

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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**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

*28<sup>th</sup> December 2014*

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



We gather together this weekend immediately after the great Feast of the Incarnation - the Birth of the Lord at Bethlehem. I know that many of you will today imitate the example of Saint Francis all those centuries ago and make a visit to the crib.

As we gaze at the scene from Bethlehem we can make some words of Saint Francis our own - "We are mothers of Christ when we carry Him in our heart and body through divine love and a pure and sincere conscience and give birth to Him through a holy activity which must shine as an example before others."

In October of this year many bishops and others gathered in Rome for an extraordinary Synod on the Family- the theme was the Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the context of Evangelisation. At the end of that Synod Pope Francis spoke to the whole Church - "We have one year to mature, with true spiritual discernment... with the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph."

Next October there will be a further Synod on The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World. As we prepare for this next Synod the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales are inviting all of us to reflect on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life.

The short document *The Call, the Journey and the Mission* will be widely available on Catholic websites and, I hope, in Parishes. *[See details inside this week's Newsletter].*

In the document there are suggestions for scripture readings and statements of our Catholic beliefs about Marriage and Family Life. Our reflections should always take place in the context of prayer. Only then can we make the words of Saint Augustine our own - "From now on live in the harmony of peace, adhere to unity, acquiesce in charity, yield to the truth."

In the Gospel of today's Mass Simeon takes Jesus in his arms and looks at Him. As he prayed Simeon spoke of the gifts received by those who are close to Jesus. May these gifts - peace, light, salvation and many others- be given to you in abundance during this Christmas Season.

Pray for me as I will pray for you,  
In Christ and Mary, +Alan, sm  
Bishop of Brentwood

**BAPTISMS:** By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Church.

**MARRIAGES:** By appointment. Six months notice is required.

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**THANK YOU:** We would like to thank all our parishioners for their prayers and good wishes, cards and presents. Big thanks also to those who prepared and participated in the Christmas Masses and services, especially to the cleaners and decorators, flower arrangers, choir, servers, readers, extraordinary ministers, and ushers. May God continue to bless all of you during this Christmas season, and in the new year.

**MIDNIGHT MASS FOR NEW YEAR:** On the 31<sup>st</sup> December, from 10.45-11.45pm we will have an hour of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (with priests available for confessions), followed by Mass at midnight. Do come along – what better way to start the New Year?

**MORNING MASSES THIS WEEK:** During the coming week, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, there will be only one morning Mass at 10.00am. The regular 7.00am and 9.15am Masses will resume from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We congratulate Ikechi, Chuma and Alwin who were admitted into the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers on St Stephen's Day (26<sup>th</sup> December), and received their bronze medals. Special congratulations to Natacha who received the silver medal for over 10 years' continuous service. We thank all our Altar Servers who assist the clergy faithfully during the celebration of Mass.

**REFLECTING ON THE GIFT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE:** As Bishop Alan mentioned in his pastoral letter this week (this newsletter's cover), the Bishops of this country are encouraging us to reflect on marriage and the family, in advance of a Synod on the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World, which will take place in Rome next year. The Bishops have created a preparatory document, which can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/qa7x5bb>.

**CONFIRMATION:** Next Sunday the Confirmation candidates will be presented to the community at the 12.00pm Mass. Please keep our 52 young people in your prayers.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Regular Eucharistic Adoration will resume from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The next session for the First Communion programme will be on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 10.00am. All the children and parents are expected to attend. As usual the parents' session will take place in the Lower site of Our Lady & St George primary school, and the Children's session will take place in the parish hall.

**RCIA** meetings will resume on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm.

**MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:** The maintenance meeting has been moved forward to Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 8pm in the presbytery.

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

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

**PARISH ASSISI PILGRIMAGE:** There will be a pilgrimage to Assisi in honour of St Francis, 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 - £719, 6 days H/B. Deadline for receipt of deposits is 5<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.brentwoodlourdes.org) for much more information and to order a brochure, or pick up a leaflet from the porch.

**ICT TECHNICIAN NEEDED FOR TRINITY SCHOOL:** Trinity Catholic High School, Woodford Green, wishes to appoint an ICT technician as soon as possible. An interest in music technology would be desirable, though not essential. 20 hours per week, 44.2 weeks per year, salary scale 5, point 22 - £21,588 full time equivalent. Please refer to the school's website <http://fc.tchs.uk.net> for the job description and person specification, or contact Mrs Sam Gillary on -20-8 504 3419. Closing date for receipt of application forms is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

### **ROTAS –DECEMBER / JANUARY**

Counting	28/12 <b>B</b>	4/1 <b>D</b>	11/1 <b>C</b>	18/1 <b>C</b>	25/1 <b>E</b>
Hospital	28/12 <b>A</b>	4/1 <b>B</b>	11/1 <b>D</b>	18/1 <b>A</b>	25/1 <b>B</b>
Christian Kitchen	29/11 <b>E</b>	3/1 <b>Nor</b>	10/1 <b>F</b>	17/1 <b>G</b>	24/1 <b>A</b>

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

6.00pm	Adeline (RIP) & Natalie Rosario (Ints)
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b><i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</i></b>
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>
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b><i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i></b>
10.00am	Noel Connaghan (RIP)
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b><i>Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas</i></b>
10.00am	Elizabeth Carding (Thanksgiving)
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b><i>Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas</i></b>
10.00am	Pauline Sheridan (RIP)
12 midnight	Parish
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	<b><i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i></b>
10.00am	Special Ints
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	<b><i>Ss Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</i></b>
10.00am	Patrick Murphy (RIP) & Christine Walton (RIP)
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<b><i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i></b>
10.00am	Special Ints
6.00pm	Kelly Moss (RIP)
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b><i>Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord</i></b>
8.30am	Sandra Adrienne Inman (RIP)
10.00am	Ben Luta (Ints)
12.00pm	Special Ints
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:**

**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)**