

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

Website: 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

13th April 2014

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (A)

Today we begin Holy Week and the scene is set by St Matthew's account of Jesus' passion. Jesus enters into an arena where all the forces of darkness come at Him, through the various evils performed by the different characters. We place ourselves in the scene, and, if we are sincere, we can probably identify with a lot of the characters in the way they behaved – the betrayal of Judas, the laziness of the disciples, the deceit of the crowd and the cowardice of Peter and Pilate.

Betrayal is one of the hardest things to deal with, especially when someone we thought was our friend stabs us in the back. Here Jesus is betrayed by one who followed Him closely, and shared the Last Supper with Him. How deeply hurt Jesus must have been. How often do we deeply hurt others by speaking ill of them or gossiping behind their backs? Or do we elevate ourselves by putting others down or scapegoating them?

Jesus' agony in the garden was the one moment when, humanly speaking, He was at His lowest ebb and most in need of a friend. How sad then, at that moment, there was nobody there for Him. How often do I know that the Lord needs me or asks something of me, and I am slothful in responding, or indifferent, or cannot be bothered? We miss opportunities to do good through spiritual laziness.

We think also of those who falsely accused Jesus, who lied for their own personal gain, to be rid of Him, and the mob who condemned Him in a frenzy. Jesus is silent before His accusers. He makes no resistance. Have we the courage to stand for what is right?

Jesus is also let down by two big acts of cowardice. Pilate washes his hands of Him, even while knowing He is innocent, and Peter denies knowing Him, not when faced by a big court, but by a simple servant girl. Are there times when we are afraid to declare our faith in the Lord because of what others might think of us? We all too often look for human approval.

After the resurrection, Jesus forgives Peter's denial. But Judas despairs of forgiveness, and loses all hope, killing himself. Can we accept forgiveness, knowing that the Lord wants to heal us?

Jesus enters into the depth of sin, and takes all the weight of sin upon Himself on the cross. This is very good news for us. He did it out of love for us, and as we begin Holy week we contemplate anew this great love. Looking at ourselves we can feel burdened by sin and guilt, and feel powerless against it. But when we look at the cross, hidden in our suffering Lord is the power of forgiveness. There is no sin He cannot forgive, but we have to acknowledge it and receive His mercy.

In our parish this Tuesday evening at 7.30pm there will be the opportunity to make a good confession and to be reconciled with God and neighbour and to be at peace with ourselves.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 28th April at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER CARDS: Cards detailing the times of the Masses and services for Holy Week and Easter are now available at the back of the Church. Please take one and pass copies on to any friends or family members, especially to Catholics who no longer come to Mass.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE (CONFESSIONS): The Lenten Reconciliation service will take place on Tuesday 15th April at 7.30pm, and a number of visiting priests will be available to hear confessions. Priests will also be available for confessions on Good Friday from 12 noon – 1.00pm, after the 3pm service and from 8.15pm onwards, and Saturdays 10.30-11am and 5.15-5.45pm. It is very good to avail of this Sacrament before Easter. If you need help preparing, there are guides available in the Church porch, or speak to one of the priests.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: On Good Friday a collection will be taken up after the 3pm service for upkeep of the Holy Places and the St Vincent de Paul society.

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The new offertory envelopes for the coming year are now available. If you are enrolled in the gift aid scheme, please collect your envelopes from the back of the Church. 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 or for further information, please contact Hana on 07939 485957.

CATHOLICISM SERIES: Thanks to all who have attended the Catholicism Series so far. **We will be taking a break for two weeks, and the next episode will be on Wednesday 30th April at 7.30pm.** All are welcome. For more information about this highly acclaimed documentary, visit www.catholicismseries.com.

CATHOLICISM

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: The next Confirmation session is this Sunday 13th April, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will cease from Monday 14th April and will resume on Monday 28th April.

FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY: The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday, a devotion in which the faithful gather to seek Our Lord's mercy, and in a spirit of repentance, seek mercy for others. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed, the rosary is prayed, and confession is available. The feast is on Sunday 27th April, and begins at 1.30pm, concluding with Mass at 3pm. In preparation for the feast, a Novena (9 days of consecutive prayer) will be held beginning on Good Friday at 7.00pm and continuing every evening (except Holy Saturday), at 7.30pm, until the following Saturday. All are welcome.



