

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

132 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU

Tel: 020 8520 5877 Fax: 020 8520 4805

E-mail: parishoffice@olsg.co.uk

Website: www.olsg.co.uk

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

18th January 2015

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (B)

Today's readings speak to us about being called. When someone calls out to us, or calls us on the phone, we first of all have to hear the call, and then move to respond to it. The spiritual life is similar: God calls us, we need to listen carefully for it, and make an effort to respond.

The first reading recounts the calling of Samuel. Three times he hears a voice calling his name. Initially, he doesn't recognise the Lord's voice, as he is not familiar with it. But he does have a humble and obedient heart – he wants to respond to the call, and so runs to Eli thinking his was the voice he had heard. Eli instructs him to keep listening, and next time to say, 'speak Lord, your servant is listening.' His heart was now disposed and he responded promptly to God's call, which was a turning point in his young life. He would grow up to serve the Lord as a prophet. He listened, heard the call and responded.

Likewise in the Gospel, two of John the Baptist's disciples approach Jesus, and begin to follow him. Jesus asks them the striking question: what do you want? We all need to ask this of ourselves: what do I want? What am I looking for in life and where do I expect to find it? The disciples are caught off guard, but follow the Lord when he calls them to 'come and see'. They come to recognise who He is by spending time with Him.

The Lord calls all of us too, but the challenges to hearing and responding to his call are many. Perhaps we haven't heard the call because our ears are not attuned to it, i.e. we don't give the space and time to allow him to speak to us. Our minds can be saturated with information from the Internet, TV etc. and that quiet inner space where the Lord speaks gets drowned out. If that is us, we are deaf to the Word of God. It's not enough to just hear the readings at Mass on Sunday: the Lord calls us to a conversation with Him, in which we will discover his care and plan for us. The disciples didn't just drop in for a quick chat; they stayed all day, learning from him, and then they remained with Him. If our prayer resembles a 'quick chat', perhaps we need to make more time for Him. Many people spend a good deal of time sitting with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, talking out their troubles and interceding for others.

It does take courage to make space for the Lord. We may have to do something to give him a chance to touch our hearts: perhaps we must turn off the TV or smartphone. It may also be that we sense the Lord's call will be disturbing or demanding, and we shy away from it, because we are comfortable as we are. If we are lukewarm in our faith, we will not become what He created us to be, and what He desires for us. We may have to ask him to break down the stubbornness of our own wills, and make us receptive to his voice.

We often come to the Lord via others who help us discern the way. Eli and John the Baptist both pointed out the presence of God without getting in the way themselves. Once we become receptive to the Lord's call, like Samuel and the Apostles were, we begin to recognise Jesus in everyone around us, especially those who are in need, the sick and the vulnerable.

We pray for the grace to really listen to God's voice and to dispose ourselves to respond to it. We take on board the words of today's response, 'Here I am Lord, I come to do your will'

Fr Maurice

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

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme will take place this Sunday 18th January at 4pm in the Church. Please continue to keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

MASS OFFERINGS: Please note that Saturday 6pm Masses are booked until May, Sunday 8.30am at 12 noon Masses are booked until March, 10am until mid-March and all weekday Masses until the end of February. The customary stipend for Masses is £5.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The next session for the First Communion programme will be on Saturday 24th 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 have resumed on Thursday evenings at 8.00pm. Anyone interested in becoming Catholic, being Confirmed as an adult or learning more about the faith is welcome to come along.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE: The maintenance committee will meet this Monday 19th January 2015 at 8pm in the presbytery.

DIVINE MERCY HEALING SERVICES have resumed on Sunday evenings at 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

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.

A DAY WITH MARY: A day with Mary will be held at St Anthony of Padua Church, St Anthony's Road, Forest Gate E7 on Saturday 24th January 2015. Starts at 10am with a procession, angelus, crowning and sung litany, followed by rosary, exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, sermons, confessions available, and concluding with enrolments in the brown scapular and miraculous medal. Bring a packed lunch. For more details see poster in the porch.

ORGAN AND PIANO RECITAL: There will be an organ and piano recital of the romantic genre at St John the Baptist church (Leytonstone E11 1HH), next Thursday 22nd January at 1.30pm, in aid of the UK-registered charity Iraqi Christians in Need (www.icin.org.uk), which is providing direct financial relief to thousands of displaced refugee families under the care of the Catholic Chaldean, Syriac and Orthodox Churches in northern Iraq.

HEALING MASS AT ABBOTSWICK HOUSE OF PRAYER, BRENTWOOD to be celebrated by Fr Eamonn Power at 2.30pm Wednesday 21st January 2015. All are welcome! Please call 01277 373 959 for more information.

ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY: The next meeting of the Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) will be held on Saturday 7th February 2015 at 2.30 pm. at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood. There will be a presentation at the meeting on "Mercy in World War One". This is about the work of the Sisters of Mercy in the First World War. For further information please contact Sister Isobel Parks OSU on 07962138287.

ECUMENICAL STUDY DAY ON THE HOLY LAND: The next Ecumenical Study Day organised by the Commission for Evangelisation and Formation will be entitled 'Jerusalem: the Spiritual Heart of the World: Recognition and Responsibility for the Holy Land'. It will be given by Della Shenton, who has led bespoke, reflective pilgrimages to Israel, Palestine and Jordan over the last nine years. Della will explore the place of Jerusalem in Jewish thought and in our Christian faith, and consider how we can move from faiths in conflict to lasting peace. The Study Day will take place on Saturday 7th March from 10.30 until 3 p.m. at Brentwood Cathedral Hall. Please book your place by email to cef@dioceseofbrentwood.org or by phoning 01277 265 289. There is no charge and a light buffet lunch is provided.

THOMAS MERTON – RESTLESS PILGRIM: The 31st January 2015 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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bernard William Butcher, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 4th February at 12 noon.

May he rest in peace.

ROTAS – JANUARY

Counting	4/1 D	11/1 C	18/1 C	25/1 E
Hospital	4/1 D	11/1 A	18/1 B	25/1 D
Christian Kitchen	3/1 Nor	10/1 F	17/1 G	24/1 A

Last week's collection was £1405.04 Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Len & Babs Finney (Ints)
Sun 18 th Jan	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Peace Day)
8.30am	Michael Geelan (RIP)
10.00am	Special Ints
12.00pm	John Monahan (RIP)
6.30pm	[<i>Ordinariate Mass</i>]
Mon 19 th Jan	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Holy Souls
Tue 20 th Jan	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Louella Rodrigues (Ints)
Wed 21 st Jan	St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Nelly & Caesar Tuble-Portalibre (Ints)
Thu 22 nd Jan	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Norma Escueta (RIP)
Friday 23 rd Jan	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Fr Mark (Ints)
Sat 24 th Jan	St Francis de Sales
10.00am	Special Ints
6.00pm	Deceased members of the Moss & Nagle families (RIP)
Sun 25 th Jan	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
8.30am	Henesa Cartright (RIP)
10.00am	Margaret & Norris Levine (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:

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)