

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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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

Sunday 21th February 2016 **Second Sunday of Lent (C)**

This is the second Sunday of Lent, and today's Gospel recalls the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus takes his close friends Peter, James and John up a mountain, and there, while they are praying, his appearance changes, 'the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning'. They get a glimpse of Jesus in His Glory.

Just before this episode, Jesus had asked the disciples who people say He is, and Simon Peter professes 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'. Jesus affirms Peter in his profession, but goes on to say that He, though the Christ, must be rejected, suffer and die, but will rise again. Jesus also says that whoever wishes to follow Him must deny himself, take up his cross and follow.

The path to glory is through suffering. On the mountain of the transfiguration, the disciples experienced something that greatly consoled them. Seeing Moses and Elijah (representatives of the Law and the Prophets), and hearing the voice of the Father in the clouds gave them courage and confidence that what Peter had said about Jesus was really true. Peter is so caught up in the moment that he wants to prolong it, and says 'let us make three tents' – He wants the moment to remain.

But it does not remain. The vision ends, the visible glory fades and Jesus is alone. They have to come down the mountain, to face what lies ahead, the road that will lead to the cross. If we too wish to be followers of Christ, we must pick up our crosses and pursue the same road with Christ.

We can all be tempted to pursue the easy way, the road of comfort. In our times of instant solutions, immediate satisfaction, the idea of struggling for anything is hard to stomach. But over time this produces a kind of spiritual laziness, the idea that glory or heaven is guaranteed.

The transfiguration should give us hope for what is possible, namely, to be glorified like Christ is, but we need to look beyond the things of this world, with all its enticements and temptations. St Paul in the second reading speaks of those who 'make foods into their god and are proud of things they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things'. He describes these as 'enemies of the cross'. All of us then, need to remember, that we are not here forever; we are passing through, and we need to look beyond the immediate to the greater vision, the possibility of eternal life, if we take up our cross.

The cross is in our everyday lives: we are called to accept it, to unite it with Christ, whatever form it takes, whether illness, work or family difficulties, anxiety about the future. We should look upon the trials and difficulties we face as an opportunity to be close to Jesus, who taught us and showed us that the way to glory is through the humble acceptance of suffering.

We are called to look forward and upward in hope. Abram in the first reading is told to look up to heaven, and that his descendants will number as the stars. Abram places his hope in the Lord. St Paul likewise tells us that our homeland is in heaven. Lent calls us out of the mindset of being engrossed in the world, compromising on the truth, giving in to sin, seeking after comfort and the soft way. The Christian way is not for softies, it is one of grit, and perseverance in the face of difficulty by the grace of God.

We are called to live our lives with a view to the eternal. May we not become bogged down by the concerns of the world. As the psalm today says, 'Hope in him, hold firm and take heart!' --**Fr Maurice**

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 29th February at 7.30pm in the Church.

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

LENTEN TALKS: There will be DVD screenings of some of the main catechetical (teaching) talks from the recent Eucharistic Congress in the Philippines, which will take place in the Church Meeting Room over the next few Sundays. The recorded talks will be as follows:

1) 'The Eucharist: Celebration of the Paschal Mystery' – Bishop Robert Barron. Sunday 28th February at 7pm.

2) 'The Eucharist: Dialogue with the Poor and the Suffering' – Cardinal John Olorunfemi Inaiyekan. Sunday 6th March at 7pm.

3) 'The Eucharist and the Dialogue with Cultures' – Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle. Sunday 13th March at 7pm.

Each talk is just over 1 hour in length and will be followed by a short time of discussion.

LENTEN 'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS: *Walk with Me* is a prayer and scripture journey for Lent and Easter. The booklets contain a brief reflection, either on the scripture readings of the day or on a catechetical theme. The beauty about *Walk with Me* is the size of the booklet (it's an ideal fit for a pocket or handbag), and is written in a simple and accessible style. Price £1 available from the repository (in the porch).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS during Lent take place in the Church on Friday evenings at 7pm.

UPCOMING PARISH MISSION: We intend to have a Parish/School Mission from the 11th – 15th July 2016. The mission will be a week of talks and prayer aimed to renew us in faith and to reflect particularly on the gift of God's mercy, during the current year of mercy. Fr Soji Olikkal and a team of helpers will facilitate the week. Please keep an eye out for further announcements.

