

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

29th March 2015

PALM SUNDAY (B)

Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Pope Emeritus Benedict called Palm Sunday 'the great doorway leading into Holy Week, the week when the Lord Jesus made His way towards the culmination of His earthly existence.' This is the climax of our Lord's earthly life, the most solemn week of the Christian Calendar. This week we commemorate His journey to Jerusalem and to Calvary, in which He fulfils the scriptures and accomplishes His mission of redeeming humanity, making eternal life possible for each human being.

We begin Mass today with the blessing of the palms, the reading of the Gospel account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and a procession with the palms. We then hear Isaiah's account of the suffering servant, a remarkable prophecy of humiliation and opposition and yet faithfulness to God until the end, which we see fulfilled in the person of Christ on the road to Calvary. The Lord didn't flinch from the cross but accepted it in humility, as St Paul describes in today's second reading. We also hear the passion account of Christ according to St Mark, and will hear St John's on Good Friday.

Much could be contemplated today, but perhaps let us focus on the palms we received, which take the shape of a cross. We heard today that as Jesus entered Jerusalem, people spread palm branches on the road. This was a gesture of respect and homage for a king; the crowds thus acknowledged the Kingship of Jesus, the Son of God. But how soon this changed; how quickly the cries of 'Hosanna!' became 'Crucify!' The fickleness of those people is common to human nature, including us. We pledge ourselves to Christ at one time, and disown Him at another. Perhaps we can identify with Peter, who caved in weakness and hadn't the courage of his convictions. Yet the Lord would forgive him, and He forgives us all when we repent. We hear those words from the cross, 'Forgive them Father; they know not what they do.'

The palm, the symbol of honour for a king, is twisted into a cross, the symbol of suffering and death. The palm crosses we hold are a paradox. The Kingship of Christ is not manifested through earthly power – as He tells Pilate, 'my Kingdom is not of this world'. Christ's Kingdom is one of humility and service, of self-emptying – of sacrifice. Jesus poured Himself out on the cross, showing the depth of His love by offering the greatest gift possible. On Valentine's Day we see the heart depicted as the great symbol of love. It is an appropriate symbol of love, but the cross is a greater symbol still, because the cross reminds us that sacrifice lies at the heart of love.

Let us spend time this week moving with the Lord through the stages of his Passion. Try to keep it a Holy Week by attending the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday night, the Celebration of the Passion on Good Friday, and Mass for Easter Day. We can prepare ourselves well by making a good confession (details of reconciliation service inside) – this can help us leave sin behind and be ready to rise up again to new life with the risen Christ.

Fr Maurice

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

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER CARDS: The cards detailing the times of Masses and services for the Holy Week and Easter are now available. Feel free to take extra copies for friends or neighbours.

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION, Good Friday: At the 3pm service on Good Friday there will be a collection for the Christian communities in the Holy Land, and maintenance of the Holy Sites. The need is particularly felt during this time of crisis in the Middle East – this collection is still the principal source, which sustain the life and works of the region's Christians.

SCHOOLS HOLIDAYS: This week our schools close for the Easter holidays. We wish our students and staff a peaceful and blessed Easter.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE: The Lenten Reconciliation service will take place this Tuesday 31st March at 8pm. A number of visiting priests will be available to hear individual confessions – including in Malayalam and Polish. All are strongly encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter.

CHRISM MASS: The Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral takes place on Wednesday 1st April at 7pm. A coach will depart from outside the Church at 5.30pm. If you would like to go please sign up on the list at the back of the Church. We request a donation of £5 per person to defray costs – this will be collected on the day. Please be on time for the coach.

CONFIRMATION: The next Confirmation session will take place Sunday 29th March at 4.00pm. All candidates must attend – please be on time.

FIRST COMMUNION: The next session of the First Communion programme will be a practice session on Saturday 18th April at 10am in the Church. Parents and children should all attend this session.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Please note that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will cease from Monday 31st March and resume after Easter on April 13th.

MASS BOOKINGS: Please note that all Sunday 8.30am and 10am Masses are booked until 21.6.15; all 12 noon Masses until 28.6.15; all Saturday 6pm Masses until 1.8.15. All weekday Masses are also booked up until May. If a date requested is not available, the next available Mass will be allocated instead.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Our annual Procession in honour of Our Lady will take place on Sunday 17th May at 2pm, beginning at the Upper Site of OLSG school. There will also be a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 23rd May – and Fr Patrick will be accompanying a coach from the parish. More details on these two events after Easter.

