves before Mass begins, and to focus our minds on Christ, who becomes present to us through the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** This weekend we have available the Christmas cards with the times of Masses and services over the Christmas and New Year period. Please do take copies for yourselves and for friends or family members who may have lost contact with the Church.

**PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS:** To keep the porch tidy, we ask that personal Christmas cards for fellow parishioners are not left on the tables or ledges in the porch; please hand them to those you wish to greet. Personal cards left here will be disposed of.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** The parish reconciliation service will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Church. A number of priests will be available to hear individual confessions. All are strongly encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of penance before Christmas.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016/17:** The next session for the First Communion Programme will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January. 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 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**CONFIRMATION 2017:** The 2017 Confirmation programme will begin on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Young people who have registered for the programme are required to attend, and for this session parents are also required to attend. Please be on time.

**ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE:** There will be a practice for Altar Servers on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11am, which will be a refresher on serving and also a preparation for Christmas. All servers are asked to attend.

**RED MISSIO BOXES:** If you have a red 'Missio' box at home, please return it to the presbytery for the contents to be counted and sent to the missions.

**CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS:** After a review by the Finance Committee, it has been noted that the sale of Catholic newspapers in the porch is running a loss, as many are left unsold. If you would like to continue purchasing papers from the Church, please inform Jenny and Margaret in the repository after Mass and copies can be ordered for you.

**GIFT AID VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are urgently needed to help with gift aid data inputting. Please let Fr Maurice know if you can help. Additional assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2017 – PLANNING MEETING THIS SUNDAY:** As next year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese of Brentwood, in thanksgiving to Our Lady we would like to organize a parish pilgrimage. Following initial enquiries, we will run an 8-day pilgrimage to Lourdes, visiting Paris and Lisieux briefly on the return journey, from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017, with approximate costs of £449 per adult (11+), £399 children

aged 3-11, £229 infants aged 0-3. Thank you to all who attended our information evening last Sunday; there was a lot of interest. There will be a follow-up meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January at 4pm, for those who will commit to make the pilgrimage.

**STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL:** On 5 December Fr. Maurice hosted a meeting for all the Stewards of the Gospel and clergy from our deanery. The meeting was well attended. It was an opportunity for Stewards to share information, exchange ideas and work together in taking forward Bishop Alan's initiative. There will be a SOTG Working Group meeting on Wednesday 14 December 2016 in the Church meeting room at 7:30 pm. Parishioners who are not part of the Working Group but wish to be involved are welcome to attend.

**PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA:** To Celebrate the Centenary of Fatima. 1st - 6th September 2017. Price £649 including Flights H/B Hotel. Deposit deadline 16th January 2017. Further details and to book - see [www.paxtravel.co.uk](http://www.paxtravel.co.uk) or call Stella on 02085273879.

**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](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> November. **The closing date for completed forms is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ROTAS – DECEMBER**

Counting	4/12 <b>D</b>	11/12 <b>F</b>	18/12 <b>B</b>	25/12 <b>B</b>	1/1 <b>B</b>
Christian Kitchen	3/12 <b>Nor</b>	10/12 <b>B</b>	17/12 <b>C</b>	24/12 <b>D</b>	31/12 <b>E</b>
Hospital	4/12 <b>A</b>	11/12 <b>B</b>	18/12 <b>D</b>	25/12 <b>A</b>	

**RIP:**

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

Phil Mitchell, whose body will be brought into the Church on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, and whose Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10am, followed by burial in St Patrick's Cemetery, Leytonstone.

There will be no 9.15am Mass that day; all are invited to join for Phil's funeral at 10am.

Carla Doherty, wife of Trinity School Headmaster Paul Doherty. Her Requiem Mass will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead, on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11am.

The offertory collection last week was £1464.78. The recent Advent Concert raised £550, which will go towards OLSG School. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Special Ints
Sun 11 Dec	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (A) (Gaudete Sunday)</b>
8.30am	Timothy Joseph Sullivan (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Anthony Yamson (Ints)
Mon 12 Dec	<b>Our Lady of Guadeloupe</b>
7.00am	Marie Holly (RIP)
9.15am	Jim Treacy (RIP)
Tue 13 Dec	<b>St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</b>
7.00am	Phil Mitchell (RIP)
9.15am	Joanna Rodel (Ints)
Wed 14 Dec	<b>St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor</b>
7.00am	Fr Maurice Gordon (Ints)
9.15am	Mair Cullen (RIP)
Thu 15 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Fr Nixon Gomes (Ints)
9.15am	Jason & Kristina Coeur-de-Lion (Ints)
Fri 16 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Phil Mitchell (RIP)
9.15am	Special Ints
Sat 17 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
10.00am	Cesar & Nelly Portalibre (Thanksgiving)
6.00pm	Edward Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 18 Dec	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)</b>
8.30am	Marcella & Rosemary (Ints)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Tim Campbell (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, 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

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