

# 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

*5<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Jesus came for everyone. Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of Jesus – Epiphany means ‘manifestation’ or ‘showing forth’. The events we hear in the readings today reveal Jesus as the saviour who has come for all people. Isaiah in the first reading foretells the coming of a light, which will gather all nations to offer praise to God. The psalm continues this theme, as it says, ‘all nations shall fall prostrate before the Lord.’ In the Gospel we hear of the wise men, making their way to Bethlehem. They were not members of the Chosen Jewish people, so their coming to worship the baby Jesus shows that the Lord came for all people. As St Paul tells the Ephesians in the second reading, ‘the pagans now share the same inheritance, they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them in Christ Jesus.’

The wise men read the signs in the sky and identify a star that leads them to the Christ child. They were not experts in the Jewish scriptures, but God used what they had access to, their knowledge of the sky and astronomy to lead them to Him. Likewise when we are in conversation with friends and colleagues who are not Catholic, we ought to try and use things they are familiar with to move them onwards to the fullness of belief in Christ.

The wise men make their way to Herod and enquire as to the child's whereabouts, and they are directed to Bethlehem. Herod pretends that he too wants to worship the child, when in fact he seeks to destroy Him. He was deceptive – saying one thing but meaning the opposite. Our world is full of deceptive voices, which promise much but seek to ruin us. The culture in the west has pushed out God and teaches the young that happiness comes through material success. The abuse of alcohol and drugs, and the scourge of pornography undermine the dignity of the human person. The Church will uphold, as it always must, the truth – the sacredness of life and the sanctity of marriage. Euthanasia will be an issue in the coming year. Pope Francis said last week that a ‘great lie lurks behind certain phrases which so insist on the importance of ‘quality of life’ that they make people think that lives affected by grave illness are not worth living.’

It is up to us as Catholics to imitate the wise men, in reading the signs of the times and listening to the angelic voice of the Lord, guiding us away from danger to safety. We cannot do homage to this world, and bow to its low standards. Christ calls us onwards and upwards. Let us not be daunted, but have the courage to keep focussed on the goal, which is the light of Christ, a light that no darkness can overcome.

Let us not look down in despair, but look up in hope, for Christ is our light: the light to all nations.

Fr Maurice

**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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**SCHOOLS REOPEN:** This week our schools reopen and we wish our students and staff a happy and productive term.

**MORNING MASSES THIS WEEK:** Daily 7.00am and 9.15am Masses will resume from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**CONFIRMATION:** The Confirmation candidates will be presented to the community at the 12.00pm Mass this Sunday. 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 will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 8pm in the presbytery.

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

**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>.

**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.

**FRIENDS OF THE ORDINARIATE EPIPHANY SERVICE:** The annual Friends of the

Ordinariate Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols by Candlelight followed by Benediction will take place on Thursday 8 January 2015 (6.30pm) at the church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory (Warwick Street, London, W1), followed by refreshments.

The service will be led by Mgr Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham and President of the Friends. Lessons will be read by guest readers, including the Conservative peer, Lord Deben, the newly appointed Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Mgr John Armitage, the Catholic writer and broadcaster, Mary O'Regan, and the Superior of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother Winsome. Music, provided by the acclaimed *Schola Cantorum* of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, will include *The Lamb* by John Tavener, *The Three Kings* by Peter Cornelius and Morten Lauridsen's setting of *O Magnum Mysterium*.

**THOMAS MERTON – RESTLESS PILGRIM:** The 31<sup>st</sup> 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 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.

**ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY:** "The next meeting of the Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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. "

**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>

Last week's collection was £1668.54. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

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>
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b><i>Feria of Christmastide</i></b>
7.00am	Ken Nevin (RIP)
9.15am	Special Ints
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b><i>Feria of Christmastide</i></b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Family & Friends of P. McKenna
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b><i>Feria of Christmastide</i></b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	George & Margaret Cornish (RIP)
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b><i>Feria of Christmastide</i></b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Holy Souls
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b><i>Feria of Christmastide</i></b>
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Holy Souls
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b><i>Feria of Christmastide</i></b>
10.00am	Special Ints
6.00pm	Ann Stapleton (RIP)
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b><i>The Baptism of the Lord</i></b>
8.30am	Tina Hackett (RIP)
10.00am	Elaine Francis (RIP)
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)**