

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

2nd February 2014

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Today is the feast of the Presentation of Jesus. Mary and Joseph take the child Jesus to the temple and present Him to the priest. According to the Law of Moses in the Old Testament, all firstborn males were to be consecrated to the Lord. Women who had given birth were considered unclean and were required to go to the temple after 40 days and offer sacrifice in order to be purified. Today is the 40th day after Christmas, and so we commemorate Our Lady's purification, as well as the Presentation of the Lord.

In fact, Mary had no need of this purification, as she was without sin. But she observed God's will as expressed through the Law of Moses, and was obedient to it. Her obedience showed her purity of heart.

The coming of Jesus into the temple is very significant. The temple of Jerusalem was the place of worship, where man came to encounter God. The Child Jesus, in His vulnerability, enters the temple to meet broken humanity. Thus Malachi's prophecy in the First Reading is fulfilled, that 'the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter His temple.' There, Jesus is met by Simeon and Anna, two people of faith, who had been waiting in expectation, seeking the Lord.

Simeon calls the child, 'a light to enlighten the pagans'. On today's feast we recall that we have received the light of Christ. To walk in that light means to be at peace and harmony with God and with our neighbor. But we all know that in each of our lives there are areas of darkness and shadow. We need to be purified constantly. We know that we can always come to Christ for forgiveness when we have sinned. But Christ not only forgives our sins, He wants to transform us. He seeks to refine us, in the way that fire refines silver and gold, melting out the impurities.

We often make excuses to avoid facing the impurities in ourselves, or may even deny they exist. We need the fire of the Holy Spirit to show us the areas in need of purification, and move us towards Christ, who came to purify us.

When our hearts are pure we radiate His light more clearly. We pray that the light may increase in us, so that we may more effectively bear it to others.

Fr Maurice

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

MASS OFFERINGS: All weekday Masses are fully booked until the end of February. 10.00am Sunday Masses are booked until mid-March, 8.30am and 12 noon Masses are booked until the end of March. Saturday 6.00pm Masses are booked until the end of May. Any Masses requested will be assigned to the next possible date.

CONFIRMATION 2014: The next session for the Confirmation programme is Sunday 2nd February, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall.

SVP MEETING: The next SVP meeting will take place on Saturday 8th February at 9am in the Church meeting room.

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.

BENEFACTORS REQUESTED: The *Maryvale course on the Faith* is a professionally run two-year course. It costs approximately £500 per year per person. Having people do the course will help our ability to evangelise. Please speak to Fr Mark if you could help people pay for the cost of the course.
A big thanks to all those who have already offered to help with this.

PRO-LIFE VIGIL: There will be a processional prayer vigil led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal at Marie Stopes abortion facility, 88 Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill on Saturday 8th February 2014. The event begins with Mass at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, 557/559 High Rd, Woodford Green, IG8 0RB at 9.00am. At 9.45am there will be a prayerful and peaceful procession to the abortion centre, processing with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Holy Rosary and hymns. At 12pm the procession will return to the Church, followed by tea and a get-together. Please bring a packed lunch.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE: On Monday February 10th, the Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, please join us in a day of prayer and fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. See www.goodcounselnet.co.uk for more information.

BRES LENTEN SPIRITUALITY MORNING: Saturday 1st March, 9.15am – 12 noon at Conference Centre, Cathedral House, Brentwood. The theme of this year's retreat is **Baptism: plunging the depths** and will be led by Fr Martin Boland. For further details contact mary@dioceseofbrentwood.org or telephone 01277 265 285.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Experienced sales/marketing professional required for a full-time role by Churchmarketplace – the online supply portal developed by, and for, the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales. Please contact paolocamoletto@rcdow.org.uk, tel. 020 7798 9036, for a job description and person specification. Closing date 7th February 2014.

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS) is going to Rome for the Canonizations of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. 44 places are on offer at a cost of £349 for young people 18-35. We depart on Saturday morning 26th of April, stay at a villa outside Rome, travel in for the Canonizations and then fly back in time for work/college/uni on Monday morning. Prices includes flights, transport within Italy and accommodation. For further details, go to www.bcys.net/events, or email info@bcys.net

SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Silver Jubilee Year – the 25th Annual Brentwood Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Saturday 26th – Thursday 31st July 2014. Full board, choice of hotels, prices from £618 by air, £418 by coach. Join hundreds of people from across our Diocese, on a pilgrimage led by our Bishop. Full board accommodation in excellent hotels. Time and space to relax, to pray, and to be refreshed in the deep peace of the Grotto. A varied programme to choose from, including: Mass with Anointing, Visit to the baths, Eucharistic procession and Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Daily Mass (including Mass at the Grotto), Reconciliation Service, Night prayer at the Grotto, and optional excursion to Gavarnie in the Pyrenees.

Very suitable for those with medical needs – strong support is provided, including a doctor from our Diocese and a nursing team. Ideal also for those with limited mobility – assistance will be provided by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Young people aged 15+ should book directly with the Youth Service for an exceptional Youth Pilgrimage (see www.bcys.net). For all others, a brochure and booking form is available at www.brentwoodlourdes.org, or contact Cathy O'Connor on 01206 501 146 or cathy@brentwoodlourdes.org.

RIP

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

Jade Lecun, who died suddenly on January 10th in France. Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul on Saturday 22nd February at 10am.

May she rest in peace

ROTAS – FEBRUARY

Counting:	2/2 E	9/2 D	16/2 A	23/2 C
Hospital:	2/2 D	9/2 A	16/2 B	23/2 D
Christian Kitchen	1/2 Nor	8/2 D	15/2 E	22/2 F

Offertory collection for 26th January was £1416.61
Thank you very much for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George **PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

6.00pm	Moss, Nagle family (RIP)
Sun 2 nd Feb	<i>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</i>
8.30am	Samuel Kwame Kramo Nantwi (RIP)
10.00am	Lionel Guerraz & family (Ints)
12.00pm	Parish
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 3 rd Feb	<i>Weekday</i>
7.00am	Matthew Joseph Davey (Ints)
9.15am	Helen Gertrude Davey (Ints)
Tue 4 th Feb	<i>Weekday</i>
7.00am	Fr Matthew Twomey & relations (Ints)
9.15am	Adele Bouttle (Ints)
Wed 5 th Feb	<i>St Agatha</i>
7.00am	Selma Ada Nowling (Ints)
9.15am	Peter McGarry (Ints)
Thurs 6 th Feb	<i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i>
7.00am	Fletcher family (Ints)
9.15am	Very Rev Canon P. Prendergast (Ints)
Fri 7 th Feb	<i>Weekday</i>
7.00am	Mary Rosario (RIP)
9.15am	Grace (Ints)
Sat 8 th Feb	<i>Weekday</i>
10.00am	Bridget (Ints)
6.00pm	Paul Lacon (Ints)
Sun 9 th Feb	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
8.30am	Martin Morris (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Mary Callanan (RIP)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>

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

Christoper 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, Archie, George & Issac.

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

Reconciliation (Confessions):

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