

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

132 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU

Tel: 020 8520 5877 Fax: 020 8520 4805

E-mail: [parishoffice@olsg.co.uk](mailto:parishoffice@olsg.co.uk)

Website: [www.olsg.co.uk](http://www.olsg.co.uk)

**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

*30<sup>th</sup> March 2014*

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## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

Sight is a precious gift, which most of us take for granted. Today's Gospel is about vision –being able to see. Jesus heals a man born blind. Every miracle of Jesus is meant to teach us something and there are many things we can learn from this event. Lack of eyesight is not the only form of blindness. There are other people in the Gospel who were able to see and yet were spiritually blind – the Pharisees could not perceive Who it was that performed the miracle, and they refused to believe. These men were caught up in the externals of the Law and had forgotten the law of love for God and neighbour. Is the same true for us? Even if we are good with the externals, saying our prayers and coming to Mass, are there attitudes or behaviours that make us blind in some way? Am I so quick to notice the faults in others that I am blind to my own weakness? Am I so self-absorbed that I fail to recognise and respond to the needs of others? Do I treat others with dignity? We all have areas of darkness, or blind spots, and we need to ask the Holy Spirit to expose our darkness, so we can become aware of it. It takes courage to face ourselves, to confess and admit to God our faults and blindness. But just as Jesus healed that blind man, He came also to heal our blindness.

Like the blind man, we are born blind in the sense that we are born in original sin, which darkens our minds and blurs our vision of what is good. At Baptism we are anointed with oil, like David was anointed in the first reading, and as Jesus anointed this man with the paste. At Baptism we are washed, just as this man washed in the pool of Siloam. Also at Baptism a candle is lit; that light is passed on to us, and we are re-born through water and the Holy Spirit. Jesus calls Himself the light of the world; when we live in that light, others will be able to see Christ in us – as St Paul says, 'the effects of light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth'.

In contrast to the Pharisees, the blind man comes to believe in Jesus, and his eyes are opened both physically and spiritually. Just as God created man from the dust of the earth, here Our Lord uses the dust of the earth to restore the man's sight – and he is made new. We receive the same healing touch from the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We too are made new and restored.

Although we have weaknesses and blind spots, we should not despair. Like the blind man, God allows these so that His grace can be displayed through us. We discover the reality of God's grace when we try to cooperate with it to overcome our defects. If we allow God to enter and to work on us, our weakness will be transformed by His power.

As we approach Easter we are being called to journey from darkness into light. Let us identify our blind spots and cooperate with His grace, so that His power may be manifested in us.

**Fr Maurice**

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

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

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**EASTER HOLIDAYS:** This week our schools finish for Easter. We wish all of our pupils and staff a happy and restful break.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY:** We wish all mothers a very happy Mothering Sunday. We ask Our Lady, the mother of all families to pray for us.

**EXTRA LENTEN MASS:** Every Friday during Lent there is an extra Mass at 8.00am.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During Lent, Stations of the Cross are on Friday evenings at 6.30pm. The Ordinariate group holds 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

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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 sessions, **this coming Wednesday's episode will be on Our Lady**. All are welcome. For more information about this highly acclaimed documentary, visit [www.catholicismseries.com](http://www.catholicismseries.com).

**LENTEN TALKS:** This Sunday evening (30<sup>th</sup>) at 6pm in the Parish Hall, Fr Jim McManus CSsR will be giving the first of our Lenten talks on 'Healing in the Family.' Fr Jim is the Rector of the Redemptorist Centre of Spirituality in Perth, Scotland, and has been involved in healing ministry for 30 years.

The second Lenten talk will take place next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Fiona Mansford, Director of Youth 2000, a Catholic youth ministry organization, 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.

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME:** The next Confirmation session is on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall.

**CHRISM MASS:** The annual Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. A coach will depart from the Church at 5.30pm. A list to sign up for a seat is in the Church porch. A donation of £5 to cover transport costs is requested, which will be collected on the day.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE (CONFESSIONS):** The Lenten Reconciliation service will take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm, and a number of visiting priests will be available to hear confessions. Priests are also available for confessions every Saturday, 10.30-11am and 5.15-5.45pm, or on request. It is very good to avail of this Sacrament during Lent. If you need help preparing, there are guides available in the Church porch.

**FREE ENGLISH CLASSES FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES:** Are you interested in improving your English, or do you know someone who is? St George's parish is hoping to begin free English language classes for anyone wishing to learn or improve their knowledge of English after Easter. If you are interested in joining such a class, please speak to Cliff D'Souza after Sunday Masses in the Church porch, or call

him on 07801 628 799.

**CHRISTIAN KITCHEN:** The Christian Kitchen needs your support to continue their work in helping the homeless and vulnerable in our community. There was a recent battle in the High Court against Waltham Forest Council to keep the service running, and a decision is expected soon. Find out more on the Christian Kitchen's 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).

**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.

**QUIZ NIGHT** at St Thomas of Canterbury Church Becket Centre, High Rd Woodford Green IG8 ORB on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm Tickets £5, for more information contact Elaine Henry on 07985 197 041.

**TEACHING VACANCIES:** Deputy Head and Primary class teachers required at St Peter's Catholic Primary, Goresbrook Rd, Dagenham, London RM9 6UU. Tel: 020 8270 6524. Email: [dcraft.301@bdcs.org.uk](mailto:dcraft.301@bdcs.org.uk). Apply by 2/05/2014, Job start September 2014.

St Anne Line Junior School, Basildon wishes to appoint a lower junior class teacher for September 2014. Applicants are encouraged to visit the school by appointment with the head teacher. Application form and information packs are available from Mrs. Tina Lilley, Personnel Officer at St Anne Line Catholic School (as above). Closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon; interviews on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Contact 01268 470 444 or email [admin@st-anneline-jun.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-anneline-jun.essex.sch.uk)

**RIP:**

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

Joyce Agnes Toovey, whose funeral will take place at the City of London crematorium on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 10.30am.

Sydney Tobin, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 11am.

May they rest in peace.

***ROTAS – MARCH***

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

Offertory collection for 30<sup>th</sup> March was £1846.01  
Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Sheila & Bernard Moss (RIP)
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> March	<b><i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i></b>
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Jan Wtadystaw Salamonowicz (RIP)
12.00pm	Bridget Walsh (RIP)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b><i>Lenten Weekday</i></b>
7.00am	Joseph John Baptiste (RIP)
9.15am	William Balfe (RIP)
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<b><i>Lenten Weekday</i></b>
7.00am	Peter Wilson (RIP)
9.15am	Sean Hart (Ints)
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b><i>Lenten Weekday</i></b>
7.00am	Joe & Mary Bond (Ints)
9.15am	Tony Cashman (RIP)
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b><i>Lenten Weekday</i></b>
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Oliver Gaynor (Ints)
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April	<b><i>Lenten Weekday</i></b>
7.00am	Thanksgiving
8.00am	Marie Fleming (Ints)
9.15am	Bro Edward Neville (RIP)
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> April	<b><i>Lenten Weekday</i></b>
10.00am	Thanksgiving
6.00pm	Richard & Nora Keane (RIP)
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> April	<b><i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i></b>
8.30am	Teresa Cokan (Ints)
10.00am	Rose Manendjou (RIP)
12.00pm	Carlucci Biagio (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)**