

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

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Canon Niall Harrington; Fr Michael Barwick

Deacon Joseph Baffour-Awuah

Our Lady and St George's Primary School:

Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552

Holy Family Catholic School: 8520 0482/8520 3587

Charity Number: 234092



Third Sunday of Advent (11/12/2022)

(Gaudete Sunday)

Dear Parishioners,

Gaudete Sunday, takes its name from the first word of the Latin antiphon of the Mass, 'gaudete' which means 'rejoice'. In this antiphon the church invites us to 'Rejoice in the Lord always.' We rejoice in the Lord today as we remember his first coming into the world, over 2,000 years ago as well as his on-going presence among us.

While in prison John the Baptist had heard of the missionary activity of Jesus in which love, mercy and understanding for sinners prevailed. This merciful and loving approach did not quite fit in with the 'fire and judgement' aspect of the Messiah's mission that John had advocated. And so he is now wondering if Jesus really is the Messiah. To resolve his doubts he sends a delegation to Jesus to ask; are you the messiah. The promised one? Luke adds that Jesus worked miracles in the presence of John's delegates as proof that he is the true Messiah, fulfilling the prophecies. Jesus' gentleness towards all, his compassion and even friendship for sinners, his emphasis on mercy rather than justice caused scandal, not only to the Pharisees but also even to some of his close followers. Jesus praises John the Baptist, a man of principle fearlessly speaking in defence of truth. He was the greatest and closest to God of all the prophets, 'no greater born of woman.' I believe that this doubt of faith that assailed John about the coming of the Messiah in the person

of Jesus Christ indicates to us that faith is something very fragile. The fact that the Baptist, the fearless desert preacher has second thoughts about Jesus, wondering if he is or isn't the Messiah. There will be people at Mass this weekend who have heard this Gospel and who likewise have experienced a crisis of faith, a dark night of the soul. When these times come, we can be confident that God will reach out a very supportive hand as he did for his Son in his darkest hours in Gethsemane and to countless others through the ages. May we avail of these grace-filled days and the Feast that follows to nourish our faith in our closeness to Jesus.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Canon Miall

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

The **next parish Baptism preparation programme** will be on Monday 30th January at 6:30p.m. Session 1.

Please note there will be No New Year's Eve Midnight Mass on New Year's Eve 31st December 2022. The Vigil Mas will be at 6pm.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available after every parish Mass. Simply ask a priest.

Parish Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 5pm in the Church. All welcome.

The last day for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be Wednesday 14th December. Adoration will resume on Monday 9th January, after the Christmas break.

Divine Mercy Service will resume on Sunday 8th January, 2023.

The Diocesan Directory for 2023 has arrived. Spiral bound copy £4.15p non spiral bound copy £2.95p. Available in the repository.

St Vincent de Paul Society ANNUAL COLLECTION APPEAL

We are delighted to report that we collected the tremendous sum of £798.73 and would like to thank the Parishioners for their generosity at an exceedingly difficult time for us all. The gifts of charity will enable us to reach out to the most needy and vulnerable in our community. Ensuring they have the opportunity to partake in celebrating the Christmas Season. In particular working families, low-income families, single parents, people with disabilities, older people, and homeless people. Thanks -Joan Nicholson - Secretary

A big thank you to everybody who helped in any way with the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner on Sunday last. To Mrs McGlynn, Cliff, all the kitchen staff and all the young helpers and parishioners who made it all so wonderful. Same again next year.

Holy Family Carol Service will be on Tuesday 13th December at 7:30pm in Our Lady and Saint George Church. All Welcome.

The Requiem Mass for Marnie Patricia Malone aged 23 years will be on Tuesday 13th of December in Our Lady and Saint George at 11a.m. Please pray for Marnie's parents Donna and Paul

Our sincere condolences to the Whelan family on the death of their daughter Moyra, Rest in Peace. Please remember the Whelan family in your prayers

Prayer List

Betty Ramsey, Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris) Brid O Halloran, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Alma Willox, Liberee, Maria Green, Anne (Christina), Grace, Bridie Curley, Sharon Baker, Bridgit Morris, Mavis Hacker, Marjorie Singh, Pietro and Maria Marrai, Peggy McManus, Rosie Ebreo, Kathleen Lloyd, Johanna Whitley, Linda Campbell, Fr. Francis Coveney, Bridie Cronin, Baby Jimmy, Sierra Smucker-Halls (Carol), Maureen Newland (Carol), Anna (Gawlik), Theresa (Curley), Terry Wheeler, Pdraig Maloney, Pauline Brookman, Damon, Fatimata, Peter Norman

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions: Every Saturday after 10.00 a.m. Mass until 11:15 am. Repository Opening Times: Sundays: 9.15 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. to 12.15 a.m.

Nelly and Rosie look after the Repository

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Maureen Bennett (Rest in Peace) (Jane)
Sun 11 December	Third Sunday of Advent
08:30 am	Timothy O'Sullivan (Rest in Peace) (Mary)
10:00am	Anna Harvey (Rest in Peace) (Family)
12noon	Anthony Yamson's Intentions (Family)
Mon 12 December	FERIA
09:15am	Judith De Souza (Norah)
06:00pm	Deceased Family Members (Rest in Peace) (Thelma)
Tue 13 December	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
09:15am	Benito Ebreo (Rest in Peace) (Rosie)
11:00am	Requiem Mass for Marnie Patricia Malone (Rest in Peace)
6:00pm	Parishioners
Wed 14 December	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
09:15am	Padraig Maloney's Intentions (Family)
06:00 pm	Ramsey Family Intentions (Betty)
Thu 15 December	FERIA
09:15am	William Howard (Rest in Peace) (Norah)
06:00pm	Christopher Ramsey's Intentions (Betty)
Fri 16 December	FERIA
09:15 am	Michael Cosgrove (Rest in Peace) Keane)
06:00pm	Theresa Kinnane (Thanksgiving) (Betty)
Sat 17 December	FERIA
10:00am	Her Majesty The Queen (Rest in Peace) (Gonsalves)
06:00pm	Edward Fletcher (Joan)
Sun 18 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent
08:30 am	Kristina (Rest in Peace) (Elvyra)
10:00am	Bernard Carey (Joan)
12noon	Deceased Members (Rest in Peace) (Mr and Mrs Sivagunam)

Birthday Blessings to Mary Bond