

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

Reading 1 Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Response to the Psalm: Cry out with joy to God all the earth

2nd Reading 1 Pt 4:13-16

Gospel: Jn 17: 1-1

Sixth Sunday of Easter (14/05/2023)

A priest-colleague received a copy of Fintan O'Toole's 2021 book, for Christmas (called We Don't know Ourselves, O'Toole's personal history of Ireland since 1958). It was as if the donor felt my colleague wasn't depressed enough. And still he dutifully read it through, confident there was a message there for him. But he found it hard going, since through all the darkest moments in the Church in Ireland were covered, none of the bright moments were. It was as if the Church only ever brought bad news and left bad effects in its wake.

This pinning of all the misfortunes of Ireland on the Church's shoulder sometimes seems to permeate our lives now. Earlier this year RTE News reported on a tragic fire in an orphanage in Cavan, 80 years previously. One person interviewed, explaining why her relative had been in the orphanage, said it was because of 'the Catholic Church and all that'- as if the 'Catholic Church' was a byword for all that was wrong.

We all know there have been dark moments, we have lived through them, but we also know it is not the full story. The darkness has to be acknowledged before we share the light in the second reading, which Paul challenges us to do, in a powerful way.

‘Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have’.

And despite all, we still have good news to share. For believers and non-believers alike still have questions deserving of reply, deep questions about life and what follows it. Whether people believe or not, there is sickness to contend with, difficult diagnoses, the prospect of death and loss. For believers and non-believers alike, young people are a cause of worry to parents, who anxiously consider their prospects in life, their college admission, their personal difficulties.

And we still have good news to share. But Paul’s admonition means we cannot lash out at those who offend us. The answers we suggest can only be given ‘with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience’. That’s today’s challenge.

Have a Blessed Week

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 29th of May 6:30 pm in the Church. Session 1. Session 2 on June 5th.

Mass for Altar Servers of the Diocese of Brentwood celebrated by Bishop Alan Williams will take place in the cathedral , Brentwood on Saturday 10th of June at 2p.m. Please see poster on the church notice board in church porch.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 27th May 2023: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House.

Please **print** your name on the list in the church porch. Return journey cost £26/-.

Date for your diary: Thursday 18th May is the Ascension of the Lord- a holy day of obligation. Mass times – Vigil Mass (Wednesday 17th May at 7:30pm) and on Thursday 9:15 am and 7:30pm.

Gift Aid Queries and Requests If you have any query regarding Gift Aid (e.g. missing donor box, advise Finance of a change in your personal details or tax situation, or if you want to join the Gift Aid scheme either through the use of weekly boxes, online donation or standing order), please fill up one of the forms available in the church foyer and hand it directly to one of the priests or drop it in the presbytery mail box. You can also email your request or query to Armie directly, the parish Gift Aid Coordinator, at walthamstow&stg@dioceseofbrentwood.org Thank you.

ST.PATRICK CHURCH WALTHAMSTOW, INVITE YOU FOR AN ALL NIGHT VIGIL FROM 9PM TO 5AM* *ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH In honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It will begin with Mass of the Sacred Heart at 9pm and it will finish at 5am with Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. More information please check the Notice Board or St Patrick's Church website <http://www.stpatrickswalth.co.uk/> Our Address is 61 Blackhorse Road E17 7AS.Tel:0208 520 3647 Everyone is very welcome."

We will be having our **procession in honour of Mother Mary** on this Sunday 14th May, this year. Following the Crowning of our Blessed Mother at the Upper Site of our Lady and St George's school, at 2:00 pm we will process to the Church where the Rosary will be recited in different languages. We hope all are able to attend.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE EASTER TALKS will explore what it means to have an intimate friendship with Christ. They will take place on Wednesdays 10th, 17th and 24th of May at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1NS from 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. The first talk, "Calling on the name of Jesus," will be given by Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral. All very welcome.

Barts 900 Campaign specifically for the Heart and Cancer Centres; the fundraising raffle draw will be held on 14 May 2023 at 11.30 am in St George's Hall. THANK YOU to everyone who have donated, bought raffle tickets and volunteered to help in all that was needed since 23 April 2023, to date, to make the event a success. Hazel Belizaire 07813 644431

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Joe McGee (Rest in Peace) (Marie and Family)
Sun 14 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter
08:30 am	Special Intentions (Bhatti)
10:00am	Glenda's Intentions
12noon	Vocations to the priesthood
Mon 15 May	FERIA
09:15am	Parishioners
06:00pm	Intentions of Dr. Cooney and Family
Tue 16 May	FERIA
09:15am	Thanksgiving (Bhatti Family)
6:00pm	Thanksgiving (Bhatti)
Wed 17 May	FERIA
09:15am	Intentions (Bhatti)
07:30 pm***	Ambrose Dillsworth (Rest in Peace) (Catherine)
Thu 18 May	The Ascension of the Lord
09:15am	Poor and Needy (Bhatti)
07:30pm***	Jim 2 and Babie and Family (Mary)
Fri 19 May	FERIA
09:15 am	William James Turvey (Rest in Peace) (Paciencia)
06:00pm	Thanksgiving (Catherine Lloyd)
Sat 20 May	FERIA
10:00am	Athira's Intentions (Roy)
06:00pm	Carol Williams (Rest in Peace) (Geraldine)
Sun 21 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter
08:30 am	Thanksgiving (Milburn Fernandes)
10:00am	Veronica Brennan (Rest in Peace) (Joanne)
12noon	Ram and Betty Ramsey (Patrick and Katy)

Prayer List

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, Bridie Cronin, Baby Jimmy, Sierra Smucker-Halls (Carol), Maureen Newland (Carol), Anna (Gawlik), Theresa (Curley), Terry Wheeler, Pdraic Maloney , Pauline Brookman, Damon, Fatimata, Sherry Family, Bridie Curley, Jason Leonard Hamilton Barber (Tracy), Cyril and Rose Ogidi, Barry and Sheila Mayo, John Joseph (Mary), Ambrose and Felistas