

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);
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

6th December 2015

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

This coming Tuesday, Pope Francis will open a special 'Year of Mercy'. The purpose of the Year of Mercy is for all of us to more deeply appreciate the mercy of God, and to move us to experience it concretely. When we do, our outlook and actions will change, and our lives and the world will be better for it.

The Year of Mercy, which begins within this season of Advent, gives us an opportunity for real spiritual renewal. If we find our faith lives stale, just going through the motions, here is a chance to discover the love and mercy of God, which became Incarnate in the Child Jesus, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

The coming of something new is the theme of the readings today. The scripture passages convey a sense of urgency to wake us up from laziness, apathy and despondency, and to move forward in hope. Baruch in the first reading tells the exiled Jews in Babylon that they will return to their homeland. God in His mercy has remembered them, called them back and will have the way prepared for them. They must arise and respond; they cannot just remain in their despair.

St John the Baptist preaches a similar message in today's Gospel: 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' John heralds the coming of someone new; he stands on the threshold of the coming of Christ. At the beginning of this Year of Mercy, and this Advent season, we too stand on the threshold of something new. Are we going to remain in the staleness of what we know, or are we going to be renewed? If so, how are we going to be renewed?

John the Baptist urges repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Let us use these three weeks left to us before Christmas to once again make ourselves new and to leave the past behind us. We should seek reconciliation first with our God and make a good confession, so that we experience His mercy. But we should also go a step further, and forgive those who have hurt us in the past. Just as we are forgiven, let us forgive others.

St Paul in the second reading also urges us to move on to what is best, to strive for higher and virtuous living, not just to live on the surface. Of course, in these coming weeks we will have a lot of things to do. But how are we preparing to meet Jesus this Christmas? Can we create space amidst the hustle and bustle to seek Christ? We are also called to be signposts, like John the Baptist, 'a voice in the wilderness' pointing to Him.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place this coming Monday 7th December at 7.30pm.

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Six months notice is required. Please speak to one of the priests for more information.

WALK WITH ME ADVENT BOOKLETS: The Walk With Me booklets are a good way to prepare spiritually for Christmas, and are available in the repository priced at £1.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: The Parish Reconciliation service will take place on Monday 21st December at 7.30pm in the Church. A number of visiting priests will be available for individual confessions. Receiving the Sacrament of Penance is a wonderful way to prepare for the birth of Christ.

CHRISTMAS MASS & RECONCILIATION TIMES: A card detailing the times of Masses and opportunities for reconciliation over the Christmas period will be available next weekend.

CONFIRMATION: The next session of the Confirmation programme will take place on Sunday 6th December, 4-6pm in the Parish Hall. All candidates are asked to arrive on time for a prompt start.

RCIA (BECOMING A CATHOLIC): The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) group meets on Thursday evenings at 8pm in the Church meeting room. This group is for people interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, and exploring the possibility of entering the Church – or for adults who may have been baptised but never received First Communion or Confirmation. For more information speak to one of the priests.

NEW CD FOR AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Our parishioner Kristina Coeur-de-Lion has recorded a new CD called *Be Still*, priced at £7. All proceeds will go to Aid to the Church in Need. Kristina will be selling copies after all Sunday Masses on the 17th December. For more information visit www.jesushopeinmyheart.com

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH: This year's Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch (organized by the SVP St George's Conference) will take place next Sunday 13th December at 3pm in the Lower Site of Our Lady & St George School. Further details and a sign up list for those who would like to attend are on the noticeboard in the porch.

MASS TO OPEN EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY: Bishop Alan will celebrate a Mass opening the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, this Tuesday 8th December at 7pm in Brentwood Cathedral, Ingrave Road, CM15 8AT.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will cease from 21st December, and recommence on 4th January 2016.

DIVINE MERCY HEALING SERVICES: The last Divine Mercy Healing Service will be on Sunday 13th December. These will resume on Sunday 9th January 2016.

MASS FOR TRAVELLING COMMUNITY: As part of the Year of Mercy, Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral would like to invite all members of the Traveller Community to come to the Cathedral (Ingrave Rd, Brentwood CM15 8AT), the Mother Church of the Diocese, and join the Cathedral parish community at Mass on Sunday 13 December at 6.30 pm. Fr Dan Mason will preach at this Mass.

