

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

22nd December 2013

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

My mantelpiece in the presbytery is getting filled up with Christmas cards. In recent years I've noticed that even the ones with religious images often leave St Joseph out of the picture. It can be easy to forget the role of Joseph in God's plan. Although he is named in the Gospels, no words of his are recorded.

And yet he is a wonderful model for us. The months before the birth of Jesus would have been very difficult to him. During the time of his betrothal to Mary, he learns that she is pregnant. How much he must have suffered. He is visited by the angel Gabriel, who tells him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, for the child is conceived by the Holy Spirit. Just like Mary, he would not have understood the fullness of what was going on, and yet in obedience to God, he trusted and was faithful to his wife and the child.

He remains a constant and firm yet quiet presence throughout the trials that the Holy Family had to go through. Imagine Joseph's pain at the poor circumstances of Jesus' birth, looking desperately for accommodation and having to settle for the stable. Think of the flight to Egypt, when Herod was seeking to kill the child, and the anguish he would have felt on hearing Simeon tell Mary that Jesus would be a sign rejected, and that a sword would pierce her soul. And finally, think of the episode where the child Jesus went missing for three days.

In all of this, Joseph shows us what it means to be a man, and the father of a family. Despite suffering and hardships, he is a wonderful provider and protector, and a model for fathers in today's society. What gave Joseph the strength to endure all of these trials, and what can we learn from him – especially those of us who are fathers? In imitation of St Joseph, we must be men of prayer. We must love and honour our spouses, and be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. But we must also be prepared to act – as Joseph courageously led the family to Egypt when the child was in danger.

As the coming days will likely be stressful for our families, let us have recourse to St Joseph, that we may bear all things patiently. Let us open our hearts to ponder the mystery that we are about to celebrate once again.

Fr Maurice

MASS & SERVICE TIMES: CHRISTMAS 2013

Sunday 22nd December (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am, 12 noon, 6.30pm

Parish Carol Service: 4.00pm

Monday 23rd December

Morning Masses: 7.00am and 9.15am

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

Morning Masses: 7.00am and 9.15am

Christmas Vigil Mass: 6.30pm

Confessions available: 5.00pm-6.00pm and 8.00pm-11.00pm

Carols & Readings: 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am, 12 noon.

Thursday 26th & Friday 27th December

Morning Mass: 10.00am

Saturday 28th December

Morning Mass: 10.00am

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm

Sunday 29th December

Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am, 12 noon, 6.30pm

Monday 30th December

Morning Mass: 10.00am

Tuesday 31st December

Morning Mass: 10.00am

Eucharistic Adoration (and confessions available) from 10.45pm, followed by Midnight Mass

Wednesday 1st – Friday 3rd January

Morning Masses: 10.00am

Saturday 4th January

Morning Mass: 10.00am

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm

Sunday 5th January – Feast of the Epiphany

Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am, 12 noon, 6.30pm

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

PARISH GROUPS: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume after Christmas on Monday 6th January. The over 60s club will resume on Wednesday 8th January. The RCIA group will resume on Wednesday 15th January. The next SVP meeting will be on Saturday 11th January.

RECONCILIATION / CONFESSIONS: What better way to prepare for Christmas to make a good confession and encounter the healing love of Christ? Confessions are heard from 10.30-11.00am and 5.00-5.30pm every Saturday or at other times on request. On Christmas Eve, confessions will be available from 5.00pm-6.00pm and 8.00pm-11.00pm.

To anyone who has been away from this Sacrament, perhaps for some years, I encourage you to come back to this source of grace. Do not be afraid! Christ himself is waiting for you. He will heal you, and you will be at peace with God. There are short guides on Confession available in the porch, which may be helpful in preparation for the sacrament.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: The annual Christmas Carol service, in aid of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society will take place this Sunday 22nd December at 4pm in the Church. Do come along with your families.

MALAYALAM MASS: On Sunday 22nd December, Mass will be at 2pm (rather than at 4.30pm).

GIFT AID: Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows the parish to reclaim tax on all donations made. 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.

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.

YOUTH 2000: Join hundreds of young Catholics this New Year's Eve to celebrate our faith and reconnect with the Church. With live worship, engaging talks, fellowship, Holy Mass, life-changing services and dynamic workshops. 29th December-1st January at Maria Fidelis School, North Gower Street, Euston NW1 2HR. For more information visit www.youth2000.org or call 0207 221 2124.

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 15th December was £1418.35
Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
Sun 22 nd Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
8.30am	Mary, Gus, Joe Kinnane and Tony Mulhern (RIP)
10.00am	Special Ints
12.00pm	Parish
6.30pm	[<i>Ordinariate Mass</i>]
Mon 23 rd Dec	Advent Weekday
7.00am	Betty Ramsey (Ints)
9.15am	Elliott Anderson Scott (RIP), Roderick Alfred Fairy (RIP), Douglas Anderson Scott (RIP)
Tue 24 th Dec	Advent Weekday – Christmas Eve
7.00am	Hugh McAteer (RIP)
9.15am	Special Ints
6.30pm	Christmas Vigil Mass: Sean McKenna (RIP)
Wed 25th Dec	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)
Midnight	Parish
8.30am	Mr P & Mrs E Mitchell (Wedding Anniversary)
10.00am	Special Ints
12 noon	Eithne Mary Wootton
Thurs 26 th Dec	St Stephen
10.00am	Special Ints
Fri 27 th Dec	St John
10.00am	Special Ints
Sat 28 th Dec	Holy Innocents
10.00am	Roy Walker (RIP)
6.00pm	Roy Walker (RIP)
Sun 29 th Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8.30am	Adeline Rosario (RIP)
10.00am	Special Ints
12.00pm	Sr Mary Horan (Ints) & Sr Mary Lardner (Ints)
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:

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45 am

Rosary:

Weekdays after morning Mass

Adoration & Exposition:

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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