FAMILY FAST DAY: Last Friday 19th February was the CAFOD family fast day. Please return any donation envelopes this week.

CHRISM MASS: The annual Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral will take place on Wednesday 23rd March. At this Mass the priests of the Diocese gather with the Bishop to renew their priestly promises, and the Bishop will bless the oils, which are distributed to each parish and used in celebration of the sacraments. A coach will depart from outside the presbytery at 5.15pm, returning by 9.30pm. Next week a list will be available on the noticeboard to sign up. A contribution of £7 per seat is requested to cover travel costs.

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.

We congratulate the 12 Catechumens and Candidates seeking to enter the Church at the Easter Vigil, who attended the Rite of Election in Brentwood last Sunday. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their process of formation.

FIRST COMMUNION: The next session for the First Communion Programme will be Saturday 27th February. As usual the children meet in the parish hall, and the parents in the Lower Site of OLSG School, at 9.45am.

The allocations of First Holy Communion Masses have now been completed. Details are available from Fr Patrick.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this Sunday 21st February at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Please keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

GIFT AID QUERIES: Any parishioner with queries/issues/requests relating to Gift Aid, or wishing to join the scheme should please email finance@olsg.co.uk. Gift Aid allows the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated, at no additional cost to the giver.

NURSERY PLACES AT OLSG PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL: We have extended our closing date until Friday 18th March 2016 for our September 2016 intake. Parents with children born between 01.09.2012 – 31.08.2013 can apply for a place in our Nursery. We have full time (cost involved) and part time places (15 hours per week free). For further information or to get an application pack either download the form from our website www.olsgweb.org or call into the school office. Alternatively you can telephone the school office on 020 8520 8500 option lower site for further information.

LENTEN DAY RETREAT LED BY BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS S.M. : SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2016 11:00 - 16:00

Please join us for a Lenten Day Retreat led by Bishop Alan to be held at Abbotswick, Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood. Mass will be celebrated and talks given throughout the day. The suggested donation is £15pp and you are invited to bring your own packed lunch; refreshments will be available. Spaces are limited and advanced booking is essential. For more information, please call 01277 373959 or visit www.abbotswick.org.

DIOCESAN YEAR OF MERCY EVENTS: SPRING: *Wrestling with forgiveness* -

Saturday 5th March, 10.30am - Bishop Emeritus, Thomas McMahon

All events take place at Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. Telephone: 01277 265 285. Email:lisagunther@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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.

ROTAS – FEBRUARY

Hospital	7/2 D	14/2 A	21/2 B	28/2 D
Counting	7/2 F	14/2 E	21/2 D	28/2 F
Christian Kitchen	6/2 Nor	13/2 D	20/2 E	27/2 F

The offertory collection for 14th February was £1316.49

Many thanks for your generosity.

CONGRATULATIONS: We congratulate Jeremy Woolnough and Verity Radley, who were married at our Church last Saturday. We wish them all of God's blessings for their future happiness and wellbeing.

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

6.00pm	Mary Callanan (RIP)
Sun 21 Feb	Second Sunday of Lent (C)
8.30am	Bernard Finney (RIP)
10.00am	Mary Pride (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish
Mon 22 Feb	The Chair of St Peter
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Jim Allen & Bernie O'Leary (RIP)
Tue 23 Feb	Feria
7.00am	Pat McKenna (Ints)
9.15am	Marijona Karpuskiene (RIP)
Wed 24 Feb	Feria
7.00am	Denis and Collette Bonhar (Ints)
9.15am	Mary Khan (RIP)
Thu 25 Feb	Feria
7.00am	Elizabeth Carroll (Ints)
9.15am	Sr Anne-Marie and Sr Francis (Thanksgiving)
Fri 26 Feb	Feria
7.00am	Philomena Spranklin & Family (Ints)
9.15am	Russell Rodrigues (Ints)
Sat 27 Feb	Feria
10.00am	Julian Rodrigues (Ints)
6.00pm	Richard & Nora Keane (RIP)
Sun 28 Feb	Third Sunday of Lent (C)
8.30am	Boyce Chandisingh (RIP)
10.00am	Nazir Khiljee (RIP)
12.00pm	Johnny Neylon (RIP)

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, 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, 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, Pdraig Hester, Regina Jose, Tony Keane

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.