RECEPTION INTAKE, OUR LADY & ST GEORGE SCHOOL: If your child was born between 1.9.11 and 31.8.12 they are due to start school in September 2016. To apply to

OLSG School, you will need to complete the common application form available at www.eadmissions.org.uk and return to Waltham Forest Admissions by 15th Jan 2016. You will also need to complete the Supplementary Information Form, available from www.olsgweb.org, which needs to be returned to the Lower Site School office by 15th Jan 2016. For more information contact Mrs Moloney on 0208 520 8500.

SIGNING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS: Fr Maurice will be available to sign primary school application forms by appointment, or after Masses on Sundays.

VOCATIONS EVENT: Monsignor John Armitage returns to the Diocese to share his adventurous story of the years when he first discerned a call to Priesthood. You are invited to ask him questions and then enjoy a free fish & chips supper. Hosted by Brentwood Vocations; we invite all women and men aged 17-45, especially those discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life, to this "In Conversation with" event, Monday 21st December, 7:30pm, St Edward the Confessor Parish Hall, Park End, Romford, Essex, RM1 4AT. For more details email: eamonn@brentwoodvocations.org

NURSERY INTAKE, OUR LADY & ST GEORGE SCHOOL: For children born between 01.9.2012 and 31.08.2013. Parents wishing to apply for a nursery place for September 2016 can download the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) from the school website www.olsgweb.org or collect it from Lower Site School Office, 140 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU. There will be a choice of full time or part time places term time only. Part Time Hours: Mornings 8.45am – 11.45am; Afternoons 12.15pm – 3.15pm; Fulltime (8.00am to 3.15pm) part funded. Packs are available from the Lower Site School Office from Monday 30th November. The closing date for completed forms is Thursday 11th February 2016. If you have any queries please telephone Mrs Moloney on 020 8520 8500.

HEALING MASS at Abbotswick House of Prayer, Brentwood to be celebrated by Fr Eamonn Power at 2.30pm on Wednesday 9th December 2015. Please call 01277 373959 or visit www.abbotswick.org for more information. All are welcome!

SICK CALLS TO HOSPITAL: In light of strict data protection rules it is important that on entering hospital you tell the nurses that your details or those of your relatives be passed to the Catholic chaplain, if you wish to be visited. We visit the wards during the week and also provide a 24-hour on-call service in case of emergency.

RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Jan Zielinski, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 15th December at 10.30am in the Church. Please note that there will be no 9.15am Mass on this day.

May he rest in peace.

ROTAS – DECEMBER

Hospital	6/12 D	13/12 A	20/12 B	27/12 D
Counting	6/12 D	13/12 B	20/12 F	27/12 D
Christian Kitchen	5/12 Nor1	12/12 E	19/12 Nor2	26/12 F

The offertory collection for 28th/29th Nov was £1481.45
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Michael Fitzpatrick (RIP)
Sun 6 th Dec	Second Sunday of Advent (C) (Bible Sunday)
8.30am	Tim Campbell (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Deceased members of Edmunds & Preville families
Mon 7 th Dec	St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
7.00am	Special Intentions
9.15am	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
Tue 8 th Dec	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
7.00am	Ram Ramsey (RIP)
9.15am	Tim Campbell (RIP)
Wed 9 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Sr Kathleen (Ints)
9.15am	Noel Staunton (Ints)
Thu 10 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Sr Dominique Buckley (Ints)
9.15am	Joseph & Annie Murtagh (RIP)
Fri 11 th Dec	Feria
7.00am	Timothy Joseph Sullivan (RIP)
9.15am	Anthony Mulhern (RIP)
Sat 12 th Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe
10.00am	Thanksgiving
6.00pm	Edward Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 13 th Dec	Third Sunday of Advent (C) (Gaudete Sunday)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Liam McGoldrick (Ints)
12.00pm	Armelito Valdez, Aida Rodrigues, Asuncion, Ramon & Edwin Asuncion (Ints)

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, 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, Luis & Lukas, Anne Hutton, Comfort Kwawu, Judith Hilton, Gloria and Tracy Joseph, Colin Nye, Pdraig Hester.

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. During these times the priest is in the Reconciliation Room, inside the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, to the left. Confessions are also available at other times on request; please call at the house.