

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

22nd February 2015

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

We have now begun the great journey of Lent. All of us, whether as catechumens preparing to enter the Church, or as experienced Catholic Christians, are called to go forward towards the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. Lent is a grace filled time, a sacred time; a time for conversion and a time for change.

In today's Gospel on this first Sunday of Lent we hear that Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days where he struggled with temptation and the extremes of the desert. This example of Jesus had a profound effect on the early Church when many Christians followed Jesus into the desert and it was in the desert that the first flowerings of Christian monasticism were found. These brothers and sisters consecrated themselves to God and embraced the struggle alongside Christ.

In the desert, "human life is precarious, indeed almost impossible... the only living things are thorns and thistles, poisonous serpents and stinging insects".

The first Desert Fathers and Mothers left many accounts of their experiences of successive nights and days in the wilderness; they discovered that following Jesus can mean faithfulness but also failure. They learnt about sanctity and about sin; about the intimate presence of God but also about times of desolation.

Their rule of life in these early monasteries was based on the commandments of Jesus regarding love of God and neighbour. One story tells of a visitor who had sought out a hermit and on leaving said to him, "Forgive me father for having taken you away from your rule". The hermit answered, "My rule is to refresh you and send you away in peace."

The Gospel we heard on Ash Wednesday suggests a threefold rule for each of us during Lent: self-control, love of God and love of neighbour. We may choose to give something up, or perhaps to exercise charitable giving; Lent is also a privileged time for prayer. However we decide to celebrate Lent we need to go forward with Jesus, from struggling and death into life.

We can also be encouraged if we remember that Lent is a wonderful time to be reconciled with the Lord and with each other. Like those early Christians we need to be clear that our only way forward is the way of Christ. Pope Saint Leo the Great wrote in the fifth century about the temptations of Christ- "He fought then that we might fight after Him; He conquered then, that we also might conquer."

Pray for me, as I will always 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 23rd March at 7.30pm in the Church.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required. There will be talks on marriage during Lent; details below.

LENTEN WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS: The 'Walk With Me' Lenten Companion booklets are now available in the repository priced £1. These contain daily reflections and prayers that can help us to prepare for Easter.

LENTEN TALKS AT OLSG: We are now between the two synods in Rome on the subject of marriage and family life. Given all that has been said in the media about this, our Lenten talks this year are around the theme of marriage. The talks will take place on Thursday evenings in Lent in the Parish hall.

5 March 2015, 8pm: **Marriage matters** by Brian and Maureen Devine. Brian and Maureen worked at the national level of Marriage Encounter for five years, meeting both Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II, and also ran a Brentwood Marriage and Family Life Group for several years.

12 March 2015, 8pm: **Theology of Marriage** led by Father Patrick Daly

19 March 2015, 8pm: **Marriage and Family life** led by Father Graham Smith. Fr Graham is Co-ordinator for Marriage and Family life, Brentwood diocese

26 March 2015, 2015, 8pm: **Proclaiming the ideal of Christian Marriage** led by Father Patrick Daly.

BAPTISMAL FONT: The font has been drained for maintenance.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme will take place this Sunday 22nd February at 4pm in the Parish hall.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: There will be a meeting of the Extraordinary Ministers who serve the hospital and housebound on Saturday 8th March at 3pm in the Church meeting room.

VARIETY SHOW: There will be a Variety Show in the parish hall on Saturday 14th March at 7pm.

HCPT DINNER & DANCE takes place on Saturday 21st March, tickets costs £25pp. Book your table early and avoid missing out! Speak to Anita, Peter or Em on 07976419680.

RCIA meetings have resumed on Thursday evenings at 8.00pm. Anyone interested in becoming Catholic, being confirmed as an adult or wish to learn more about the faith is welcome to come along.

BETHEL PARISH PRAYER GROUP – a group of Malayalam speaking families who gather once weekly under the guidance of Fr Maurice. As a new initiative they are offering prayer support to the parish. Please drop in your intentions in the box located in the lobby of the Church.

