

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

5th March 2017

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Lent helps us to face the reality of sin in our lives, so that it can be dealt with.

We know how difficult it is, when we have sinned, to admit to it and face up to it. In the first reading we heard about Adam and Eve committing the original sin. But what did they do afterwards when God confronted them? They gave excuses, they pointed away from themselves, they blamed others – they did everything except admit the simple fact that they had sinned.

It's not easy for anyone to admit that they are a sinner. But during Lent, the Church helps us to do so, in order to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation with true sorrow, a true sense of the sins we have committed, and a firm purpose of amendment. If we are honest with ourselves, we can all identify with the sense of darkness and despondency, and the heavy burden that afflicts us when we are in the state of sin. The psalmist describes all of this in the first half of today's responsorial psalm, which is taken from psalm 51.

In the midst of sin – he turns to the Lord, seeking to be freed and restored, 'a pure heart create for me, O God, do not cast me away from your presence nor deprive me of your holy spirit.' It is a plea to mend the brokenness, and to reconcile the division that sin causes.

Jesus Christ, the second Adam, undoes the damage of the first, and through Him, redemption and healing is possible. We have a good friend in Jesus, because He knows what sin is all about – he never committed it, but he took its weight upon himself, and as we see in the Gospel, knew exactly what it is to be tempted. So it's only in Him that we will find the spirit of fervour to sustain us when we are tempted.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent we will have the Stations of the Cross in the Church on Friday evenings at 6.45pm. Recalling and praying the Way of the Cross is an excellent Lenten practice to help us prepare for Holy Week.

LENTEN 'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS: The Lent and Easter 'Walk with me' booklets are now on sale in the repository (in the Church porch), priced £1. The booklets contain a brief reflection, either on the scripture readings of the day or some aspect of the faith. The booklets are pocket-sized and written in a simple and accessible style. They could also make a good gift for a friend or someone who is housebound.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: There will be a meeting of the finance committee on Monday 13th March at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are requested to attend.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are asked to attend a meeting on Saturday 1st April, 11am-12pm for a refresher on practicalities surrounding these duties.

ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE: There will be a practice for all altar servers on Saturday 8th April, 3.00pm-4.30pm, which will include rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter. All servers are asked to attend.

DIOCESAN CENTENARY: As this is the 100th anniversary of our Diocese, prayer cards have been produced, and we will be saying the prayer after Masses during the year. We now have more cards available; do take one home and say the prayer in your family.

SUMMER 2017 PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Places are still available for the Parish Lourdes pilgrimage (Saturday 22nd – Friday 28th July 2017). If you would like to go, please collect an application form from the presbytery, and return it with a deposit of £150 per place **as soon as possible**, but no later than **Friday 17th March**. Deposits should be paid by cheque, made payable to 'Our Lady & St George's Catholic Church'. Please note there are only 49 places in total, and **over half of them are now reserved, so if you have not yet returned your form please do so as soon as possible**, so that we can move ahead with the organisation. The price is £449 for adults, including visits to Paris and Lisieux.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016/17: The next session for the First Communion Programme will be next Saturday 11th March with children in the parish hall and parents in the school as usual. Kindly be present by 9.45am.

CONFIRMATION 2017: The next session for the Confirmation programme is next Sunday, 26th February, starting at 4pm sharp in the parish hall.

FIRST COMMUNION CARDS: A good range of First Communion greeting cards are now available on sale in the repository.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL: Please note that there will be a meeting for members of the Stewards of the Gospel working group on Wednesday 15 March at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. As always, anyone who would like to be involved in Bishop Alan's initiative is welcome to attend.

BAZAAR PLANNING: We had proposed to hold a parish bazaar in November. There will be a meeting this Monday 6th March at 7.30pm in the presbytery for anyone interested in helping. We cannot run a bazaar without adequate support for planning, so please come along if you would like to see it happen.

HCPT ST PATRICK'S FAMILY PARTY NIGHT: Bar – Live Music – Dancing – Irish coffee – Irish Dance Display – Raffle. Saturday 18th March, 7.30pm till late at Holy Family Catholic School (Wiseman Site, 34 Shernhall St). £10 adults, £5 children: includes a free Irish supper! Tickets are now on sale from Peter Norman; contact 07976 419 680.

OLSG SCHOOL PLACES: For Children born between 01.09.2013 and 31.08.2014. Parents wishing to apply for a nursery place for September 2017 can download the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) from the school website www.olsgweb.org or collect it from the Lower Site Office (140 Shernhall St, E17 9HU). There will be a choice of full-time or part-time places, term time only. Part time hours are 1) Mornings 8.45am – 11.45am; 2) Afternoons 12.15pm – 3.15pm; 3) Fulltime 8.45am – 3.15pm, part funded. Information packs are available from the Lower Site school office. If you have any queries, please phone Mrs. Moloney on 0208 520 8500.

Our primary school also currently has two spaces in reception and four spaces in Year 2. For more information please contact Mrs Moloney.

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.

RIP

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

Ronald Ernest McDonnell, whose Requiem Mass will take place
on Monday 6th March at 12 noon.

May he rest in peace

ROTAS – MARCH

Counting	5/3 E	12/3 F	19/3 D	26/3 E
Christian Kitchen	4/3 Nor	11/3 F	18/3 G	25/3 A
Hospital	5/3 B	12/3 D	19/3 A	26/2 B

The offertory collection last week was £1521.88

Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Assis Dias (RIP)
Sun 5 Mar	First Sunday of Lent (A)
8.30am	Len Finney (Ints)
10.00am	Michael Drennan (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish
Mon 6 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Kathleen McCafferty (RIP)
9.15am	Tina Horn (RIP)
Tue 7 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Mrs O'Brien (RIP)
9.15am	Margaret Hicks (RIP)
Wed 8 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Christine Quinn (RIP)
9.15am	Julia and Michael O'Donnell and deceased relatives (RIP)
Thu 9 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Derek & Bernadette Timothy (Ints)
9.15am	Deceased family members of Natalie Rosario
Fri 10 Mar	Feria (Lent Fast Day)
7.00am	Hilary Whitehead (RIP)
9.15am	Natalie Rosario (Ints)
Sat 11 Mar	Feria
10.00am	Mrs Juliet Dias (RIP)
6.00pm	Richard & Nora Keane (RIP)
Sun 12 Mar	Second Sunday of Lent (A)
8.30am	Stella Rodrigues (Thanksgiving)
10.00am	Michael Drennan (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, Kojo Gyebi-Ababio, Thampirajah Baskaran, Linda Campbell.

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
