

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

18 December 2016 **Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)**

Our Gospel today points to the character of St Joseph. He is a wonderful model for us and had an important role in God's plan. Learning that Mary is pregnant caused him a lot of stress at first, but he listens to the angel Gabriel, who tells him not to be afraid, because the child is conceived by the Holy Spirit. He did not understand the fullness of what was going on, but in obedience to God he trusted, and was faithful to his wife and the child.

Throughout Jesus' infancy, St Joseph remains a constant and firm yet quiet presence throughout the trials that the Holy Family had to go through. The poor circumstances of Jesus' birth in the stable, the frantic flight to Egypt to escape Herod, and the pain of hearing Simeon tell Mary that she would suffer and that the child was destined to be rejected, and then the loss of the child in the temple for three days - all of these episodes would have tested him and caused much anguish.

In all of this, Joseph shows us what it means to be a man, and a father of a family. He is a wonderful provider and protector, and a model for fathers in today's society, who have to cope with hardships of one kind or another, uncertainties, threats to their families from all sides, and not knowing what the future will hold. His work as a carpenter, the trade that he taught Jesus, shows us that there is honour in working hard, and a joy that comes in supporting our families.

Many people have a special devotion to St Joseph. There is no record of him being present when Jesus was crucified and so we presume he had died before this. Tradition says that he died in the presence of Mary and Jesus. For this reason he is also considered the patron saint of a happy death. People pray for his intercession, that death will not catch them unprepared.

As the coming days will likely be stressful for our families, let us have recourse to St Joseph, that we may bear all things patiently.

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.

END OF TERM: This week our schools close for the Christmas break. We wish our students and staff a happy and blessed Christmas.

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.

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

ADORATION & EXPOSITION: Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will cease from Monday 19th December, resuming on Monday 9th January.

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

CONFIRMATION 2017: The 2017 Confirmation programme will begin on Sunday 15th 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.

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.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY: The new 2017 Brentwood Diocesan Directories are now available in the repository, priced at £2.75. They contain details of all the parishes, chaplaincies and Mass times in the diocese.

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 will run 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. 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 21st January at 4pm, for those who will commit to make the pilgrimage.

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 or call Stella on 02085273879.

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.

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.

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**, and will recommence after Christmas on the 5th January. 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.

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 are on call 24-hours in case of emergency.

ROTAS – DECEMBER

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

RIP:

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

Phil Mitchell, whose body will be brought into the Church on Sunday 18th December at 7pm, and whose Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 19th 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 21st December at 11am.

The offertory collection last week was £1401.12. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Edward Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 18 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
8.30am	Marcella & Rosemary (Ints)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Tim Campbell (RIP)
Mon 19 Dec	Feria
7.00am	Patrick Ramsey (Ints)
10.00am	Philip Mitchell (RIP): Requiem Mass
Tue 20 Dec	Feria
7.00am	Adam & Lyn Coeur-de-Lion (Ints)
9.15am	Mr & Mrs Obika (Ints)
Wed 21 Dec	Feria
7.00am	Jack Rumbley (RIP)
9.15am	Patrick Ramsey (Ints)
Thu 22 Dec	Feria
7.00am	Betty Ramsey (Ints)
9.15am	Anthony Mulvey (RIP)
Fri 23 Dec	Feria
7.00am	Benitto Florda-Rancio (RIP)
9.15am	Baby Elliott Anderson Scott, Roderick Fairy & Douglas Scott (RIP)
Sat 24 Dec	Feria
10.00am	Bridget & Rose Moses (RIP)
6.30pm	Sean McKenna (RIP)
Sun 25 Dec	The Birth of Jesus Christ the Lord (Solemnity)
Midnight	Parish
8.30am	Daniel Grannell (RIP)
10.00am	Fr Maurice Gordon (Ints)
12.00pm	Fr Nixon Gomes (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
