

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

9th February 2014

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

We all know the effect of salt in our meals. Although too much is bad for the heart, a little salt gives bland food flavour. In the days before every house had a fridge, salt was also used to preserve food, and prevent it from going rotten. Jesus in today's Gospel speaks about salt, using it as a metaphor to describe what we, His followers should be. We are to be salt of the earth. This means two things, firstly that as Catholics we are to add flavour to the world, and bring out the best in it, and secondly we are to preserve it, by getting in the way of evil and anything that will cause it to become rotten.

Throughout its history, members of the Church have added much flavour to the world, bringing many beautiful things into it. Think of the university system – the first universities (including Paris, Oxford and Cambridge) were all Catholic and made a huge contribution to education. Beautiful art, architecture and music are also fruits of the Church which continue to inspire people. Many Catholic scientists, philosophers and theologians have helped mankind to appreciate the wonder of creation. We have a rich heritage in adding flavour to the world, and drawing beauty and goodness from it.

As salt we are also called to prevent the world from becoming rotten and corrupt. Unfortunately, history shows us where we have failed to be salt of the earth, failed to take a stand against evil. The atrocities of the Nazis and Communist Russia sprung up in the heart of once-great Christian lands. Whilst some brave Christian voices spoke up, the majority were silent and grave evil resulted. In the Church itself we have seen how a failure to speak up allowed the abuse of children to go on without being exposed. To be salt means to be switched on to the culture, and to confront it where necessary to prevent the spread of evil. If salt loses its taste, it is good for nothing. If we Catholic Christians lose our saltiness, then we are good for nothing. We need to show the world that we stand for Christ, and for His values.

Our society today is becoming increasingly bland. Nobody speaks out for fear of giving offense. And yet Our Lord challenges us to be a light to others. Light is needed to show the way. If we Christians are not a light to others in the way we live, the world will be in blackout. We are meant to light the way by our good example and deeds. Our Catholic faith is a wonderful gift that should bring flavour and light, to us and to all. Let us not lose our saltiness or hide away our light.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 17th February at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

PARISH FUNDRAISING EVENT: The Filipino community in the Parish is organizing a social event on Saturday 15th February. A full day of activities and entertainment are planned. There will be a tabletop sale from 8.00am-2.00pm (tables can be reserved for £10), followed by Bingo from 3.30pm-6.30pm, and the evening will conclude with a disco from 6.30pm-9.30pm (£1 for adults, 50p for children, free for anyone with a Bingo card). Funds raised will go towards the heating system. Please come along with your friends and family to support the day – join in at any time! For more information contact Angel Escueta on 07889 804 295 or Roderick Villarico on 07545 459 215.

CONFIRMATION 2014: The next session for the Confirmation programme is next Sunday 16th February, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: The next meeting of the Social Committee will take place on 13th February at 7.30pm. All members are asked to attend.

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.

OUR LADY & ST GEORGE NURSERY: Children born between 1/9/10 and 31/8/11 will be due to start nursery in September 2014. If you are thinking of choosing Our Lady & St George's Catholic nursery for your child you are invited to come along to the Lower Site for an application pack. There will be a choice of full-time and part-time places, term-time only. Part time hours: Mornings 8.45-11.45am; Afternoons 12.15pm-3.15pm. Full time (8.00am-3.15pm) part funded. Packs are available from the Lower Site school office from Monday 10th February 2014. The closing date for return of the completed form is Wednesday 26th March 2014. Please phone the school office on 0208 520 8500 if you have any queries.

SINGERS REQUIRED: Singers are urgently required to join the parish choir, which performs and leads the music for the 8.30am and 12 noon Sunday Masses. You do not have to be able to read music, just have a desire to sing, be able to attend rehearsals on Fridays at 7.30pm and commit to either the 8.30am or 12 noon Mass. If interested, contact Ladislav Ondercin 07472 861 186 or Timothy Campbell on 07981 657 729.

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.

LENTEN RETREAT: Please join us for a residential Lenten Retreat led by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham at Abbotswick, the Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood from 7th-9th March 2014. All are welcome! Please call 01277 373 959 for further details.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN REQUIRED as soon as possible in St Bonaventure's Forest Gate. The school is a popular, over-subscribed boy's Catholic school in the Newham Deanery of the Diocese of Brentwood. We also run a highly successful joint and mixed 6th Form with St Angela's Ursuline school. A full job description and person specification is on the website www.stbons.org in the vacancies section. Deadline for applications is Friday 29th February at 4pm.

TAI CHI: Mondays 8-9pm in the Parish Hall (£5 per session). Contact 07828 026 351 for more information.

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

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 2nd February was £5694.30

Thank you very much for your generosity.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society would like to thank everyone for contributing towards the Christmas Crib collection: £563.93 was raised.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6.00pm	Paul Lacon (Ints)
Sun 9 th Feb	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
8.30am	Martin Morris (RIP)
10.00am	Micheal Stinton (Thanksgiving)
12.00pm	Mary Callanan (RIP)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 10 th Feb	<i>St Scholastica</i>
7.00am	Anthony Mulvey (RIP)
9.15am	Bernard Carey (RIP)
Tue 11 th Feb	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>
7.00am	Anthony Mulvey (RIP)
9.15am	Joseph Aldorino (RIP)
Wed 12 th Feb	<i>Weekday</i>
7.00am	Anthony Mulvey (RIP)
9.15am	Josie Hurley (RIP)
Thurs 13 th Feb	<i>Weekday</i>
7.00am	Stephen Dettige (RIP)
9.15am	Eddie McGlone (RIP)
Fri 14 th Feb	<i>Ss Cyril & Methodius</i>
7.00am	Stefan Makowski (RIP)
9.15am	Gwendolyn Richardson (Ints)
Sat 15 th Feb	<i>Weekday</i>
10.00am	Holy Souls
6.00pm	Betty O'Brien (RIP)
Sun 16 th Feb	<i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
8.30am	Ann Eagle (Ints)
10.00am	Fr Maurice Gordon (Ints)
12.00pm	Jacqueline Keavey (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:

Rosary:

Adoration & Exposition:

Reconciliation (Confessions):

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)