

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

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Response to the Psalm: Let us see, O Lord your mercy and give us your saving help

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8



Second Sunday of Advent (10/12/2023)

This Sunday's Gospel passage (MK 1; 1-8) introduces the person and work of John the Baptist. He reveals to his contemporaries an itinerary of faith similar to the one that Advent proposes to us: that we prepare ourselves to receive the Lord at Christmas. This itinerary of faith is an itinerary of conversion. Receiving baptism was an outward and visible sign of the conversion of those who had listened to his preaching and decided to repent. That baptism occurred with immersion in the Jordan, in water, but it proved worthless; if there was no willingness to repent and change one's life.

Conversion involves sorrow for sins committed, the desire to be free from them, the intention to exclude them from one's own life forever. To exclude sin it is also necessary to reject everything that is connected to sin; the things that are connected sins and that need to be rejected—a worldly mentality, excessive esteem for comforts, excessive esteem for pleasure, for well-being, for wealth. This is the first aspect of conversion:

detachment from sin and worldliness: Commencing a journey of detachment from these things.

The other aspect of conversion is the aim of the journey, that is, the search for God and his kingdom. Detachment from worldly things and seeking God and his kingdom. At times the yearning we feel towards the Lord is too weak and it almost seems that God is silent; his promises of consolation seem far away and unreal to us, like the image of the caring and attentive shepherd, which resounds today in the reading from Isaiah (40:1,11) And so one is tempted to say that it is impossible to truly convert. How often we have heard this discouragement! No, I can't do it. I barely start and then I turn back. 'When you have this discouraging thought, do not remain there, because this is quicksand. What can we do in these cases, when one would like to go but feels he or she cannot do it? Pray, walk, and you will always take a step forward.

Have a Blessed Week

Canon Miall

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

Session 1 of the next **parish Baptism preparation programme** will be on Monday 29th January 2024 and Session 2 on the following Monday 5th February.

Today we welcome into the Community of Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism Francis Castro Barrett. Every blessing to the family.

Our Lady and St George SVP Annual Christmas Lunch for Senior Citizens
Sunday 10 December 2023 from 2.30 -5 pm

If you would like to attend the SVP Annual Christmas Lunch for Senior Citizens on Sunday 10 December 2023, from 2.30pm-5pm please add your name to the list in the church porch, we have spaces for 40 Senior citizens only. Also, if you require transport, please add your name and telephone number to the Transport list. Thank You.

Reverse Advent Calendar.

"Reverse Advent Calendar". This initiative is from Caritas Brentwood who provide help for people across the diocese. For us as a parish this gives us a chance to give to others who are in most need during the Christmas period. Please return the boxes on Sunday 17th December so they can be delivered in time for Christmas. For more information please visit www.caritasbrentwood.org/advent. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

We are coming up to the Catholic New Year Second week of Advent, look to make a new year resolution by Helping in the Parish

There are many ways you can offer your time and talent to help around the parish. Without having to devote any extra time in your busy family and work life or to make a special trip to parish. There are plenty of jobs for you and your family that can be done on days you come to Mass that can be done in 15-30 minutes after or if suits before mass. If you interested and want to know more speak to Cliff D'souza after Sunday Masses in the Day Chapel.

Pop up Foodbank: We will be holding a pop up foodbank on Tuesday 19th December 1-3pm in the Church meeting room as we have donations of dry goods and toiletries that those who are struggling with cost of living can hopefully benefit from so that families and individuals are able to celebrate Christmas.

HFSIX – APPLICATIONS OPEN

Application forms for the Sixth Form at Holy Family 2024/25 are now open. Please go to www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk for the link to our online application. Deadline for these applications is 2nd February 2024. For more information or a chance to visit the Sixth Form please email Mrs Wilbraham at hsix@holycatholicsschool.co.uk

Holy Family School Carol Service will be Tuesday 12th December in Our Lady and Saint George Church.

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Wendy Elizabeth Mary Downey, Rest in Peace. The requiem Mass for Mary's soul will be on Wednesday 20th December 11:30am at Our Lady and St George Church.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00 pm	Edward Fletcher (Rest in Peace) (Joan)
Sun 10 December	Second Sunday of Advent
08:30 am	Timothy Sullivan (Rest in Peace) (Mary)
10:00 am	Orlando Almeida (Rest in Peace) (Family)
12noon	Anthony Yamson (Thanksgiving) (family)
Mon 11 December	FERIA
09:15 am	Elizabeth O' Donell's Intentions (O'Gorman)
06:00 pm	Simon Family Intentions (Stephen)
Tue 12 December	FERIA
09:15am	Dave Kirsopp (Rest in Peace) (Carmody)
06:00 pm	Intentions of Eamonn, Rita and Family (Sr. Anne Marie)
Wed 13 December	FERIA
09:15 am	Elizabeth O'Donell's Intentions (O'Gorman)
06:00 pm	Lincoln Ramage Miles (Rest in Peace) (Christopher)
Thu 14 December	Saint John of the Cross
09:15 am	Dave Kirsopp (Rest in Peace) (Keane)
06:00 pm	Ian brown's Intentions (Westerby)
Fri 15 December	FERIA
09:15 am	Dave Kirsopp (Rest in Peace) (Pat Moss)
06:00 pm	Liz O'Donnell's Intentions (Keane)
Sat 16 December	FERIA
10:00 am	Thanksgiving (Barbara)
06:00 pm	Alma Willox (Rest in Peace) (Kristina)
Sun 17 December	Third Sunday of Advent
08:30 am	Canon Maurice's Intention (Edna)
10:00 am	Joanna and Valerio (Rest in Peace) (Family)
12noon	Biddy McDonagh (Rest in Peace) Family)

Prayer List

Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris) Brid O Halloran, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Liberee, Anne (Christina), Grace, Bridie Curley, Sharon Baker, Bridgit Morris, Mavis Hacker, Marjorie Singh, Pietro and Maria Marrai, Peggy McManus, Rosie Ebreo, Kathleen Lloyd, Linda Campbell, Bridie Cronin, Baby Jimmy, Sierra Smucker-Halls (Carol), Maureen Newland (Carol), Anna (Gawlik), Theresa (Curley), Terry Wheeler, Pdraic Maloney , Damon, Bridie Curley, Jason Leonard Hamilton Barber (Tracy), Cyril and Rose Ogidi, Barry and Sheila Mayo, John Joseph (Mary), Ambrose and Felistas and family, Chris Newman, Margaret Phillips, Margaret and Norris Levine, Dr. Michael Weston, Chris Cullen, Fr. Francis Coveney, Kim Anh and Katie Farr.