

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Patrick Daly
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

23rd November 2014

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)



Last Sunday's gospel talked of the difficulty in recognising Christ in our world- "Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison?"

We can so easily forget God though he never forgets us. In the words of one Rabbi, "We are half-heartedly searching for God, but God is whole-heartedly searching for us."

As we begin the season of Advent today we are called to be ever more aware of God's search for us and our response. We need to look upwards to the gaze of God, "for only in his gaze is our future to be found" [Pope Francis].

Advent is a graced time of waiting for the coming of the Lord - our children delight in Advent calendars; in our churches we light candles in the Advent wreaths - but in today's gospel Jesus urges us to stay awake, we must not be half-hearted or found sleeping.

Yet Advent competes with frantic and seemingly all-consuming preparations for the celebration of Christmas. We can be conscious only of unfinished tasks or the number of shopping days left. It is so easy to arrive at Christmas exhausted after all our efforts.

During the Sundays of Advent the scripture readings focus on the examples of John the Baptist and Mary - John's ministry prepared the way of the Lord and in his personal life he was filled with the spirit of Jesus- "Christ must increase and I must decrease" [John 3.30].

"Hail Mary full of grace"- at Nazareth Gabriel, God's messenger, comes unexpectedly; Mary is startled by the Annunciation and she questions, she ponders, but she offers herself totally to God.

When people are Christ-filled, like Mary, John the Baptist and so many other faithful disciples of the Lord, their lives are transformed and the Almighty works marvels for them.

Since being ordained as your bishop on the 1st July I have travelled around the diocese and have met many of you in parishes and schools and elsewhere. Throughout the diocese great things are being done in the name of Christ through the faith and generosity of many people.

The opening prayer during today's Mass asks that we might hurry forward to meet Christ who enriches us in so many ways.

I wish you a joyful and blessed Advent in Christ and Mary,

+ Alan Williams sm

Bishop of Brentwood

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

ADVENT: "WALK WITH ME" DEVOTIONAL BOOKS AVAILABLE: Walk With Me booklets, a journey of prayer for Advent and Christmas are now on sale in the porch for £1. There is a foreword by our new Bishop. The books can help you prepare for the Nativity of the Lord with a daily reading, prayer and reflection.

SVP ST GEORGE'S CONFERENCE would like to thank parishioners who donated towards the second collection on the 16th/17th November. £600 was raised, which will go towards the Senior Citizens Christmas lunch, and helping to support people in need over the Christmas period.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) is an international Christian voluntary organization dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing direct practical assistance to anyone in need. Volunteering with the SVP gives you an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. There are lots of ways you can get involved, whether you have a few hours to spare or would like to make a longer-term commitment. To learn more, see the poster display in the Church porch or speak to Jenny Richmond in the repository after Sunday Masses.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): Were you baptised Catholic but never made your First Communion? Or were you never Confirmed? Baptised as a non-Catholic Christian? Never baptised at all? Are you interested in becoming Catholic? If you answered yes to any of these and are over 16 years of age, the RCIA programme is for you. Sessions take place on Thursday evenings at 8.00pm in the Church meeting room. Please tell any friends or relatives who may be interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the faith.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is on Sunday 7th December at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Candidates are reminded to come on time.

FIRST COMMUNION: The next session for the First Communion programme will take place on 13th December at 10am.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday 1st December at 8pm in the Presbytery.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE: The new copies of the Brentwood Diocesan Directory are now on sale in the repository, priced at £2.75 (regular binding) or £4.00 (ring bound version).

ADVENT VIGIL: The Walthamstow Ordinariate Mission, in conjunction with the parish of St John the Baptist, Ilford, warmly invite you to join with them for their Advent Vigil – on Saturday 29th November at 7.30pm at the Church of St John the Baptist, Wanstead Park Road, IG1 3TS. This beautiful devotion from the Ordinariate Use includes readings, hymns and Eucharistic adoration / benediction.

