

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) (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

16th March 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Today's Gospel is the account of the Transfiguration. Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem where He will offer Himself on the cross for us, but here He takes Peter, James, and John with Him up a high mountain, and they see Him transformed, appearing in glory. They realise now that there is more to Jesus than meets the eye. They get a glimpse of who He really is, of His divinity.

Like the disciples, there are times when we too get glimpses of the presence of God in our lives, like when we receive love from others or when we see someone making a sacrifice for another. We can glimpse God in the beauty of a fine day, or at moments of wonder, like the birth of a child. Of course, there are also times during prayer when we feel great, we experience consolation and feel that God is with us, as the disciples did. This can give us confidence and strength in later times of trouble. Indeed, one of the reasons Jesus was transfigured was to give the disciples courage to face the difficulties ahead. It would be a moment for them to look back to with gratitude after the crucifixion, when facing persecution themselves. The transfiguration was to help them look beyond the present moment to the glory that Christ promises them. Peter wanted to hold onto this, 'it is good for us to be here', he says, but Jesus Himself leads them down the mountain. Jesus must face the agony of the cross before He can achieve glory. It is the same for all of us who follow Christ – we have to carry our crosses with Him. There is no shortcut to glory.

Though we may have moments of consolation in prayer, we should not be surprised if we feel nothing most of the time. We should not get discouraged, but should stay faithful – prayer can be at its most powerful when we don't find it easy, so don't be tempted to give up – stay with it. In letters published after her death, Mother Teresa said she did not have any consolation of 'good feelings' in prayer for many decades, yet she remained faithful to it.

St Paul advises us to 'bear our share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.' In the course of this week we will undoubtedly experience some hardship, whether big or small, especially if we are faithful to our Lenten resolution. Let us remember that whatever cross we have to bear, God gives us the strength to carry it.

For a little while, in this life, we are under a kind of dark cloud, with just moments when the sun breaks through. But the Transfiguration teaches us to persevere, striving onwards for future glory.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

EXTRA LENTEN MASS: Every Friday during Lent there will be an extra Mass at 8.00am, which will finish with enough time for young people to get to school afterwards. All parents, school children and young people are invited to come.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be on Friday evenings at 6.30pm. The Ordinariate group will hold Stations of the Cross on Thursdays at 8.00pm.

CATHOLICISM SERIES: During Lent we are screening the Catholicism Series, a ten-part documentary on the Catholic

CATHOLICISM

faith. We journey with the host, Fr Robert Barron, to more than 50 locations throughout 16 countries. From the sacred lands of Israel to the beating heart of Uganda, from the glorious shrines of Europe to the streets of Mexico, Kolkata and New York City, the mysteries of Catholicism are revealed. Thank you to all who attended the first session last week, this coming Wednesday's episode will be on the teachings of Jesus, highlighting the Beatitudes. Fr Barron will explain how Jesus invites us to a new way of life. All are welcome. For more information about this highly acclaimed documentary, visit www.catholicismseries.com.

LENTEN TALKS: We will be having two talks towards the end of Lent. Fr Jim McManus CSsR will speak on Sunday 30th March at 6pm in the Parish Hall on 'Healing in the Family'. On Sunday 6th April, Fiona Mansford will speak on the Theology of the Body, the teaching of Pope John Paul II about the human person and human sexuality. All are invited to attend, and parents are especially encouraged to come along.

FINANCE MEETING: The Finance Committee will meet on Monday 17th March at 8.00pm in the Presbytery. All members are asked to attend.

SVP MEETING: The next SVP meeting will take place on Saturday 22nd March at 9.00am in the meeting room.

PARKING: Please note that the courtyard in front of the Church is for dropping off passengers only. For the safety of children and the disabled, **please do not park here at any time**. The priests also need clear access to answer emergency calls. Thank you for your cooperation.

