

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (B) – 27/12/2020

Dear Parishioners,

Consider for a moment all the time and energy that was given to wrapping gifts this Christmas . . . The shiny boxes, the bags communicating Christmas cheer, the imprinted brand names. . . A question for you? Where are they now? Please don't misinterpret my enquiry. I'm not belittling the loving care and attention that goes into preparing a gift or marketing any product. Such enterprises draw on many admirable abilities and qualities.

In fact part of me feels that God occasionally engages in a similar enterprise through the Sunday readings. Take for example, our readings today, the Feast of the Holy Family as a model for all the Christian families. This has been a key consideration in the choosing of today's Gospel – the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple.

So here we are, just two days from Christmas Day, being invited to ponder Mary and Joseph's experience of honouring the Jewish religious purification custom of their time.

Having pondered the story I must confess to being filled with optimism and hope by one aspect of this great story. Have you noticed who God invites to speak with Mary and Joseph? The president of the Temple, the High Priest, some other 'important' dignitary? Not on this occasion. He invites his elderly friends Simeon and Anna to bless them and to utter his prophetic word.

Now don't forget this is a gospel being fulfilled in our hearing! By virtue of our baptism we too have our place in God's family and are counted among our friends. Among us this evening/morning are the Simeons and Annas of our parish, friends of God called to the ministry of blessing, prophesy and encouragement. A special thank you to all of you, on this your feast day too! And simultaneously we have in our communities those who have been entrusted with the care of the new babies, which on the day of their baptisms are identified as 'other Christs'.

A related question: Are we open to receiving God's word from one another? This life of ours is a pilgrim life, meant to be taken together. This evening/morning let us ask God to help us to bless one another along the way, for that too is an important expression of family life.

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.

Tehmira Khiljee, Rest in Peace: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Tehmira Khiljee, Rest in Peace. Our condolences to the family.

Kristina, Rest in Peace: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Kristina, Rest in Peace. The Requiem Mass for Kristina's soul will be on Tuesday 12nd January 2021 at 11.00a.m in Our Lady and St. George Church.

Canon Niall and Fr. John wish to thank all the parishioners for their generous Christmas offerings, gifts and cards. Continue to be safe.

The Clergy wish to thank everybody for their co-operation with social distancing, wearing of face masks, track and trace and the use of the hand sanitiser.

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 return will be announced.
- 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.

May 2021 bring you health, peace and deep faith. Amen

Canon Niall, Fr. John, Fr. Joseph and Deacon Joseph

**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

6.00 pm	Rose Keenan (Rest in Peace) (O’Gorman)
Sun 27 Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (B) - Feast
10.00 am	Agnes Okite (Rest in Peace) (Sr. Genetrix)
12.00 noon	Sivagunam – Intentions (Family)
02.30 pm	Syro Malabar Mass
Mon 28 Dec	The Holy Innocents, Mm – Feast
9.15 am	John Mills (Rest in Peace) (Family)
6.00 pm	Joe Gilligan (Rest in Peace) (Philomena Hayden)
Tue 29 Dec	St. Thomas of Canterbury, Bp, M – National Feast – Patron of the Pastoral Clergy of England
9.15 am	Joe Staunton (Rest in Peace) (Sr. Reggy)
6.00p m	Ursula Thomas – Thanksgiving
Wed 30 Dec	Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas
9.15 am	Frank Murphy (Rest in Peace) (Family)
6.00 pm	Johnny Horgan (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Thu 31 Dec	Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas
9.15 am	Intentions (Sr. Scholastica)
6.00 pm	Johnny Horgan (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Fri 01 Jan	Mary, Mother of God - (Octave of Christmas) – Solemnity
10.00 am	Carmel Butler (Rest in Peace) (Carmody)
12.00 pm	Johnny Horgan (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Sat 02 Jan	St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd – Memorial
10.00 am	Sean Hart’s Intentions (O’Gorman)
6.00 pm	Kelly Moss (Rest in Peace) (Pat Moss)
Sun 03 Jan	Second Sunday after the Nativity
10.00 am	Marc Wilson (Rest in Peace) (Nelly and Cesar)
12.00 noon	Hayden and Smith Family - Thanksgiving
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, Tasmín 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 Klimauskaite, 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, Benedette Doherty, Patricia (Bondo).