

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

20th April 2014

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Today we join with the Church throughout the world in celebrating Easter Sunday. Christ is risen from the dead. Most of us can imagine the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross, but picturing the resurrection is more difficult. What does resurrection mean for Jesus, and what does it mean for us?

At death, the body is separated from the soul – and the soul lives on. On the first Easter morning, Christ overcame the power of physical death. His body was transformed in glory, and His soul dwelt within it again. He was truly raised from the dead. It is sometimes claimed by sceptics that the resurrection of Jesus was a myth. But the Gospel writers testify to its truth, giving names of the places where the events occurred, and naming the people who witnessed them. Many people saw Jesus after His resurrection, and almost all of the first apostles and their followers went to their deaths proclaiming that He had died and risen. Nobody dies for a myth.

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see how the resurrection transformed the apostles. Where before they were cowardly, confused and deserted Jesus, now they are courageous and not afraid to tell everyone what has happened to them. Peter preaches the risen Christ, not as a vague concept, but as someone they have met, spoken with and eaten with. Peter says, 'To Him all the prophets bear witness' – in other words, Jesus is the long-awaited saviour, and 'everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name', that is, Jesus redeems the sin of Adam and all his descendants, including us. Jesus had commanded Peter and all the apostles to proclaim Him to the world, to teach and to baptise. This is what the Church exists for, to gather all people to Christ.

Our baptism also contains the mystery of death and resurrection. When we were baptised, we died to sin and rose to new life in Christ. Baptism changes us, giving us the power to be children of God. Often we do not live as children of God, but as slaves to addiction and sin. But the resurrection of Our Lord reminds us of our dignity and calls us to much more. We are called to live as children of God, to trust Him, to honour and obey Him and to live lives pleasing to Him.

Christ's resurrection means everything to us. He has transformed death into life, transformed despair into hope, transformed sorrow into joy. Transformation in Christ is not just one event, but is the work of a lifetime. We can only become what Christ calls us to be if we remain close to Him, especially through the Sacraments, which He gave the Church. We cannot do it on our own.

Today we renew our baptismal promises. Once again we draw on the power of the Risen Christ to renew us and send us out again. We are all members of His Body, the Church, and like the apostles, we have a job to do – to make Him known. In this age of scepticism, the world needs to know that this life is not all there is; that Christ's resurrection promises much more.

Easter is a source of joy, because Christ has broken the chains of sin and death forever. Let us embrace this new life.

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.

WELCOME: At this Easter time we welcome all those visiting family and friends, or who are back from university, and all those who are coming back to the Church. We wish you the peace and the joy of the Risen Lord this Easter.

NEW BISHOP FOR BRENTWOOD: We are very happy to report that Pope Francis has appointed Fr Alan Williams as the next Bishop of Brentwood, and successor to Bishop Thomas. Fr Alan is a member of the Religious Order known as the Marist Fathers and is currently the Director of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. The Marists have the explicit focus of 'mission' at the heart of their ministry and this is seen particularly through their work in the fields of evangelization and education. Bishop-elect Alan brings wide-ranging skills to our Diocese, having had a significant leadership role in his Order, pastoral experience in a parish and also experience in the field of education. His ordination as bishop will take place in Brentwood Cathedral on Tuesday 1st July.

We give thanks to God for Bishop Thomas's 34 years of service, and look forward to Fr Alan's consecration and future ministry in our diocese.

CONGRATULATIONS: We warmly congratulate Emma-Jane Torr, who was baptised and received the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, and Natalie Bailey, Kristina Klimasauskaite and Lloyd Lwezey who were received into full communion with the Catholic Church. We wish them God's blessings and welcome them into our community.

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 so far attended the screenings of the Catholicism Series, a ten-part DVD presentation on the Catholic faith. **The screenings are on a break for Easter but will resume 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 next Sunday 27th April, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall.

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

FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY: The Sunday after Easter (next Sunday) 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 will be celebrated in our Church 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: This Holy Week a group of parishioners are 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).

PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING at SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, will take place this month on Sunday 27th April, 7.30-9.00pm. All are welcome.

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:

Marlene Lovett, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 22nd April at 1pm.

Teresa Hibbert, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 25th April at 2.30pm

May they rest in peace.

ROTAS – APRIL

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 13th April was £1756.18
Thank you very much for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

8.00pm	Celebration of the Easter Vigil (Parish)
Sun 20 th April	<i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i>
8.30am	James Harte (RIP)
10.00am	Kujtim Reka (Ints)
12.00pm	Zaneta Salanci (RIP)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 21 st April	<i>Monday within the Octave of Easter</i>
10.00am	John & Sheila O'Downell
Tue 22 nd April	<i>Tuesday within the Octave of Easter</i>
7.00am	Laxmann Lakshhmi & Meifang Zhou (Ints)
9.15am	Betty & Ramadan Ramsey (Ints)
Wed 23 rd April	<i>Wednesday within the Octave of Easter</i>
7.00am	Bishop-Elect Alan Williams (Ints)
9.15am	Ignatius Bonaparte (RIP)
10.30am	Our Lady & St George school children (Ints)
Thu 24 th April	<i>Thursday within the Octave of Easter</i>
7.00am	Confirmation Candidates (Ints)
9.15am	Adeline Rosario (RIP)
Fri 25 th April	<i>Friday within the Octave of Easter</i>
7.00am	Holy Souls
9.15am	Fr Mark (Ints)
Sat 26 th April	<i>Saturday within the Octave of Easter</i>
10.00am	Julian Rodrigues (Ints)
6.00pm	Mary Drum (RIP) & Peggy McCarthy (RIP)
Sun 27 th April	<i>Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)</i>
8.30am	John Joseph Cullen (RIP)
10.00am	Holy Souls
12.00pm	Judith Hilton (Ints)
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, 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)