

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

132 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU

Tel: 020 8520 5877

E-mail: parishoffice@olsg.co.uk Website: www.olsg.co.uk

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: Genesis 9:8-15

Response to the Psalm: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15

First Sunday of Lent (18/02/2024)

Seeing Jesus tempted here helps us to understand his full humanity. God made God suffer so that we could relate to Him. Each of us struggles with temptation daily, and it is standard to often feel alone in that battle. In this passage, the 'wilderness' and 'beasts' are metaphorical representations of the chaos and obstacles which impede on us as we stumble through life, bearing our burdens. The ability to turn the scripture and see Jesus facing the same difficulties is a comforting reminder that we are not alone in our struggle. In Jesus' example, in fact, we find that the wilderness is not a place to be feared, but one of great hope! It is a place of revelation and intimacy. In our darkest moments, when we are alone and most in need of God, he appears to us. Yes, Jesus was by himself among beasts, exhausted from battling Satan's temptations, but at the same time '.....the angels ministered to [Jesus].' God was on his side, and for this reason, Jesus emerged from the wilderness in proclamation.

This is the beauty of this succinct passage: it wraps up the purpose of Lent in eight brief lines. Jesus remained in dark place, confronting his

temptations vulnerably, in the fullness of his humanity, for 40 days. So, too, do we begin that journey now. Angels ministered to Jesus throughout this battle. We, too, are reminded that we are never alone in our struggles. God reaches out to us in intimacy, yearning to create, heal and nourish His personal relationship with each of us, especially within our darkest moments. After 40 days of restless confrontation, Jesus returned to Galilee, proclaiming the Good News to all who would hear it: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel.' We pay heed to this advice when participating intentionally in the Lenten season, and we pray that as we work on ourselves, we experience intimacy with God in the wilderness. At this, our hearts will be transformed in a way which sends us off in proclamation-firm in both our faith and our desire to share it!

Have a Blessed Week

Canon Miall

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

Marriage preparation course on Monday and Tuesday 26th and 27th of February in the church meeting room beginning at 8p.m.

The **next Baptism preparation course** will be on Monday 26th of February at 6:30p.m. in the church for Session 1. Session 2 will be on the Monday 4th March.

Cafod Family Fast Day is Friday 23rd of February.

The **monthly Mass for the Tamil Community** is on the third Sunday of each month at 5pm in Our lady and St George Church.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday of Lent after the 6p.m. Mass.

Syro-Malabar Station of the Cross every Friday of lent at 5pm.

All Mass intentions are booked up until mid-April.

We pray for the children who make their first Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday morning.

Diocesan Pilgrimage 2024 Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July). To book, please go online: Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com) If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young: kathrynyoung@mail.com. The pilgrimage is slightly longer this year because of the availability of chartered flights, which allow us to bring many more assisted pilgrims than commercial flights. However, if anyone is interested in a shorter stay in Lourdes, during the Diocesan Pilgrimage, please contact Tangney. As ever, any parish which wishes to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage, but make their own travel arrangements and hotel bookings, are most welcome to do so. If you wish to discuss this, please contact me.

This weekend there is a retiring collection to raise funds for the HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Blessings to Samuel who received our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time this week.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR LENT

Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'. The commentaries are also available in book form from Darton, Longman and Todd www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk

Attached to each newsletter is a CAFOD envelope. Anything you deny yourself on Friday next please place a donation in the envelope and place in the collection basket next weekend. Thank you on behalf of CAFOD.

Lent = Prayer + Fasting + Almsgiving

Happy Lent

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00 pm	Tim Keenan (Rest in Peace) (Keane)
Sun 18 February	First Sunday of Lent
08:30 am	Joyce, David and Family (Stella)
10:00 am	Intentions of Agatha Kramo and Family (Family)
12noon	Rouf Tobin (Rest in Peace) (Amal)
Mon 19 February	Monday of the First Week of Lent
09:15 am	Dermot and John Dineen's Intentions (Family)
06:00 pm	Fawzia Tobia (Rest in Peace) (Amal)
Tue 20 February	Tuesday of the First Week of Lent
09:15am	Roselene's Intentions
06:00 pm	Roselene's Intentions
Wed 21 February	Wednesday of the First Week of Lent
09:15 am	Emeel Rouf Tobia (Rest in Peace) (Amal)
06:00 pm	Intentions of John and Teresa (Philomena)
Thu 22 February	The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle
09:15 am	Eileen Grannell (Rest in Peace) (Mary Murphy)
06:00 pm	Betty and Ram Ramsey (Family)
Fri 23 February	Friday of the First Week of Lent
09:15 am	Special Intentions (Mary Murphy)
06:00 pm	Ekba Ron Tobia (Test in Peace) (Amal)
Sat 24 February	Saturday of the First Week of Lent
10:00 am	Special Intentions (Liberee)
06:00 pm	John Elms (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Sun 25 February	Second Sunday of Lent
08:30 am	Special Intention
10:00 am	Alice Isaac (Rest in Peace) (Roy)
12noon	Moira Corcoran (Rest in Peace) (Cronin)

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, 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, Margaret Phillips, Margaret and Norris Levine, Dr. Michael Weston, Chris Cullen, Kim Ahn and family