

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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**Fr Maurice Gordon, Fr Mark Swires,
Fr Joseph Anthiamkulam (Syro-Malabar Chaplain)
Fr David Waller, Ordinariate Priest in Charge (020 8554 3763)
Rev. Joseph Baffour-Awuah (Permanent Deacon)
Sr. Anne Marie (Pastoral Care)**

Our Lady & St George's Primary School:
Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552
Holy Family Catholic College: 8520 0482/8520 3587

1st December 2013

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

My dear people,

Advent is a wake-up call; and wake up calls are all the more important on dark winter mornings; and all the more difficult to respond to!

Indeed, in the Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans, (Rom 13:11-14) which we hear today, he said: 'You must wake up now.... the night is almost over...it will be daylight soon'.

The purpose of this wake-up call is very clear. It's not simply to get us out of bed, but it's a call to renew in our hearts and minds the demands of Faith: 'Let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; Let us arm ourselves and appear in the light'.

Advent is the time to refresh in our lives the patterns by which we follow Christ and are attentive to Him. Indeed, Jesus uses the same language: 'Stay awake,' he says, 'because you do not know the hour when the Master is coming' (Matthew 24:42).

Four times in a relatively short Gospel we have this phrase 'Stay awake'. Vivid and immediate are the warnings. They are conveyed through the person of a doorkeeper who must stay alert since the Master may return unexpectedly and must not find us sleeping. This invites us to be in a state of readiness and yearning. It means keeping our eyes fixed on the Lord; it means trying to live the life he wants us to live. I find it beautifully expressed in these words of Blessed John Henry Newman:

'That person watches for Christ who has a sensitive, eager, apprehensive mind; who is awake, alive, quick-sighted and zealous in seeking and honouring Him and who looks out for Him in all that happens and does not lose sight of His Crucifixion and Resurrection. That person watches for Christ, who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed, If they found He was coming, at once.'

May this Advent be a time of profound grace and joy for you all. Let us not be distracted by the commercialism of the season, but stay awake to its deeper meaning and rejoice in its blessings.

+ Thomas
Bishop of Brentwood

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

'WALK WITH ME' ADVENT PRAYER BOOKS: The Advent 2013 editions of 'Walk with Me' are now on sale in the repository, priced £1. They contain prayer and scripture reflections for each day of Advent and the Christmas season, and can be helpful in spiritual preparation.

GIFT AID: Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows the parish to reclaim tax on all donations made. If you are a UK taxpayer, you could add 25p to every £1 given, at no extra cost to yourself. This is a good way for the parish to obtain extra funds for the upkeep of the buildings and the schools. If you are not currently enrolled in the Gift Aid scheme, please pick up a Gift Aid form from the back of the Church. For further information, please contact Hana on 07939 485957. Many thanks.

MASS INTENTIONS: Please note that all Saturday 6pm Masses are booked up until March 2014.

CONFIRMATION 2014: The next session of the Confirmation programme is Sunday 15th December, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall.

FIRST COMMUNION 2014: The next session of the First Communion programme is on Saturday 7th December at 10am.

OLSG SCHOOL: If your child was born between **01.09.2009 and 31.08.2010**, and you would like to apply for a place at Our Lady & St George School, please speak to Fr Maurice.

HCPT FUNDRAISERS: HCPT group 161 proudly present the Family 'Disney' Christmas Disco – next Saturday 7th December, in the Parish Hall of Our Lady & St George, from 6.30pm. Tickets available from Peter Norman, Anita Feculak and Emily Mara at schools and after Masses – just ask for one of us. £5 adult, £3 child.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) APPEAL:

Thank you for your contributions to last week's appeal for the SVP senior citizen's Christmas lunch. Over £700 was raised. The SVP puts the faith into action by going out and helping people. The Christmas lunch is a way of thanking and supporting our Senior Citizens. If you are interested in the work of the SVP, see the noticeboards in the porch, and for more information or to join the team, contact Jenny Richmond on 07801 628 799.

SUPPORT RECOVERY IN THE PHILIPPINES: St Barnabas Anglican church, Walthamstow is organizing a collection of items for shipping to the Philippines, to assist recovery efforts. If you would like to donate long life tinned food, antiseptic lotions/gels, personal hygiene goods, baby supplies, clothing, blankets, toys, cooking supplies, tools or medical supplies, please drop them into St Barnabas church, St Barnabas Rd, Walthamstow E17 8JZ.

