

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

29th December 2013

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (A)

Today is the feast of the Holy Family, and we think about Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Today's gospel reading reminds us that they did not live in a cocoon. They had to face real problems, threats to their safety, living in a world that was often dark and corrupt. St Matthew tells us that an angel appears to St Joseph in a dream, telling him to take the Child and His mother to Egypt to escape the wicked King Herod.

The gospel today is encouraging us to compare Herod's mentality with that of Joseph. Herod is anti-family, anti-life and anti-God. Everything Herod does is to benefit Herod. Joseph on the other hand is obedient to the will of God, and cooperates with it to protect his family.

Threats to the family are not a thing of the past. There are many threats to the family in the 21st century. They include a contraceptive mentality, which separates lives and love; individualism, which isolates the members of the family from each other. Increasingly, inside our homes we are all locked into our own space, with our own TV, computer, mobile etc. Attempts to redefine marriage and family add to the confusion in society, especially among the young. And movies and soap operas often give poor moral examples, by making divorce, cohabitation and abortion all look like acceptable choices, but ignoring the serious harm they cause the family.

This is the culture we live in. How can families today deal with these modern Herods? We need to draw strength and courage from the Holy Family. Prayer must be at the centre of our family life if we are to survive the storms that threaten us. The family is called to be a school of love, each member giving and receiving from the others, to build one another up. I know many wonderful families, many brave mums and dads, doing their best in tough situations. Let the Holy Family, who were not strangers to difficult situations, be our inspiration. May they inspire us to grow closer to God our Father.

Mary, Queen of Families, pray for us.

Fr Maurice

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

THANK YOU: A big thank you to everyone who was involved in preparing for this year's Christmas celebrations, especially to the cleaners, flower arrangers, readers, extraordinary ministers, servers, choirs and organists, welcomers and collectors. We also are very grateful for all the cards and gifts received. It was a lovely celebration of Our Lord's birth, and I hope this time brought many blessings for you and your families.

NEW YEAR'S MIDNIGHT MASS: This year, we will again be having a Midnight Mass for New Year. On Tuesday 31st December, Eucharistic Adoration will take place from 10.45pm to 11.45pm (confessions will be available during this time), followed by Midnight Mass. Attending Mass is a brilliant way to start a new year. In many countries it is traditional, although perhaps less so in the West. It is a wonderful custom to adopt, to begin the New Year in prayer, asking for God's guidance and protection for 2014.

DAILY MASSES: During the coming weekdays, morning Masses will be at 10.00am. The regular 7.00am and 9.15am daily Masses will resume from Monday 6th January.

PARISH GROUPS: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume 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.

CONFIRMATION 2014: Next Sunday 5th January at the 12 noon Mass, the Confirmation Candidates will be presented to the parish. Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on 8th June 2014.

ALTAR SERVERS: We congratulate five of our Altar Servers: Stephen, Jithin, Amal, Claudia and Solomon, who were enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers on St Stephen's Day (26th December) and received medals as a token of their enrolment. We thank all our servers for their important contribution to parish life, in assisting the priests at Mass and helping the people to pray.

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.

DAY OF HEALING on Saturday 4th January at St Dominic's Church, Harold Hill, with Fr Angelus. Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions available at 11.00am, Mass of the Holy Souls at 12.00pm, followed by a Eucharistic healing service. Come and experience the healing grace of God!

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.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA: Legacy Officer vacancy: the Apostleship of the Sea is looking to appoint a Legacy Officer to join its team based in Central London. The purpose of this role is to manage the charity's legacy programme to sustain the charity's work supporting seafarers. Applicants should have a minimum of two years' experience of working in legacy fundraising. This post is part-time, salary dependent on skills and experience. For more information contact John Green johngreen@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk. Applications close 24th January 2014.

VALENTINE GALA DINNER: The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society invites you to join them for a fabulous evening at their Valentine's Gala Dinner, being held on Friday 14th February at Stockbrook Golf & Country Club, Billericay. With tickets priced at £45 per person to include a drinks reception, fabulous gifts, dinner, dancing, live entertainment and much more, this is an event not to be missed! Places are limited and we would recommend you book early in order to secure your tickets. Contact Julie Abbott (01286 784 544 / jabot@bccs.org.uk).

RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of:

Mary Catherine McKenna, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 6th January at 10.30am.

Lina Carta, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 14th January at 10.30am.

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 15th December was £1240.26
Thank you very much for your generosity.

Times and Intentions at Our Lady and St. George
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (A)

6.00pm	Roy Walker (RIP)
Sun 29 th Dec	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>
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>
Mon 30 th Dec	<i>Sixth Day with the Octave of the Nativity</i>
10.00am	Special Ints
Tue 31 st Dec	<i>Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity</i>
10.00am	Special Ints
Wed 1 st Jan	<i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i>
Midnight	Parish
10.00am	Jermaine Maise (Thanksgiving)
Thurs 2 nd Jan	<i>St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen</i>
10.00am	Christine Walton (RIP) (Second Anniversary)
Fri 3 rd Jan	<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>
10.00am	Eithne Mary Wootton (RIP)
Sat 4 th Jan	<i>Feria of Christmastide</i>
10.00am	Kelly Moss (RIP)
6.00pm	Special Ints
Sun 5 th Jan	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>
8.30am	Special Ints
10.00am	Catherine Dillsworth (Ints)
12.00pm	Cynthia Maise (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, Augustina Osei.

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)