

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: Jonah 3:1-5,10

Response to the Psalm: Lord, make me know your ways.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (21/01/2024)

It is at once striking and quite probably revealing that Mark's version of the Gospel story gets off to such a humble, modest start. Matthew has his mysterious star in the East and the Magi who follow it. Luke gives us layer upon layer of drama surrounding the birth and later appearance of Jesus. John brings us to the rim of the galaxies and the beginning of all things with that all creating Word of God who was with God in the beginning. But not Mark. Mark allows Jesus merely to appear from out of nowhere, emerging humbly from the heat vapours emanating from the desert floor to be baptized by John.

The message we have to proclaim and to embody and to exemplify is the same now as it has always been: the kingdom of God is at hand. Today as much as ever, people need to know that this kingdom is real and available. They need to see the joy and the possibilities of that kingdom in us. Because often people are too easily satisfied just to make do with what is quick and easy and cheap. People settle for sex or drink or the distractions provided by entertainment or new technology. They look to these things to save them, or at least to help them move forward in a grim world. But, as C.S. Lewis once wrote, we are far too easily satisfied.

We're like a child who turns down an invitation for a day at the beach and choose instead to say sitting in a slum alley making mud pies just because the child really can't imagine how much better a day at the shore can be.

Maybe the kingdom is like that: it's here, it's real. It's right outside your door. The kingdom of God is at hand! Don't be so easily satisfied with the temporary pleasures. A better, exciting, hopeful, joyful kingdom of life is real. The kingdom of God is at hand. We live knowing that this is true! We live to help others believe it, too.

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 Baptism preparation course** will be on Monday 29th of January at 6:30p.m. in the church for Session one. Session 2 will be on the following Monday 5th of February.

Cycle of Prayer : During Ordinary Time (Winter) i.e. up to the Season of Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth, Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them;; Victims of Trafficking and Those Who Work to Combat it: The Unemployed .

A FIRE IN MY HEART - A CONVERSATION WITH BIBLICAL FRIENDS: On Saturday 3rd February from 11 am until 2 pm (coffee at 10.30 am), at the church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be in conversation with professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and Carlos Castillo Mattasoglio, archbishop of Lima, Peru. The event coordinator is Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, vice-rector of Allen Hall. The speakers will be present in-person, but this free event is also live-streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org If attending in person please book your place at gideapark@brcdt.org The event is under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain.

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity may be observed from the 18th to the 25th of January.

Please note that the earliest Mass intentions available will be mid March.

BCYS YOUTH MASS – Thursday 1st February, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a speaker from the SVP joining us to help prepare for the start of Lent. Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming – just email info@bcys.net

YEAR 12 RETREAT – Friday 16th to Sunday 18th February

“Life to the Full” - You are at a stage where you are about to start making decisions and dreaming about future plans. You might be at a stage where you are looking to explore your faith further and learn more about the role God plays within your life. This retreat will give you time to think, pray and chat with those in your year from across Essex and East London. There will be a mix of fun and games, along with times of reflection and personal prayer. For just £35, the cost will include meals, accommodation and youth-led formation. Apply now at www.bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE – Last week of July 2024 (exact dates TBC) Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. Serve the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assist the elderly and infirm, with times of retreat, reconciliation, visit the baths, take part in the beautiful Processions, as well as an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese. The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 – 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website www.bcys.net/events/sl24

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Grace Mecaley Rest in Peace. The Requiem Mass for Grace's soul will be on Tuesday 30th January at 11:30a.m. in Our Lady and Saint George Church followed by burial at Chingford Mount Cemetery.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00 pm	Deceased of Moss and Nagle (Family)
Sun 21 January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
08:30 am	Thanksgiving (Charles and Nora)
10:00 am	Simon Uzice (Family)
12noon	Victor's Intentions (Family)
Mon 22 January	FERIA
09:15 am	Special Intentions (Harte)
06:00 pm	Nell and Trevor (Bridget)
Tue 23 January	FERIA
09:15am	Intentions (Geraldine Cremin)
06:00 pm	Peg, Eddie and Francis (Bridget)
Wed 24 January	Saint Francis de Sales
09:15 am	Vincent Keane (Get Well) (Keane)
06:00 pm	Berney and Family (Bridget)
Thu 25 January	The Conversion of Saint Paul
09:15 am	Deceased of Bond Family (Mary)
06:00 pm	Katie's Intentions (Farr Family)
Fri 26 January	Saints Timothy and Titus
09:15 am	Deceased of Shield's Family (Mary)
06:00 pm	Sarah Ginzler- Maher's Intentions (Family)
Sat 27 January	FERIA
10:00 am	Vincent Keane's Intentions (Carmody)
06:00 pm	Peggy Doyle (Rest in Peace) (Harte)
Sun 28 January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
08:30 am	Elizabeth Halton (Rest in Peace) (Bernadette Colrick)
10:00 am	P.J. Murphy (Rest in Peace) (Whelan)
12noon	Jerry, Amerie and Family (Mary O'Connor)

Prayer List

Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris) Brid O Halloran, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Liberee, Anne (Christina), 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, Padraic 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, Kim Ahn and family