NURSERY 2015: Parents with children born between 01.09.2011 and 31.08.2012 who would like to apply for a place for their child at Our Lady & St George's Primary School can

download the supplementary information form from the website www.olsgweb.org or call the Lower Site school office on 020 8520 8500.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – thank you to all from our community who come to share in the Eucharistic Adoration. We need more people to commit to the following hours: Monday, 10 – 11am, 12 – 1pm, 1-2pm and 4-5pm. Wednesday: 11am – 12pm, 12-1pm and 1-2pm. Spend time with Jesus. Please provide your name on the sheet available in the porch.

HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE SPRING TABLE TOP SALE: Saturday 28th March 2015 - 10am-1pm. The Friends of Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form are holding their Spring Indoor Table Top Sale on their Walthamstow Site, 1 Shernhall Street, (Next to Thorpe Coombe Hospital), London E17 3EA on Saturday 28th March 2014, with doors open to the public from 10:00am - 13:00pm. A chance to get rid of that clutter, buy a treat or gift or enjoy our delicious refreshments and take a home-made cake for later! To book a table, email the Friends for a booking form at t.friends@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk or phone the school office on 020 8520 0482. Tables £10.00 in advance, £15 on the day subject to availability. Admission 50p adults, children free. Book early to avoid disappointment.

LENTEN DAY RETREAT led by Bishop Alan at Abbotswick House of Prayer, Brentwood: 14 March 2015, from 10.30am to 3.30pm and Mass will be celebrated. Suggestion donation for the day is £15 per person. More info on www.abbotswick.org.

PAT TESTER NEEDED: The St Vincent de Paul Society shop, St Vincent's at 484 Kingsland Road Hackney E8 4AE need a qualified PAT tester for one day a week to test small electrical items. Please call Louise or Stuart on 0207 249 3511 for more details.

VOLUNTEER ACCOUNTANT / BOOKKEEPER NEEDED: A small charity requires the part-time help of an accountant/bookkeeper. If you are interested in doing some voluntary work and are able to be of assistance please contact Sr Camilla: info@walsinghamcommunity.org or 07931 795 769.

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.

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

John Monaghan, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Mon 23rd February at 12noon.
Eileen Fouhy, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Wed 25th February at 11.45am.
Kathleen Carey, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Mon 2nd March at 10.30am.

May they rest in peace.

ROTAS – FEBRUARY:

Hospital	1/2 A	8/2 B	15/2 D	22/2 A
Counting	1/2 D	8/2 A	15/2 B	22/2 D
Christian Kitchen	7/2 Nor1	14/2 C	21/2 Nor2	28/2 D

Last week's collection was £1444.89. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Raye & Marcella Finney intentions
Sun 22nd Feb	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)
8.30am	Abraham Garba intentions
10.00am	Dolly & Rod Mayers intentions
12.00pm	Mary Callanan (RIP)
6:30pm	<i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i>
Mon 23 rd Feb	Feria
7.00am	Betty Ramsey (Ints) & Ramadhin Ramsey (RIP)
9.15am	Peadar Deasy (RIP)
Tue 24 th Feb	Feria
7.00am	Maretti Connaghan (Sick)
9.15am	Hugh Connaghan (RIP)
Wed 25 th Feb	Feria
7.00am	Nazir Khiljee (Ints)
9.15am	Jovan Sskbalama (Ints)
Thu 26 th Feb	Feria
7.00am	Friends of Joan Beirne (Thanksgiving)
9.15am	Catherine Charles (Ints)
Fri 27 th Feb	Feria
7.00am	Maria & Claud Green (Ints)
9.15am	Mara Bish (RIP)
Sat 28 th Feb	Feria
10.00am	Angelina Horeau (Ints)
6.00pm	Mary Drumm (RIP) & Peggy McCarthy (RIP)
Sun 29 th Feb	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)
8.30am	Cuthbert Almeida (RIP)
10.00am	Bridie Lacon (Ints)
12.00pm	John Joseph Collins (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)