

# 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

*8<sup>th</sup> December 2013*

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## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)**

Every Advent, John the Baptist is a prominent figure in the Gospel readings. His very first word is 'repent' – and this word 'repent' summarizes his whole message. He announces that the Kingdom of heaven is at hand, and urges his listeners to turn their hearts and minds away from whatever else they were fixed on and look only to God. John is the last of the Old Testament prophets, the immediate forerunner to Christ, and he prepares the people for the coming of Christ. This makes him a good model to reflect on during Advent.

To repent means to turn away from sin, and from all the preoccupations and distractions that keep us from God. To be repentant, we have to be honest with ourselves, to identify our failings and to want to change. In our times it is easy to dismiss sin or to rationalize it away, rather than to recognize it for what it is – an offense against God. Our repentance must be sincere, and John tells us that we will know we are repentant if 'our lives produce the appropriate fruit'.

A truly repentant heart will seek to make all actions worthy of Christ. If my decisions, thoughts, the practical love I show my neighbor, the purity of my mind, my respect for others – if these follow Christ's example, then we are on the right path. Temptation will always come, but we have to persevere and always try to seek the truth. Repentance is not a once-only event, but is required often if we are to make progress in the Christian life.

All of us have chaff in our lives, which needs to be burned away. What is the chaff in my life that needs to be removed so that I can stand before Christ as pure wheat? For one day we will all have to stand before Christ to account for what we have done, and for what we have failed to do.

When we remove the chaff and become pure wheat for God, we have harmony in our lives. The first reading describes this in metaphorical terms, 'the wolf lies down with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, the calf and lion feed together' – in other words there is peace and harmony.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we pray for the grace of repentance, that our hearts may be purified and readied to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

**BAPTISMS:** By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next Baptism course will take place tomorrow, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Church.

**MARRIAGES:** By appointment. Six months notice is required.

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**RECONCILIATION / CONFESSIONS:** Advent is the time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the first coming of Christ, in the flesh. What better way to prepare than 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. We will hold a parish reconciliation service, with visiting priests available on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

In the other local parishes, reconciliation services are at the following times:

St Thomas of Canterbury, Woodford Green – Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

Christ the King, Chingford – Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

St Joseph's Leyton – Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

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. As Pope Francis said, 'The Lord never tires of forgiving us.'

There are short guides on Confession available in the porch, which may be helpful in preparation for the sacrament.

**CHRISTMAS POSTERS:** Christmas posters are now available in the porch. Please take one and put it up in your window at home.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE:** The annual Christmas Carol service, in aid of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 4pm in the Church.

**ADVENT CONCERT:** Thank you to everyone who attended last week's Advent Concert, which was a great success. Over £1500 was raised, which will go towards maintenance of the heating system. A big thanks to Chris Morris and the social committee for their work in organizing the event, and to the choirs, musicians and schoolchildren who participated. It reminds us how blessed we are to have such talents in our community.

**MALAYALAM SERVICES:** The Syro-Malabar Mass will take place at the earlier time of 6.00pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, as the Parish reconciliation service will begin at 7.30pm. (Confessions will also be available in Malayalam). On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Mass will be at 2pm (rather than at 4.30pm).

**SOUP LUNCH:** The Justice & Peace group would like to thank everybody who came to the soup lunch on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. £210 was raised for the relief of Syrian refugees. This money has now been sent to CAFOD.

**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.

**CONFIRMATION 2014:** The next session of the Confirmation programme is next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall. Last week the candidates went on retreat to Walsingham House (Canvey Island). We thank the catechists who accompanied them. Please continue to keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

**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.

**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. Please drop any donations into St Barnabas church, St Barnabas Rd, Walthamstow E17 8JZ.

**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA:** Please return any remaining counterfoils or unsold tickets for the CAFOD raffle, as the draw will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December in the Parish Hall. Many thanks for your support.

**EASTER PILGRIMAGE 2014:** There will be a meeting for the group travelling to the Holy Land at Easter next year today, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm in the Parish Hall.

**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. 29<sup>th</sup> December-1<sup>st</sup> January at Maria Fidelis School, North Gower Street, Euston NW1 2HR. For more information visit [www.youth2000.org](http://www.youth2000.org) or call 0207 221 2124.

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**RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Angiss Legrand, whose funeral will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 11am.  
May he rest in peace.

**ROTAS – DECEMBER**

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

Offertory collection for 1<sup>st</sup> December was £1320.68  
Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Second Sunday of Advent (A)</b>
8.30am	Stella Rodrigues (Ints)
10.00am	Special Ints
12.00pm	Parish
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Narayan Hiranman Shindore (RIP)
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
7.00am	Eithne Mary Wootton (RIP)
9.15am	Special Ints
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>St Damasus I</b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Mabel Byrne (Ints)
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Timothy Joseph Sullivan (RIP)
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>St Lucy</b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Mabel Byrne & Shirleye Mick Welch (Ints)
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>St John of the Cross</b>
10.00am	Special Ints
6.00pm	Edward Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (A)</b>
8.30am	Special Ints
10.00am	Victoria & Michael (Wedding Thanksgiving)
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)**