

# 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

**8 January 2017**

## **The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)**

In the Gospel today we hear of the journey of the wise men to Bethlehem. On their way, they temporarily lose sight of the star they are following, and proceed to King Herod's palace to enquire as to where the Child is to be born. Herod is deeply disturbed by their mention of a newborn 'King of the Jews'. Herod himself was not a Jew, but had been appointed King of Judea by the Romans, and was dangerously paranoid about threats to his power. He is eager to eliminate this new threat and after learning that the scriptures point to Bethlehem as the place of the Child's birth, he sends the wise men on, telling them to return with information.

The wise men listen to Herod but are not taken in by him. They persevered and continued to patiently seek for the child, not allowing their own expectations, or the illusions, deceptions and snares of Herod to trap them. The wise men display a certain holy cunning. They have a spiritual shrewdness, which enables them to recognise danger and avoid it; once they do find the child, they listen to the angel in their dream and do not go back to Herod. The wise men teach us how to discern good and evil voices, and to make good and wise decisions. We should aim to be simple, but also need to be astute, as Jesus told his disciples, 'Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.'

We pray that, like the wise men, we will always be open to the directions and promptings of the Holy Spirit, to navigate the obstacles of our life's journey, and reach safely the joy of eternity.

Fr Maurice

**BAPTISMS:** By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7.30pm in the **Parish Hall**. Godparents are also very much encouraged to attend.

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

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR:** We wish all of our parishioners a very happy new year. We thank all those who assisted with parish Christmas preparations, and all those who participated in the Masses and services over recent weeks. Frs Maurice, Nixon, Joseph and Deacon Joseph are very grateful for your prayers, cards, gifts and generous support throughout the year. We wish you all of God's blessings for 2017.

**MORNING MASSES THIS WEEK:** The 7.15am and 9.15am morning Masses will resume as normal this coming week.

**ADORATION & EXPOSITION:** Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will resume as normal from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**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.

**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.

**STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL:** We are planning to hold a day / half a Day of Reflection on SATURDAY 28 JANUARY 2017. Please add your name to the sheet attached to the Stewards of the Gospel notice board to signify your interest. If there is sufficient interest, one will be held. This will be an opportunity for those who have not yet completed the survey questionnaires to do so with help available on hand. Meanwhile, the Diocese has extended the deadline for submitting the survey response, so you now have until 14 February 2017 to return outstanding question sheets. There will be a SOTG working group meeting on **Wednesday 11 January 2017 at 7:30pm**.

**SATs TUTORING:** Icilda Stewart is running English Classes for Year 5 & 6 children in the parish hall, focussed on preparation for SATs Assessments in May 2017 and 2018. Please note that Maths Classes will also be offered shortly. To find out more please call Icilda on 07949 528 873.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2017:** 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.

**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.

**OLSG NURSERY INTAKE 2017/18:** Reminder for parents of children born between 01.09.012 - 31.08.2013. The closing date for Reception admission forms is 15th January 2017. This is for both the online eAdmission required by the Borough and the Supplementary Information Form required by the school.

**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**. 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 also on call 24-hours in case of emergency.

**RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Roberts, who died recently. Her funeral will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 11am at the City of London Crematorium.

May she rest in peace.

**ROTAS – JANUARY**

Counting	1/1 <b>B</b>	8/1 <b>D</b>	15/1 <b>D</b>	22/1 <b>E</b>	29/1 <b>F</b>
Christian Kitchen	7/1 <b>Nor</b>	14/1 <b>F</b>	21/1 <b>G</b>	28/1 <b>A</b>	31/12 <b>B</b>
Hospital	1/1 <b>B</b>	8/1 <b>D</b>	15/1 <b>A</b>	22/1 <b>B</b>	29/1 <b>D</b>

The offertory collection last week was £1798.23.

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	Kelly Moss (RIP)
Sun 8 Jan	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)</b>
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Pat McKenna (Ints)
12.00pm	Sr Angela & Sr Marlia (Ints)
Mon 9 Jan	<b>The Baptism of the Lord (Feast)</b>
7.00am	Simone and Tim Clear (Ints)
9.15am	Fiona and Nick Mansford (Ints)
Tue 10 Jan	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	John-Paul Ramsey (Ints)
9.15am	Carla Doherty (RIP)
Wed 11 Jan	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Abraham Garba (Ints)
9.15am	Sr Angela (Ints)
Thu 12 Jan	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Fr Maurice Gordon (Ints)
9.15am	Carla Doherty (RIP)
Fri 13 Jan	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	George Raffo (RIP)
9.15am	Richard Raffo (RIP)
Sat 14 Jan	<b>Our Lady on Saturday</b>
10.00am	Sr Perpetua (Ints)
6.00pm	Special Ints
Sun 15 Jan	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Fr Jesurara (Ints)
12.00pm	Paul Yamson (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

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