

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon

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

31st August 2014

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

In the Gospel last Sunday we heard Peter's profession of faith in the Lord. Under divine inspiration, Peter declared, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God', and Jesus confirms Peter as the rock. Today we see a more human side to Peter. When he hears that Jesus is to suffer, he responds in a very human way, 'Heaven preserve you, Lord; this must not happen.' Jesus rebukes Peter very strongly, saying, 'get behind me, Satan!' Last week, Peter was called the rock; now he is an obstacle, literally a stumbling stone. What is different?

On a human level, there is nothing wrong with what Peter has said – no one wants to see his friend tortured and killed. Our Lord actually agrees, which is why He rebukes Peter for tempting Him. Jesus in His human nature naturally recoiled from the events He knew were coming – we see this in the garden of Gethsemane, when He prays, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless let your will be done.' In God's plan, suffering has value. In fact, our redemption depends on it. We were redeemed through the cross of Christ, and our own Christian lives require us to face and carry our own crosses.

This is not easy, because the natural tendency is, like Peter, to try and avoid the cross. When we suffer, e.g. due to sickness, failures, disappointment or bereavement – we are not in control of events – and this is uncomfortable. But all these things are the crosses that Our Lord invites us to carry. It is very difficult, but through suffering we realise our shortcomings and limitations and ultimately our dependence on God.

The idea that suffering could have value is anathema to the world, which will not tolerate even minor discomfort or inconvenience. But our crosses give meaning to our lives – they are particular to us and they are the means we have of following Christ. Jesus says we cannot be His disciples unless we carry our crosses behind Him.

Jeremiah in the first reading describes the personal cost of following the will of God – he is mocked and ridiculed, and yet he continues to speak out as he is burning with love for God. In a similar way, many Christians are, at this time, being persecuted and killed for the same conviction. Here in the west, are we willing even to be laughed at for our faith? If we do not face rejection at some point, are we really living the Catholic faith, or is it so hidden that we cannot influence anything?

When we embrace the cross of suffering, and try to find the Lord in it, we are doing what St Paul says in the second reading, 'offering our bodies as a living sacrifice.' St Paul tells us, 'do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you.' He exhorts us to think like Christ, and to accept with patience the sufferings and difficulties that come our way.

Our sufferings identify us with Christ. He wants us to unite our sufferings with His. In doing this, our crosses become means of sanctification for us. The cross is not an end in itself, but there can be no glory without it. If we want to progress spiritually, we must take up our cross, whatever it is. Then we will truly be His disciples.

Fr Maurice

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

FR MARK: Fr Mark left the parish this week to take up his new position as Parish Priest at Brightlingsea-with-Wivenhoe and Chaplain to the University of Essex, and we wish him all of God's blessings in his new role. He will return for a thanksgiving Mass on Friday 19th September at 7.30pm. If you would like to contribute to a collection for Fr Mark, please use the envelope enclosed in this week's newsletter, and return it before Sunday 14th September. After the thanksgiving Mass there will be a celebration in the Parish Hall; if you are able to help with the organization or contribute food/drink, please speak to Fr Maurice.

FR PATRICK: Our new priest, Fr Patrick Daly, will join us the weekend of 13th/14th September, and we look forward to welcoming him.

FR RICHMOND: On September 10th, Fr Richmond Osei Amoah, who has been staying with us over the summer, will return to Ghana. We thank him for his pastoral work and assistance during the last several weeks.

SCHOOLS REOPEN: Our Primary school will reopen on Thursday 4th September, and new reception children begin on Monday 8th September. The new term at Holy Family begins on Tuesday 2nd September for Year 7s, and Wednesday 3rd for Years 7-11. We wish all our students and staff God's blessings on their new academic year.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume from Monday 8th September.

SENIOR CITIZENS: The Wednesday club will resume on 3rd September, at 1pm.

DIVINE MERCY HEALING SERVICES: These will resume next Sunday, 7th September.

ORDINARIATE EXPLORATION DAY: The local Ordinariate communities invite you to join them for their 'Called to be one' exploration day at Our Lady & St George's Church. Saturday 6th September, beginning at 2.30pm with refreshments and a presentation on the life and work of the Ordinariate, followed by Evensong and Benediction at 3.30pm. The event will explore the vision of Christian unity offered by the Ordinariate. For more information, do take a leaflet from the Church porch.

ROTAS FOR READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: Paper copies of the latest rotas are now available in the Church porch.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Monday 15th September at 8.00pm in the Presbytery. All members are requested to attend.

BAZAAR COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting of the Bazaar Committee will take place on Tuesday 16th September at 7.30pm in the Church Meeting Room.

