

**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**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) - Expectant Mothers (20.12.2020)**

Dear Parishioners,

Just five more steps to Christmas . . . or ten if you are partial to a siesta! My joviality contains a truth . . . rest and rejuvenation are important for body, mind, soul and spirit. Rest and sleep in particular, help us to be on in good terms with ourselves and with others. They help us to be attentive to people, events and opportunities including the great invitation of Christmas.

Through today's Gospel, we are reminded that Christ entered our world through Mary's acceptance of a request from God. We are reminded that she was deeply disturbed by the Angel Gabriel's invitation to her. She may well have experienced a few sleepless nights and through her consent in faith may have been immediate, she would have needed time to come to term with her decision. Like all teenage mothers she was old enough to know her 'Yes' to God was about to change her life forever and she would have needed time to re-ground herself once again in trust in God's providence.

That's one side of the coin. Now let us consider the other. The God of all creation has promised fallen humanity a saviour. He has decided this saviour as well as being divine would be fully human so that every human person would be able to relate to Him. He plans ahead and over a thousand-year period communicates His intent through his prophets. Then when the time of fulfilment arrives, he does not impose Himself on an unsuspecting young woman but awaits her 'Yes', her willingness to participate in the great divine plan.

Over the coming days, in the lead up to Christmas day, each of us is likely to have our own moments of disturbance and concern. We may experience them as an intrusion or a welcome distraction but what a pity if we allow them distract us from the great invitation of Christmas. The saviour born of Mary seeks to come again to us, to make his home with us, to share life with us. Over the course of today might we take some time to consider how we might safeguard ourselves from missing Christmas as a time of resting in this great mystery, one designed by God to rejuvenate our spirits? Yes, gatherings

with others and the exchange of gifts and all that comes with that are good for us, but might we also draw close to the Christ-child, the one in the words of the angel Gabriel, who is holy, who is ‘Son of God’?

## **Have a Blessed Week**

### **Canon Niall**

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**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: 8.30am, 10.00am and 12.00noon. **Please note:** Places 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.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.00a.m in Our Lady and St. George Church.

**Red boxes:** It is time to return all payments made by red box holders to the center. Hence it is the kind request to all parishioners who have the red boxes may return them to the Church.

**Review of assisted suicide:** The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide by conducting a review of the law. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and rejects their demands and so we are encouraging members of the public to write to their MP asking them to support this sensible piece of legislation.

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.

**Wishing You all and Your Family the Peace and Joy  
of the Saviour’s Birth. Canon Niall, Fr. John,  
Fr. Joseph & Deacon Joseph**

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

## Mass Times and Intentions at Our Lady and St. George

<b>6.00 pm</b>	Edward Fletcher (Rest in Peace) (Carey)
<b>Sun 20 Dec</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) (Expectant Mothers)</b>
<b>10.00 am</b>	Angela Chimuanya Chukwu (Rest in Peace) (Sr. Genetrix)
<b>12.00 noon</b>	Cyril Bhoirow (Rest in Peace) (Family)
<b>02.30 pm</b>	<b>Syro Malabar Mass</b>
<b>Mon 21 Dec</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>9.15 am</b>	Joe Staunton (Rest in Peace) (Sr. Anne Marie)
<b>6.00 pm</b>	Carmel Butler (Rest in Peace) (Keane)
<b>Tue 22 Dec</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>9.15 am</b>	Private intention (Kristina)
<b>6.00p m</b>	Carmel Butler (Rest in Peace) (Moss)
<b>Wed 23 Dec</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>9.15 am</b>	John & Ellie McGoldrick (Rest in Peace) (Murphy)
<b>6.00 pm</b>	Roy George – Thanksgiving.
<b>Thu 24 Dec</b>	<b>FERIA</b>
<b>9.15 am</b>	Kristina Klimasaukaite (Rest in Peace)
<b>6.00 pm</b>	Carmel Butler (Rest in Peace) (O’Gorman)
<b>8.00 pm</b>	Parishioners
<b>Fri 25 Dec</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY – Holiday of Obligation</b>
<b>8.30 am</b>	All Families
<b>10.00 am</b>	For the Family of Igboanugo (Personal Intentions) (Sr. Scholastica)
<b>12.00 pm</b>	Kristina’s Intentions
<b>Sat 26 Dec</b>	<b>St. Stephen, The First Martyr – Feast</b>
<b>10.00 am</b>	Thanksgiving (Kristina)
<b>6.00 pm</b>	Rose Keenan (Rest in Peace) (O’Gorman)
<b>Sun 27 Dec</b>	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph (B) - Feast</b>
<b>8.30 am</b>	NHS Staffs
<b>10.00 am</b>	Agnes Onito (Rest in Peace) (Sr. Genetrix)
<b>12.00 noon</b>	Sivagunam – Intentions (Family)
<b>02.30 pm</b>	<b>Syro Malabar Mass</b>

### 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, Alex 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).