OUR LADY & ST GEORGE SCHOOL VACANCIES: There are currently vacancies in Nursery, Year 2, Year 3, and Year 5. If you are interested in sending your child to a Catholic school or would like more information about the school before making a decision please contact the school office on 0208 520 8500.

FR DENIS HALL: We are sad to report that Fr Denis Hall, Parish Priest at Our Lady of Compassion, Upton Park, died last week. He was born in Hornchurch and Ordained in 1965, serving over the years in Saffron Walden, Canning Town, Leyton, Manor Park and Forest Gate. He celebrated his 50th Ordination Anniversary just a couple of weeks ago. His body will be received into Our Lady of Compassion Church, Upton Park on Monday 30th March, followed by a Requiem Mass at 7pm. His body will remain in the Church and a further Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 31st March, also at 7pm. On Wednesday 1st April, his body will be taken to St Anthony's Forest Gate, and Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11am, followed by burial at St Patrick's Cemetery, Leyton. May he rest in peace.

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. Thank you to all those who completed the Gift Aid forms last week; they will be distributed again this week for those who did not have a chance to complete them. This will help us to update our database. The Gift Aid Scheme provides much-needed additional income for the upkeep of the Church and support of our schools. For more information please contact Hana on 07939 485957.

PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING at SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood will take place on Sunday 29th March, 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN (20s and 30s): Theme: discerning God's call in my life. Dates 22nd-24th May 2015. Location: Broadstairs, Kent. The weekend is organized by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org

PIANO & ORGAN RECITAL FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: There will be a piano and organ recital at Holy Trinity Church, 185 Hermon Hill, South Woodford on Easter Saturday, 4th April at 7.15pm in aid of the UK-registered charity 'Iraqi Christians in need'.

RIP
Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Cecilia Mary Burnett, whose Requiem Mass will take place on
 Tuesday 31st March at 12 noon.

Stephen Cartey, whose Requiem Mass will take place on
 Friday 10th April at 12 noon

May they rest in peace.

ROTAS – MARCH:

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|-------------------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Hospital | 1/3 B | 8/3 D | 15/3 A | 22/3 B | 29/3 D |
| Counting | 1/3 F | 8/3 B | 15/3 E | 22/3 D | 29/3 C |
| Christian Kitchen | 7/3 Nor1 | 14/3 E | 21/3 Nor2 | 28/3 F | |

Last week's collection was £1887.60. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

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|--------------------------|---|
| 6.00pm | Sheila & Bernard Moss (RIP) |
| Sun 29 th Mar | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B) |
| 8.30am | Frank Murphy (RIP) |
| 10.00am | Ellie & John McGoldrick (RIP) |
| 12.00pm | Martin McCrossan (RIP) & Caolin McCrossan (RIP) |
| 6:30pm | <i>[Ordinariate Mass]</i> |
| Mon 30 th Mar | Monday of Holy Week |
| 7.00am | Bishop Vincent Ezeonya (RIP) |
| 9.15am | Betel Gustilo (RIP) |
| Tue 31 st Mar | Tuesday of Holy Week |
| 7.00am | William Balfe (RIP) |
| 9.15am | Richard Cavanagh (RIP) |
| Wed 1 st Apr | Spy Wednesday |
| 7.00am | Fr Stewarts (Ints) |
| 9.15am | Heather John & family (Ints) |
| Thu 2 nd Apr | Maundy Thursday |
| 9.15am | NO MORNING MASS - Office of Readings & Morning Prayer |
| 8.00pm | Francesco Zeppetelli (RIP) |
| Fri 3 rd Apr | Good Friday |
| 7.00am | NO MORNING MASS - Office of Readings & Morning Prayer |
| 3.00pm | Commemoration of the Passion of Our Lord |
| Sat 4 th Apr | Holy Saturday |
| 9.15am | NO MORNING MASS – Office of Readings & Morning Prayer |
| 8.00pm | Easter Vigil: Parish |
| Sun 5 th Apr | Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord |
| 8.30am | Orlando Carvalho (RIP) |
| 10.00am | Kitty & Richard Madeey (Ints) |
| 12.00pm | Parish |
| 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, 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, Luis & Lukas, Ann Hutton.

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)