CHRISTIAN KITCHEN OUTCOME: We are happy to report that the Christian Kitchen has been successful in its recent High Court battle against Waltham Forest Council. The verdict means that for the time being, they can continue to operate from the Mission Grove car park at the end of Walthamstow Market. Congratulations to all who worked

hard to keep this vital service running for the vulnerable in our community, and thank you for your prayers, petition signatures and letters of support.

PARISH HOLY LAND EASTER PILGRIMAGE: During Holy Week a group of parishioners will be in Israel. Please pray that they will have a safe journey. They will pray for all at St Georges when they visit the holy places.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: The annual Mass for migrants, in honour of St Joseph the Worker will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May at Westminster Cathedral, London. Mass begins at 11am and will be preceded by a banner procession, beginning at 10.30am. For more information contact Davina Bolt (01277 265 234 or email davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

COME HOLY SPIRIT: An 8-week course on living life in the power of the Holy Spirit, on Thursdays from 8th May – 26th June, 7.45-9.45pm in the Brentwood Cathedral parish hall. This course is both a valuable evangelistic tool and formation experience for any Christian who hungers for ‘the more...’ in their spiritual life. For more information or to book on the course please email Allegra allegra_mutanda@hotmail.com or call 07903 648 639.

25th ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Diocesan Pilgrimage leaves on Saturday 26th July, returning Thursday 31st. The programme includes a wide range of spiritual and social opportunities, plus a trip out into the Pyrenees for the afternoon. The pilgrimage is well supported by an excellent medical team, and many young helpers who can assist those who are in wheelchairs. Our hotels are very central, and a high standard, and the price includes all meals. From £618 by air, and £418 by coach – full details at www.brentwoodlourdes.org or call Cathy O’Connor about booking, 01206 501146.

RIP

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

Ronald Rolle whose Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 16th April at 2.30pm.

Marlene Lovett, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 22nd April at 1pm.
May they rest in peace

ROTAS – APRIL

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|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Counting: | 6/4 B | 13/4 C | 20/4 A | 27/4 E |
| Hospital: | 6/4 D | 13/4 A | 20/4 B | 27/4 D |
| Christian Kitchen | 5/4 Nor | 12/4 D | 19/4 E | 26/4 F |

Offertory collection for 6th March was £1463.51
Thank you very much for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (A)

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| 6.00pm | Andrew & Tony Bandhu (RIP) |
| Sun 13 th April | <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> |
| 8.30am | Peader Deasy (RIP) |
| 10.00am | Domingo Villaroll (RIP) |
| 12.00pm | Irene Brennan (RIP) |
| 6.30pm | <i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i> |
| Mon 14 th April | <i>Monday in Holy Week</i> |
| 7.00am | Bridie Lacon (Ints) |
| 9.15am | Margaret Perry (Ints) |
| Tue 15 th April | <i>Tuesday in Holy Week</i> |
| 7.00am | Natalie Rosario (Ints) |
| 9.15am | Declan O'Neill (RIP) |
| Wed 16 th April | <i>Wednesday in Holy Week</i> |
| 7.00am | Winifred Gray (RIP) |
| 9.15am | Holy Souls |
| Thu 17 th April | <i>Maundy Thursday</i> |
| 9.15am | <i>Office of Readings and Morning Prayer: No Morning Mass</i> |
| 8.00pm | <i>Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper</i> Parish |
| Fri 18 th April | <i>Good Friday</i> |
| 9.15am | <i>Office of Readings and Morning Prayer: No Morning Mass</i> |
| 3.00pm | Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord |
| Sat 19 th April | <i>Holy Saturday</i> |
| 9.15am | <i>Office of Readings and Morning Prayer: No Morning Mass</i> |
| 8.00pm | Celebration of the Easter Vigil Parish |
| Sun 20 th April | <i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i> |
| 8.30am | Jim Harte (RIP) |
| 10.00am | Kujtim Reka (Ints) |
| 12.00pm | Zaneta Salanci (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)