ORGAN AND KEYBOARD LESSONS: Instrumental tuition offered in both organ and keyboard by a qualified organist. Organ lessons can take place at the church, and piano lessons either at the church or at home if more convenient. Lessons are offered for pupils of all ages and different stages of playing experience and musical knowledge. For further information please contact Ladislav Ondercin on 07472 861 186 (please leave a message after 5pm) or email ladislav.ondercin@gmail.com.

DEANERY MUSIC DAY: The Diocese of Brentwood is holding a Deanery Music Day in our church and parish hall on Saturday 4th October. It is being lead by Frances Novillo, the Representative for the Royal School of Church Music for London and the South East and will include talks, demonstrations, practical sessions and workshops for parish musicians and anyone else who would be interested in learning about music/developing their skills in church music. If interested, please see Ladislav Ondercin or any other parish musician after the Masses on Sunday morning or during the week. The day promises to be interesting and fun and we would welcome as many people as possible who would like to attend.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN): There will be an appeal and second collection for ACN the weekend of 13th/14th September, to support their work in helping persecuted and oppressed Christians around the world – an important cause, as recent events remind us. There will also be a small bookstall selling ACN merchandise and books.

HCPT GROUP 161 CAKE SALE: The deanery HCPT group will be holding a cake sale after Masses on the weekend 21st/22nd September to raise funds for their work in taking special needs children to Lourdes.

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGE: Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is not counseling but provides the tools and skills to help you get your marriage back on track. Retrouvaille has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels from disillusionment to deep misery. The next programme commences with a residential weekend on 19th -21st Sept 2014. email info@retrouvaille.org.uk ; call or text 0797 338 0443 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk Confidentiality assured.

DAY OF HEALING: on Saturday 6th September at St. Dominic's Church, Harold Hill with Fr. Angelus. Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions available at 11:00 am, Mass & Anointing of the Sick at 12:00 pm. Come and experience the healing grace of God!

GIFT AID: Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows the parish to reclaim tax on all donations made by UK taxpayers, at no cost to you. 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. This provides much-needed additional income for the upkeep of the Church and support of our schools.

CONGRATULATIONS:

We congratulate Mark Wynter and Kathleen Noel, Robert Davies and Gemma Dias, and Neil Kirsopp and Louise Keane, who were all married in August at the Church. We wish them God's blessings for their future happiness and wellbeing.



ROTAS – SEPTEMBER

Counting	31/8 E	7/9 D	14/9 A	21/9 E	28/9 D
Hospital	31/8 D	7/9 A	14/9 B	21/9 D	28/9 A
Christian Kitchen	30/8 F	6/9 Nor	13/9 G	20/9 A	27/9 B

The offertory collections for August were as follows: 3rd August - £1303.13; 10th August - £938.84; 17th August - £1219.49; 24th August - £1008.69
 Standing orders for recent months were as follows: May '14: £1428.85; June '14: £1853.85; July '14: £1228.85; August '14: £1838.85

Thank you very much for your continual generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George
TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

6.00pm	Robert Brown
Sun 31 st Aug	<i>Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</i>
8.30am	Mary & Adeline Rosario (RIP)
10.00am	Kathy Ogles (Ints)
12.00pm	Trevor George Percy (RIP)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 1 st Sept	<i>St Sebbi, King of the East Saxons (Diocesan Memorial)</i>
7.00am	Traci Rose (Ints)
9.15am	Ramadhin Ramsey (RIP)
Tue 2 nd Sept	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Pascal Hayden (RIP)
9.15am	Teresa Cooker (Ints)
Wed 3 rd Sept	<i>St Gregory the Great</i>
7.00am	Rita Gannon (RIP)
9.15am	Michael Whelan (RIP)
Thu 4 th Sept	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Michael Hurley (RIP)
9:15am	Ronald Charles (RIP)
Fri 5 th Sept	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	K. Kalpee (Ints)
9.15am	Michael Hurley (RIP)
Sat 6 th Sept	<i>Feria</i>
10.00am	J. Coeur-de-Lion (Ints)
6.00pm	John Burnham (RIP)
Sun 7 th Sept	<i>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</i>
8.30am	Dorinaq Philogene & Thora Shillingford (Ints)
10.00am	Brigid Farrell (RIP), Joe & Rona Ellwood (Ints)
12.00pm	Nazir Allam Khiljee (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, Michelle Boyle, Carla Cornelius, Cecelia Gibbs, Arthur Gibbs, Ural Gibbs, Gilbert Gibbs, Archie, George & Issac, Boyce Chandasingh.

Morning Prayer:

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45am

Rosary:

Weekdays after morning Mass

Adoration & Exposition:

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

Reconciliation (Confessions):

Sat. 10.30am – 11.00am. 5.00pm – 5.30pm (Or on request)