

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

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**Rev. Canon Niall Harrington; Fr. John Victor
Fr. Joseph Anthiamkulam (Syro-Malabar Chaplain);**

Rev. Joseph Baffour-Awuah (Permanent Deacon)

Our Lady and St George's Primary School:

Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552

Holy Family Catholic College: 8520 0482/8520 3587

Charity Number: 234092

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

(8th Dec 2020 – 8th Dec: Year of St. Joseph)

Dear Parishioners,

Would you mind if I asked you a personal question? . . . ‘Where do you experience joy?’ My friend Jack experiences joy each night he watches his baby daughter sleep. For him it’s a mystical experience. A business woman, Mary, looks two stones lighter on a Saturday evening, when the takings of the week exceed expectation. Her focus is not the money. It’s the sheer relief of knowing that she will be able to pay her suppliers. Often children experience joy in the school playground . . . But what about you? When and where do you experience joy?

This Sunday’s readings also speak of joy, but of an interior and deep seated kind intimately linked to the Eucharist we gather to celebrate. It speaks of a joy that cannot be obtained overnight, one that is not immediate or instant . . . profound Christian joy of service emanating from the very heart of God.

In the first reading the prophet Isaiah speaks of the service he is called to render . . . to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives. He is also quite clear on a related point. Being such a presence in the lives of others has not befallen him by chance. It is a consequence of his anointing, his reception of the spirit of the Lord.

A similar joy prevails Our Lady’s great prayer - *the Magnificat*. Do you remember the opening words? . . . ‘My soul glorifies the Lord’ . . . and why? . . . Because God has looked upon her, His servant, in her nothingness . . . and worked marvels for her . . . And why has God acted in this way? . . . Because His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

This theme also underpins today’s Gospel. John the Baptist wastes no time in redirecting his listeners to Christ. He describes himself to them in words crafted centuries earlier by the prophet Isaiah ‘a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord’. He presents as nothing more than a messenger highlighting that there stands among them – unknown to them – the one who is coming after him; the one whose scandals he is unfit to undo.

What causes anyone to be so self-effacing and why the air of urgency? John is quite emphatic. Real joy, the kind that breathes peace of mind and fulfilment even in the face of challenges and difficulties, is to be found in knowing, loving and serving God and the people He invites us to share life with.

Have a Blessed Week

Canon Niall

MARRIAGES: By appointment. At least six months' notice is required. Please speak to one of the priests for more information.

Christmas: Please note the times of Masses for Christmas: Christmas Eve 6pm and 8pm. Christmas Morning: 8.30 am, 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. **Please note:** Place in the church are limited due to social distancing. Parishioners are permitted at each Mass. A '**Church Full**' sign will go up and no further parishioners can be admitted.

Advent Carol Service Thanks to Ladislav and choir members for arranging the Advent Carol Service this Sunday evening at 5pm. The service will be live-streamed.

Ena Advira Fernandez, Rest in Peace: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Ena Advira Fernandez. The Requiem Mass for Ena's soul will be on Tuesday 22nd December at 10.00am in Our Lady and St. George Church.

Next Sunday, **the 4th Sunday of Advent** is a day of special prayer for all expectant mothers. If you are a mother-to-be please see the priest before Mass to arrange a blessing during the Mass.

A big thank you to Teresa, Jane and Liberee for washing and cleaning the church porch floor and church stone floor. Hours and hours of hand work. – Thank you ladies.

Because of the restrictions caused by Covid 19, the Advent reconciliation service will not be happening this time round. Instead a priest will be available in the church after all Masses until Christmas Eve.

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2021 is planned for Sunday 25 – Friday 30 July. However, because of Covid-19 it is not possible to know yet whether a pilgrimage will be practical or in what form. Therefore, any decisions and announcements regarding the Diocesan Pilgrimage will be made in January.

Visiting the Priests: Please come to visit the priests in the presbytery having made a previous appointment.

Those who hold the following envelope numbers on gift-aid please report to either one of the priests. **3015, 3030, 3118, 3221, & 3242.**

Guidelines on reopening of the Church

- Please follow one way system, social distancing and the guidance by the volunteers.
- If you have an illness/feeling unwell, please remain at home until you are fully recovered.
- Entrance only through the front door and exit only through the farther right side door near the sanctuary.

