

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

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Canon Niall Harrington; Fr Michael Barwick

Fr. Shinto Varghese Vaalimalayil CRM (Syro-Malabar)

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 Zephaniah 3:14-18

Response to the Psalm: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18



Third Sunday of Advent (15/12/2024)

Joy should be the basic mood of the Christian. It should not be artificial or forced, but something that bubbles up naturally from our sharing Christ's vision of life. Unfortunately, many Christians do not have that experience, as if being a Christian means living a half-life as the price for a better one to come. This is not to deny that we may experience pain, sickness, failure or loss. Grieving and letting go are an important part of life. Every experience, if we can only realise it, is touched by God and has its meaning. Once that meaning is found and accepted, inner joy and peace can return. Christian joy or happiness is deep down in the heart and is not incompatible

with physical and emotional pain or difficult circumstance. Jesus says it is something that no-one can take away from us. John's listeners ask: 'What must we do, then?' And we can ask that too as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We too are urged to share what we have with those in need. John makes it clear that he is not the Messiah. John only baptises with water, but the Messiah will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire, a fire that purifies what is good and destroys what is evil. It is a sign of God's power and God's loving presence. Like John the Baptist our task as Christians is to bring people to a genuine conversion that brings them face to face with Jesus, a conversion that brings a real joy and happiness into their lives- we need to remember that we are God's instruments. Our aim is, like John the Baptist, to lead people to the feet of Jesus and then, like John, to step aside and leave Jesus to do his work. This is evangelisation-bringing the Good News to others.

Have a Blessed Week

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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 at 6:30pm in the church. Session 1: Monday 27 January 2025 .Session 2 Monday 6th February 2025.

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will be from Friday 18 July – Friday 25 July 2025. The flights will be Southend to Lourdes. Details, including how to book, will follow. We hope you will join us.

We welcome Aria-Rae Reade Serra into the Community of Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism. Blessings to all the family

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Holy Family School Carol Service on Monday 16th December at 7p.m. in Our Lady and Saint George Catholic Church. All welcome

Our parish Carol Service is on Sunday 15th of December at 5p.m. All welcome.

Syro-Malabar Mass Christmas Eve 2:30p.m. to 4:00 pm.

Marian Mission Nursery/Pre-School, Breakfast and After School Club and Holiday Club:

Places are still available at our Breakfast and After School Club for 4 to 12 yr olds, Childcare for 0 -2 yr olds and pre-school for 2 to 4 year olds. 15/30 hours of FREE NURSERY education during term time are available. Positive Holiday Activities for all school Holidays are available for 2 to 15 year olds.

L3 CHILDCARE PRACTITIONER NEEDED

Marian Mission Pre-School is urgently looking to recruit a qualified and experienced Early Years Practitioner to work with our team. Applicant Must possess Level 3 or above and Must have 2 years min experience within a Pre-school setting. support the Marian Mission Disadvantaged Children Centre. Contact the Sisters on 07940143545/ 02085187499

There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament starting from Monday 16th December. Adoration will resume on Wednesday 8th January 2025.

The Catholic Herald magazine is on sale in the repository. This is a Christian double edition and cost is £5. There are many interesting articles and it is good purchase.

You Christmas offerings by tradition goes to your priests in appreciation of all they do in their ministry.

Please note that there will be no midnight Mass on New Year's Eve.

Please pray for our RCIA candidates as they journey together in faith.

Mass Times and Intentions at Our Lady and St. George

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| 06:00 pm | Edwin Fletcher (Rest in Peace) (Joan) |
| Sun 15 December | Third Sunday of Advent |
| 08:30 am | Special Intention (Shania) |
| 10:00 am | John Wills Sinnassamy's Intentions (Suzette) |
| 12noon | Clergy and Parishioners (Sylvia) |
| Mon 16 December | Advent Weekday |
| 09:15 am | John Wills Sinnassamy's Intentions (Suzette) |
| 06:00 pm | Fr. Christopher Hogan (Rest in Peace) (PACT) |
| Tue 17 December | Advent Weekday |
| 09:15am | Billy Keane (Rest in Peace) (Mary) |
| 06:00 pm | Intentions (Christopher) |
| Wed 18 December | Advent Weekday |
| 09:15 am | Van Ngot Pham and Thi Quy Tran (Rest in Peace) (Hoa and Thuyet) |
| 6:00:00 | Cyril Bhoorrow (Rest in Peace) (Jaqueline) |
| Thu 19 December | Advent Weekday |
| 09:15 am | Anna Tedorak (Rest in Peace) (Nestor) |
| 06:00 pm | Emeel Tobia (Rest in Peace) (Amal) |
| Fri 20 December | Advent Weekday |
| 09:15 am | Van Ngot Pham and Thi Quy Tran (Rest in Peace) (Hoa and Thuyet) |
| 06:00pm | Geraldine Motha (Rest in Peace) (Gowri) |
| Sat 21 December | Advent Weekday |
| 10:00 am | Carol Phillips (Rest in Peace) (Margaret) |
| 06:00 pm | Alexandra Keith (Rest in Peace) (Gowri) |
| Sun 22 December | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| 08:30 am | Intentions of James Dias (Shania) |
| 10:00 am | Beloved Departed (Uzice and Candell Family) |
| 12noon | Giuseppe (Natascia) |

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, Padraic Maloney, Damon, Bridie Curley, Cyril and Rose Ogidi, Barry and Sheila Mayo, John Joseph (Mary), Margaret Phillips, Margaret and Norris Levine, Dr. Michael Weston, Bruce Pereira, Nigel Smith, Mary Murphy, Phyllis Beer, Chirs Cullen. Kim Parkins, Mrs Best, Ashish, Michael Brown, Albert Callanan, Anne Close, Robinson