PARISH ASSISI PILGRIMAGE: There will be a pilgrimage to Assisi in honour of St Francis, 22nd-27th September 2015 - £719, 6 days H/B. Deadline for receipt of

deposits is 5th January 2015. This is a very popular destination so book now to avoid disappointment. For more information contact Stella on 0208 527 3879.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP EVENING: at SION community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, will take place on Sunday 30th November, 7.30pm-9.00pm. All welcome.

OLSG SCHOOL: RECEPTION INTAKE: If your child was born between **01.09.2010 and 31.08.2011**, the Waltham Forest Primary Brochure containing criteria for all schools and information on how to apply is now available. For more information please contact the school on 0208 520 8500.

OLSG NURSERY INTAKE: Children born between 01.09.2011 and 31.08.2012
Parents wishing to apply for a nursery place for September 2015 should contact the school on 0208 520 5800.

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.

IN CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP ALAN: – an evening for young adults aged 17-35, with a unique opportunity to hear Bishop Alan share his vocational journey. Bishop Alan has served as a school chaplain, uni chaplain, parish priest, shrine director and superior of his religious order. He is a mountaineer and a scientist. But what inspired him to become a priest? Hear his story on Thursday 18th December, Cathedral House Conference Room, 7.30-10.00pm including fish & chip supper. Full details at www.brentwoodvocations.org or on the Brentwood Vocations Facebook Page. The evening is free, but registration is required – call Fr Dominic, Vocations Director, on 01268 281732 or email frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES WITH BISHOP ALAN – SUMMER 2015: Bishop Alan will lead the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Sunday 26th to Friday 31st July 2015. From £649 by air with full board for six days, five nights, or from £429 by coach. This pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs. It is also ideal for couples, individuals, and groups of friends. There is a full programme to opt in and out of, and everyone is welcome. Visit www.brentwoodlourdes.org for much more information and to order a brochure, or pick up a leaflet from the porch.

RIP: Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Grzegorz Oczkowski, whose Requiem Mass will take place at Our Lady & St George's at 10th December at 11am.

May he rest in peace.

ROTAS – NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

Counting	30/11 E	7/12 C	14/12 B	21/12 D	28/12 B
Hospital	30/11 D	7/12 A	14/12 B	21/12 D	28/12 A
Christian Kitchen	29/11 B	6/12 Nor	13/12 C	20/12 D	29/11 E

The offertory collection for last weekend's Masses was £1355.28
Thank you for your generosity.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George this week

6.00pm	John Allcock (RIP)
Sun 30 th Nov	First Sunday of Advent (B)
8.30am	Magdalene Correa
10.00am	Roslyn McGuire (RIP)
12.00pm	Joseph & Cynthia Moise (Thanksgiving)
6.30pm	[<i>Ordinariate Mass</i>]
Mon 1 st Dec	Feria
7.00am	Ramadhin Ramsey (RIP)
9.15am	John Paul Ramsey (Ints)
Tue 2 nd Dec	Feria
7.00am	Msgr. Zachary D'Souza (RIP)
9.15am	Sr Jacinta D'Souza (RIP)
Wed 3 rd Dec	St Francis Xavier
7.00am	Maria Stanton (RIP)
9.15am	Mrs Chris McKenna (RIP)
Thu 4 th Dec	St John Damascene
7.00am	Mrs Chris McKenna (RIP)
9:15am	Joan Gordon (Ints)
Fri 5 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Joseph Sanches
9.15am	Angela Tully (Ints)
Sat 6 th Dec	St Nicholas, Bishop
10.00am	Special Intentions
6.00pm	Aaron Dillsworth (RIP)
Sun 7 th Dec	Second Sunday of Advent (B)
8.30am	Magdalene Correa
10.00am	Elaine Francis (RIP), the Francis family and OLSG school (Ints)
12.00pm	Ambrose Dillsworth (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, 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, 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:

Rosary:

Adoration & Exposition:

Reconciliation (Confessions):

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45am

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)