- You will be signed into Mass – Name and Telephone.
- Use Sanitizers, gloves and face coverings/masks.
- Please observe all the signs of social distancing regarding where to sit/kneel in the church.
- Keep social distancing.
- No Altar-servers, readers and deacon for the liturgy.
- Very brief homily.
- There will be no offertory procession of gifts and collection during Holy Mass; instead you may drop your contribution at the basket kept at the entrance and exit as well.
- There is no exchange of the sign of peace.
- After the prayer “*Behold the Lamb of God . . . Lord I am not worthy,*” when the priest holds up the host and says “*The Body of Christ*” the congregation respond “*Amen*”. In the same way, when the priest elevates the chalice and says “*The Blood of Christ*” the congregation respond “*Amen*”. The communion will be distributed in silence.
- Communicants may receive Holy Communion, in their hands, palms upwards, one on the top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible.
- No Extra ordinary Lay ministers of Holy Communion.
- Come to receive Holy Communion only under the guidance of the stewards.
- Come early for weekend Masses - church capacity is only 150.
- It is not a known fact on how many people will attend mass. Consequently one way of managing this is for people to come to the weekday masses in the church.
- Offertory collection and donations to be placed in the baskets as you exit after Holy Mass.
- Priests are told to go directly to the sacristy after Mass.
Mass times: Weekday Mass: 9.15 am and 6.00 pm
Saturday: 10.00 am and 6.00 pm
Sunday: 10.00 am and 12.00 pm
- There will be no hand outs (Mass sheets, News Letters, hymn books etc.,) for the masses for the foreseeable future.
- Choir returns in September.
- Families or individuals please sit and kneel at the places assigned.
- Neither holy water nor votive candles are available at present.
- Please refrain from touching statues.
- No access to the toilets, but only in emergency.
Please leave the church promptly.

**Our parish safe guarding officials are
 Jenny Richmond and Marina Tudda.
 Samaritans 020 8520 9191.**

Mass Times and Intentions at Our Lady and St. George

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| 6.00 pm | Rose Keenan (Rest in Peace) (Carmondy) |
| Sun 13 Dec | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) (GAUDETE SUNDAY) |
| 10.00 am | Theodora D'Souza (Rest in Peace) (Almeida) |
| 12.00 noon | Anthony Yamson (Intentions) (Sylvia) |
| 02.30 pm | Syro Malabar Mass |
| Mon 14 Dec | St. John of the Cross, Pr, D – Momorial |
| 9.15 am | Joe Staunton (Rest in Peace) (Sr. Anne Marie) |
| 6.00 pm | Thanksgiving |
| Tue 15 Dec | FERIA |
| 9.15 am | John & Ellie McGoldrick (Rest in Peace) (Murphy) |
| 6.00p m | Shelia Mahuny (Rest in Peace) (Mary Kaene) |
| Wed 16 Dec | FERIA |
| 9.15 am | Almeida Family - Thanksgiving (Almeida) |
| 6.00 pm | Thanksgiving for God's Blessings |
| Thu 17 Dec | FERIA |
| 9.15 am | Frank Murphy (Rest in Peace) (Family) |
| 6.00 pm | Grace Howlett (Rest in Peace) (Howland Family) |
| Fri 18 Dec | FERIA |
| 9.15 am | Francis Isles (Rest in Peace) (Gertrude) |
| 6.00 pm | Grace Howlett (Rest in Peace) (Darren) |
| Sat 19 Dec | FERIA |
| 10.00 am | John Thomas (Rest in Peace) (Family) |
| 6.00 pm | Edward Fletcher (Rest in Peace) (Carey) |
| Sun 20 Dec | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) (Expectant Mothers) |
| 10.00 am | Angela Chimuanya Chukwu (Rest in Peace) (Sr. Genetrix) |
| 12.00 noon | Cyril Bhoynrow (Rest in Peace) (Family) |
| 02.30 pm | Syro Malabar Mass |

Prayer List

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 and Mrs Charles, Esperanza Buenaventura, Joyce Ross, Christine Raymond, Jacky Boyrow, Thelma Lewis, Tasmin Sparks, Eileen Karim, Sandra Gibson, Archie Garrod, Martin Keane, Alix Charlery, Bridie Lacon, Peter Ikuptati, Mercy Fernando, Veronica Godsave, 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 and Issac, Luis and Lukas, Comfort Kwawu, Judith Hilton, Gloria and Tracy Joseph, Regina Jose, Kojo Gyebi-Ababio, Thampirajah Baskaran, Linda Campbell, Brid O'Halloran, Hazel Belizaire, Tina Henriques, Neill, Alan and Ross Smith, Stefan, Monica Baugh, Eileen O Kane, Grace McCaley, Jadwiga, Matthias Fredberg, Michael White, Fr. Jean Laurent Marie, Roy and Margaret Bandhu, Alma Willox, John Walsh, Chantale Wildman, Christopher Almeida, Aileen Mensah, Sr. Helen, Sebastian, Pat Howland, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Jennie Richmond, Terry Coe, Stephen Donnelly, Daniel Donnelly, Brendan Mc Donagh (aged 6), Liberee Uwimana, Violet Alahendran, Bernedette Doherty, Patricia (Bondo).