CONFIRMATION 2014: Next Sunday 23rd March, the Confirmation group will be going to Brentwood Cathedral to meet Bishop Thomas, after the 12 noon Mass. Please keep the young people in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in June.

CATHOLICISM IN 10 STEPS BOOKLETS: Thanks to everyone who bought one of Charlie O'Donnell's little books explaining the Catholic faith in 10 steps - £347.43 was raised for the Wonder Foundation, a charity that supports vulnerable women.

CHRISTIAN KITCHEN: The Christian Kitchen needs your support to continue their work in helping the homeless and vulnerable in our community. This week there was a battle in the High Court against Waltham Forest Council to keep the service running, and a

decision is expected in two weeks. Find out more on their Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/ChristianKitchenWF> You might also like to sign an online petition in support (<http://tinyurl.com/pndryns>). Follow latest developments on the Kitchen's twitter feed, [@ChristianKitchn](https://twitter.com/ChristianKitchn).

HCPT 161 BINGO NIGHT: Saturday 29th March in the Parish Hall – more details to follow.

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.

HEALING MASS: celebrated by Fr Eamonn Power at Abbotswick House of Prayer on **Wednesday 19th March at 2.30pm**. All welcome. For further details, please visit www.abbotswick.org or call 01277 373959.

TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Trinity Catholic High School wishes to appoint a teacher of religious studies with effect from September 2014. The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic. If you are interested in applying for the above post, full details and an application form are available on the school website <http://fc.tchs.uk.net> or email margaret.keegan@fc.tchs.uk.net Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Monday 7th April 2014.

TEACHING VACANCIES AT URSULINE ACADEMY: Teacher of Mathematics with SEN interest and Teacher of English with SEN interest required from September 2014. Governors are seeking to appoint outstanding teachers who are enthusiastic, driven to make a difference and wish to contribute to shaping the future of our small, innovative SEN Department. This newly created post will provide an excellent opportunity to grow professionally whilst making a significant contribution to the academic, social and spiritual wellbeing of young people. In order to support your professional development, you will be assigned to teach some mainstream lessons. Applications are welcomed from experienced teachers, NQTs and Year 5/6 Teachers and visits to the Academy are welcomed by prior arrangement www.uai.org.uk or email hrofficer@uai.org.uk **Please note we are unable to accept CVs.** Closing Date: 12 noon Wednesday 26 March 2014; Interviews: w/c Monday 31 March 2014

ROTAS – MARCH

Counting:	2/3 B	9/3 C	16/3 D	23/3 A	30/3 E
Hospital:	2/3 A	9/3 B	16/3 D	23/3 A	30/3 B
Christian Kitchen	1/3 Nor	8/3 G	15/3 A	22/3 B	29/3 C

Offertory collection for 9th March was £1483.14
Thank you very much for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

6.00pm	Kevin Harte (Ints)
Sun 16 th March	Second Sunday of Lent
8.30am	Christopher Almeida (Ints)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Norris & Margaret Levine (Thanksgiving)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 17 th March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	Patrick Kamsey (Ints)
9.15am	Elizabeth McGann (Ints)
Tue 18 th March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	Laurence & Bernie Fennessy (Wedding Anniversary)
9.15am	Liz Carlings (Ints)
Wed 19 th March	St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Neville Moise (Ints)
Thu 20 th March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	John & Josephine Hayden (RIP)
9.15am	Susan Brady (Ints)
Fri 21 st March	Lenten Weekday
7.00am	Joseph McManus (RIP) Anniv.
8.00am	Confirmation Candidates (Ints)
9.15am	Pat Meyler (RIP)
Sat 22 nd March	Lenten Weekday
10.00am	Mary Monahan (Ints)
6.00pm	Catherine Murnane (RIP)
Sun 23 rd March	Third Sunday of Lent
8.30am	Andy Kavanagh (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Miriam Charlotte Pierre (RIP)
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, Archie, George & Issac, Boyce Chandasingh.

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)