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA: Many thanks to all who returned the counterfoils last weekend for the CAFOD Christmas raffle. Please return any remaining counterfoils or unsold tickets, as the draw will take place on 15th December in the Parish Hall. Many thanks for your support.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE: On Saturday 7th December, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. You can pray a rosary (or an extra one), and fast on bread and water, or offer whatever you can. For more information see www.goodcounselnet.co.uk/prayer-and-fasting-days.html

DEACON JOSEPH RETIREMENT MASS: A Thanksgiving Mass and party will be held to commemorate the retirement from full-time lecturing and the birthday of Deacon Joseph. This will take place in the Church on Sunday 1st December at 3pm.

EASTER PILGRIMAGE 2014: There will be a meeting for the group travelling to the Holy Land at Easter next year. It will take place on Sunday 8th December at 3pm in the Parish Hall.

CATHOLIC SINGLES: Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

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RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Angiss Legrand, whose funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Adeline Rosario, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 6th December at 10am (N.B. there will be no 9.15am Mass on that day).

May they rest in peace.

ROTAS – DECEMBER

Christian Kitchen:	30/11 E	7/12 Nor	14/12 F	21/12 G	28/12 H
Counting:	1/12 E	8/12 B	15/12 A	22/12 B	29/12 D
Hospital: If you are unavailable please contact Serge 020 8527 4814	1/12 D	8/12 A	15/12 B	22/12 D	29/12 A

Offertory collection for 24th November was £1429.94
Thank you very much for your generosity.

Times and Intentions at Our Lady and St. George ***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)***

6.00pm	John William Turvey (RIP)
Sun 1 st Dec	<i>First Sunday of Advent (A)</i>
8.30am	Kujtim Reka, Liljana Kola & family (Ints)
10.00am	Suta Kovaci (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 2 nd Dec	<i>Advent weekday</i>
7.00am	Michelle, Matt & Milly Clack (Ints)
9.15am	Deceased relatives of Angelina Hoareau
Tue 3 rd Dec	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>
7.00am	Angelina Hoareau & family (Thanksgiving)
9.15am	Davillia Bamboche & Gemma Tirant (RIP)
Wed 4 th Dec	<i>St John Damascene</i>
7.00am	Peter Coofer (RIP)
9.15am	Mary & Nicola Darby (Ints)
Thurs 5 th Dec	<i>Advent weekday</i>
7.00am	Joseph Sanches (RIP)
9.15am	Eithne Mary Wootton (RIP)
Fri 6 th Dec	<i>St Nicholas</i>
7.00am	Adeline Rosario (RIP)
10.00am	Adeline Rosario: Requiem Mass
Sat 7 th Dec	<i>St Ambrose</i>
10.00am	Adeline Rosario (RIP)
6.00pm	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
Sun 8 th Dec	<i>Second Sunday of Advent (A)</i>
8.30am	Stella Rodrigues (Ints)
10.00am	Special Ints
12.00pm	Parish
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>

We pray for those in our parish community who are ill:

Christopher Browne, Rose Dennehy, Carol Hogermeer, Brian Keane, Ignatius Keane, Tony McCarthy, Rose O'Neill, Andrea Roberts, Promise Shinondo, Victoria Wyndham, Christine Conway, Nora Meades, Veronica Nolan, Mr & Mrs Charles, Maureen Bee, Denis Collins, Esperanza Buenaventura, Joyce Ross, Christine Raymond, Jacky Boyrow, Thelma Lewis, Tasmin Sparks, Eileen Karim, Sandra Gibson, Angelina Hoareau, Archie Garrod, Gilda Baptiste, Margaret Messenger, Martin Keane, Muriel Chetty, Masangela Tardioli, Alix Charlery, Natalie Rosario, Ronald Rolle. Bridie Lacon, Peter Ikuptati. Mercy Fernando, Veronica Godsave, Mary and Anthony O'Boyle, Oliver Gaynor, Marjorie Singh, Gunanesan Singarajah, Joan Beirne, Bill Walsh, Margaret Perry, Bridget Lyons, Kristina Klimasauskaite, Philomena Spranklen, Jeffrey Mitchell, Mary Akinkuolie, Michelle Boyle, Carla Cornelius, Cecelia Gibbs, Arthur Gibbs, Ural Gibbs, Gilbert Gibbs.

Morning Prayer:

Rosary:

Adoration & Exposition:

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45 am

Weekdays after morning Mass

Mon – Fri: 7.30am-8.30am and at the following times:

Mon: 10.00am – 7.00pm Weds: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Fri: 9.45am – 10.45am, Sat: 10.30am-11.30am

Sat. 10.30am – 11.00am. 5.00pm – 5.30pm (Or on request)