

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

1st May 2016

Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

Today's first reading describes a conflict in the early Church, over whether non-Jewish converts would need to be circumcised to join the Church. There is a dispute and both sides sincerely advance their arguments, but in the end a ruling has to be made.

This shows the earliest example of our Church's teaching authority. Paul and Barnabas go to Jerusalem to consult the apostles and attain a decision. They come back with a ruling from Peter and the others stating that circumcision is not necessary, and their letter even declares, 'it has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves'. The apostles speak with the authority of the Holy Spirit.

Whenever disputes arise about faith or morals, people on their own will come up with all kinds of answers. How do we know whom to believe? To speak for Christ one must have a mandate from Christ. Jesus founded His Church on Peter and the Apostles, and gave them His mandate and authority. Jesus did not give His Church, in advance, the solutions to every particular problem they would encounter. But He did promise to send them the Holy Spirit, to help them remember what He had taught and to 'guide them into all truth'.

The same Holy Spirit sent upon the Apostles is still active in the Church now, helping to guide its leaders and members. The Church depends upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to meet the difficulties and struggles of each generation, but the Spirit has sustained the Church through great difficulties, persecutions and sufferings, which in many parts of the world continue to the present day.

The Church faces much turbulence, like a ship on a stormy sea. But we have the promise of Christ that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, is by our side. After saying this in today's Gospel, Jesus immediately talks about peace, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives it do I give it to you.' Amidst storms and tribulations there can still be peace because He does not abandon us.

The Holy Spirit also works in each one of us. He helps us to pray if we cannot find words; He moves our consciences to discern good and evil and to repent; He inspires good actions in us, and directs us to obey the will of God. Jesus says 'Whoever loves me will keep my word.' - the Holy Spirit helps us to keep loyal to Jesus.

The Church is not an end in itself – Christ founded it as a means to gather humanity in and get us to heaven. This is what the Holy Spirit guides the Church towards. It is the vision of St John in the second reading, of the heavenly Jerusalem, of all the saints gathered around the throne of God. There is no longer a temple building, because they dwell directly in the presence of God, illumined by Him. This is the Catholic Church in its full glory; perfect, immense, beautiful and filled with God's light. It is the dwelling of God with redeemed humanity; with those who have kept God's word. It is the fulfilment of Christ's promise, 'whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'.

Let us continue to seek the guidance and the help of the Holy Spirit to lead us home.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 23rd May. Godparents are also encouraged to attend.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: This Sunday, Masses for the First Holy Communion children commence. 65 children will receive the Sacrament at Masses over the next two weekends; 33 this weekend, and 32 next weekend. Please keep these children and families in your prayers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHY: A professional photographer has been arranged for all of the First Holy Communion Masses. They will provide a photograph of the child, the child and priest, and the immediate family on a CD for a total cost of £20. You can contact Joanne Thompson on 07894 692 403 for further information.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting of the finance committee will take place on Monday 9th May at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are expected to attend.

CONFIRMATION: The next session for the Confirmation programme is next Sunday, 8th May at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Please continue to keep the young people and their families in your prayers.

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. The group meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Church meeting room.

PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY: The annual Parish May Procession in honour of Our Lady will take place on Sunday 22nd May, starting at 2pm at the upper site of Our Lady & St George School. After a blessing and crowing of a statue of Our Lady, we will process along Shernhall Street to the Church, where the rosary will be prayed in a number of languages. The afternoon will conclude with refreshments in the hall. More details will be available next week, but do save the date and come along.

HELP NEEDED: GREAT WITH NUMBERS AND HIGHLY ORGANISED? The parish is need of an experienced bookkeeper / accountant who can help in the preparation of bank reconciliation, computerized journal entries and financial statements. The role will require a couple of hours volunteer work a week. Training in easy-to-use financial software will be provided. If you are interested and willing to help, please speak to Fr Maurice.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO DOOR OF MERCY, BRENTWOOD: Our Parish will be going to visit the Holy Door at Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 28th May, and a coach is now booked to depart the parish at 11am. Upon arrival we will go through the Holy Door, then have lunch. After lunch, confessions will be available, Mass will be celebrated at 3pm and we will return to Walthamstow by 5pm. **The list at the back of the Church is now full, but keep an eye on it for cancellations.** We request £8 per seat, collected on the day, which includes a small donation to the Cathedral for use of its facilities. All attending will need to bring a packed lunch. The coach has 53 seats.

UPCOMING PARISH MISSION: There will be 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.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The new sets of offertory envelopes are now available. **Please collect yours if you are registered for the scheme.** Registering to donate to the parish via the envelopes allows the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 given, at no extra cost to the giver. This makes your generous donations go further, and supports the upkeep of the Church and its buildings, and our schools. If you would like to register for the Gift Aid scheme, or have any questions about it, please contact Joan on 07950 249 988.

GLOBAL CATHOLIC TV NETWORK - EWTN: Are you getting EWTN Catholic television and radio? It's free and easy to access! EWTN is a global Catholic television and radio network packed with Catholic teaching, events, discussion, news, family entertainment, conversion stores, saints' lives and more. View live Catholic events from around the world, including the Holy Father's weekly audience and Sunday Angelus from Rome. EWTN is available through numerous means, including Sky TV (channel 589), and online. For more information, and a live stream, visit www.ewtn.co.uk.

TEACHING VACANCY: Teacher of English (Temporary Maternity Cover post from September 2016). From September 2016, the English Department at Trinity Catholic School has a full-time temporary post available to cover a maternity leave post. The successful applicant will be able to offer English to Key Stage 5, to join a supportive and highly successful department. For more information please contact Sam Gillary on 0208 504 3419 ext 170 or email sam_gillary@fc.tchs.uk.net. Closing date is 11th May.

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:

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Frances South, whose funeral will take place at Manor Park Crematorium on Monday 16th May at 3.30pm.

Elizabeth Carroll who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 25th May at 12 noon, followed by burial at Chingford Mount Cemetery.

ROTAS – MAY

Counting	1/5 B	8/5 D	15/5 E	22/5 B	29/5 C
Christian Kitchen	7/5 Nor	14/5 G	21/5 A	28/5 B	

The offertory collection for last week was £1386.70
Many thanks for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Eleanor Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 1 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)
8.30am	Pat McKenna (ints)
10.00am	James Gerety (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish Community
Mon 2 May	St Athanasius (Bishop, Doctor)
7.00am	Bernard Fernandes (RIP)
9.15am	Santan D'Souza (RIP)
Tue 3 May	Ss. Philip and James (Apostles)
7.00am	Edward Lobo (RIP)
9.15am	John D'Souza (RIP)
Wed 4 May	The English Martyrs (National Feast)
7.00am	Cyrene D'Souza (RIP)
9.15am	Gaspar & Stella D'Souza (RIP)
Thu 5 May	Feria
7.00am	Remedia & Felicia Lopes (RIP)
9.15am	Thanksgiving
Fri 6 May	St John Payne (Priest, Martyr)
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Phoebe Roach (RIP)
Sat 7 May	Feria
10.00am	Sr Jacinta D'Souza (RIP)
6.00pm	Maureen Bee (RIP)
Sun 8 May	The Ascension of the Lord (C)
8.30am	John Joseph Cullen (RIP)
10.00am	Pulcheria Kyauka (RIP)
12.00pm	Benita Menasche (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, 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, 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.