

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Patrick Daly
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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

14th December 2014

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)



In these final days before Christmas, most of us are busy carrying out our plans for the big day. Today's readings speak about the plans we make, and how God's plans can often surprise us.

In the first reading, King David and his people are enjoying a period of peace and prosperity and David now wishes to 'do something' for God, and has ambitious plans to build a temple to house the Ark of the Covenant. Initially the prophet Nathan encourages him, but later, God speaking through Nathan elaborates other plans. The real house of David will not be a building, but a dynasty. The true temple, where God will dwell, will be David's descendent, who we know as Jesus Christ. God promises that David's throne will be established forever.

These words are quoted when the prophecy is fulfilled at the annunciation in today's Gospel. The angel appearing to Mary says that the child she will conceive 'will be given the throne of his ancestor David, and his reign will have no end.' We see how limited David's plans were, compared to the fulfilment of them, which God had in mind.

By contrast, Mary was not concerned with her own plans. True, she found the angel's message disturbing and did not understand fully how it would happen. But she consented to God's will straight away, 'let what you have said be done to me' – she offered no resistance. That sounds amazing when you think that the angel has just given her such startling news, and then disappears. We might think she would feel very alone. Not only is she to be a mother, but the mother of God, and she would have to face the awkwardness of what others might think and say.

But Mary did not pursue a life of comfort – she was willing to serve God on *His* terms and to be led where He would have her go. When the angel leaves her, it seems as if she is alone, but in fact she is not because the power of the Holy Spirit has overshadowed her, and although the angel departs, God Himself now dwells within her, in her womb.

The challenge for us is to consider whether we merely fit God into our own plans and schedule, as is convenient for us, or like Mary, are we open and receptive what He wants?

With all the hectic activity of carrying out our Christmas plans, let us not forget Who it is all about. We pray for the grace to purify our hearts, humbly acknowledging our sins. Tomorrow evening (22nd) at 8pm we will have the opportunity to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There we will meet the Saviour who is waiting for us, who has great plans for all of us. We seek Mary's help in being faithful to Him.

Fr Maurice

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

CHRISTMAS CARD: The Christmas card with details of the Masses and services over the Christmas period are now available. You are welcome to take these and pass them on to family or friends who may no longer be in contact with the Church.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: We welcome all those who have come home for Christmas to be with their families, and all those who are new to the parish or visiting at this time. We wish you all of God's blessings during this holy season – and if you need any help or guidance, please don't hesitate to speak to one of the priests.



CAROL SERVICE: This Sunday 21st we will have the parish Advent Carol service at 4pm, in aid of the Brentwood Children's Society. All are warmly invited.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: The Advent Reconciliation Service will take place on Monday 22nd December at 8pm in the Church. A number of visiting priests will be available for individual confessions, **including in Polish and Spanish**. All are encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas.

MASSES AFTER CHRISTMAS: On Friday 26th December, and in the week Monday 29th – Friday 2nd January, there will be only one morning Mass at 10.00am. The regular 7.00am and 9.15am Masses will resume from Monday 5th January.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Eucharistic Adoration will resume from Monday 5th January 2015. We wish all our adorers a blessed, joyful and restful Christmas.

RCIA meetings will resume on Thursday 15th January at 8.00pm.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE: The maintenance meeting has been moved forward to Monday 19th January at 8pm in the presbytery.

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: The new rotas for the period up to 11th April 2015 are now available in the Church porch – please take a copy.

DIVINE MERCY HEALING SERVICES will resume on Sunday 11th January at 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

WALSINGHAM SHRINE DIRECTOR: We congratulate Msgr John Armitage, Vicar General of Brentwood Diocese, who has been appointed Director of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Fr John will take up this assignment on Ash Wednesday 2015 (18th February). Walsingham has been a Catholic pilgrimage site for almost a thousand years and has a very important place in our nation's heritage. England was once known as the 'dowry of Mary' due to its rich devotion to her. May Fr John's ministry be fruitful in once again reviving the Church through the intercession of Our Lady.

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.

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.

MASS FOR VOCATIONS: Monday 29th December, Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury (Patron Saint of Pastoral Clergy). All are welcome to a Mass which will be offered for Vocations to the Priesthood, and at which Bishop Alan will preach. 11.30am, Holy Trinity Church, 71 Wickhay, Basildon SS15 5AD. Close to the A13, the A127 and Basildon station (C2C line from Fenchurch St-Southend)

THOMAS MERTON – RESTLESS PILGRIM: The 31st January 2-15 is the centenary of Thomas Merton's birth. To mark this occasion, Fr Brian O'Shea, Parish Priest of St Thomas of Canterbury, Grays will give a talk on the above title, on Monday 26th January at 7.30pm at the Brentwood Cathedral Conference Centre. For more information contact the Adult Religious Education Office on 01277 265 255.

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:

David Macbeth, whose funeral will take place at the City of London Crematorium on 22nd December at 12.15pm.

May he rest in peace.

ROTAS –DECEMBER

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

The offertory collection for last weekend's Masses was £1306.80
Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Edward Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 21 st Dec	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
8.30am	Carmen Fernandes (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Elaine Francis (RIP)
6.30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 22 nd Dec	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Mary, Adolf, Joe & Adeline Rosario (RIP)
9.15am	Deceased family and friends of Agnelo & Louella Rodrigues
Tue 23 rd Dec	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Adeline Rosario (RIP)
9.15am	Anthony Mulvey (RIP)
Wed 24 th Dec	<i>Feria</i>
7.00am	Holy Vocations
9.15am	Greta Jen Gapp (RIP)
3.00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass at Whipps X Hospital Chapel : Prinsley Rodrigo
6.30pm	Family Christmas Vigil Mass: Sean McKenna (RIP)
12 midnight	Parish (Preceded by Carols at 11.30pm)
Thu 25 th Dec	<i>The Birth of Jesus Christ the Lord</i>
8.30am	Swan Kwok (Ints)
10.00am	Philip & Esther Mitchell (Wedding Anniversary)
12 noon	Aurora Santiano (Ints)
Fri 26 th Dec	<i>St Stephen, the first Martyr</i>
10.00am	Danny Lewis (RIP)
Sat 27 th Dec	<i>St John, Apostle & Evangelist</i>
10.00am	Adeline, Mariano & family (RIP)
6.00pm	Adeline (RIP) & Natalie Rosario (Ints)
Sun 28 th Dec	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>
8.30am	Margaret Perry (Ints)
10.00am	Rose Fonseca (RIP) and Sheila Scott (RIP)
12.00pm	Roy Walker (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)