

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

17th July 2016

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Today's Gospel presents the familiar story of Martha and Mary. While Martha rushes around preparing everything, Mary sits quietly at the feet of the Lord, listening to Him. Martha complains at her sister's idleness, but Jesus tells her that she worries and frets about so many things, yet few are needed. Jesus is not scolding Martha for being active but is saying that before action should come listening.

All of us, including myself, are familiar with the active life: working, doing, fixing, learning, buying. Like Martha, we are busy with many things. But Jesus compliments Mary because she was more focused on listening to and learning from Him. She is a model of contemplation; of pondering, reflecting, thinking about the meaning of life. Like Mary we are called to sit with Jesus, to listen and draw strength from Him.

How can we make time for prayer in a busy and noisy world? Each of us should look for and embrace moments of silence, turning off the television or getting away from the mobile phone and Internet. Give yourself a chance. Pope Benedict said, 'silence is the condition that most favours contemplation, listening to God and meditation.'

Perhaps you are a busy parent, with not much chance for silence in your home. The important thing is to try and integrate our work with prayer. We can be as busy as Martha, but as serene as Mary, because no matter what challenges we have, the Lord is with us at all times, and we can turn to Him at any moment.

All our action must begin with listening. Today we pray that we will make time to listen to the Lord, to sit with Him and draw the strength we need for each day's work.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next Baptismal course will be this coming Monday 18th July at 7.30pm in the Church.

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

PARISH MISSION – THANK YOU: Over the past week we have had a wonderful parish and school mission. It has been a very joyful time, with talks on the Scripture and teaching of the Church, with thanksgiving, fellowship, praise and worship. We extend our great thanks to the committee who helped organize the event, to those who promoted it and helped spread the word, to the many families who looked after the team of volunteers, and to those who donated food and other items for the breakfast and closing celebration. The week brought many blessings, and gave many people a new and invigorating experience of faith. This was especially true in our schools; having a team of young people leading the mission in the schools really inspired many of our children. We thank Fr Soji, Fr Christie and the team for their hard work, and we continue to pray for them in their work of spreading the Gospel.

END OF TERM: This week our schools break up for the summer holidays. We wish all of our students and staff a restful and happy summer break.

CONFIRMATION THANKSGIVING MASS: There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for all the recently Confirmed young people this Sunday 17th July at 12pm. All the recently Confirmed young people are asked to attend with their families. After this Mass, the young people will be presented with their Confirmation certificates.

FLOODING APPEAL: There will be a second collection taken this weekend to support victims of recent flooding in Sri Lanka, which has affected more than 350,000 people. There will be an appeal at the end of each of the Masses. Please support this cause.

GARDENERS WANTED: We have a lovely parish garden at the back of the presbytery, which is often used for parish events. Unfortunately, it is getting a little overgrown and needs some attention. If anyone has some time to spare and has some gardening experience, please speak to Fr Maurice.

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 final meeting before the summer break will be this Thursday 21st July.**

YOUTH 2000 RETREAT: A 5-day Prayer Festival for those aged 16-35, packed with dynamic talks, live-band worship, powerful prayer times, fun social activities, creative workshops, in-depth discussions, evening entertainment and loads more. There will be a coach going from East London; for more information please see the website: <http://www.youth2000.org/#!/conquerors/b2675>

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL: As you may be aware, Bishop Alan Williams has recently appointed a number of individuals to take on the role of 'Stewards of the Gospel'. There is one individual for each parish in Brentwood and Conrad Almeida has been appointed for St George's. Conrad writes: My role is to work closely with the parishioners and Fr Maurice to complete a "Parish Questionnaire" to gather information from 1985 onwards. This includes Mass attendance, baptisms and confirmations. It also includes programmes undertaken by lay people within our parish such as Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), Christian Kitchen, St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), parish income, expenditure, the use of our resources and working with young people within our parish, to name a few. This will help us

to assess how we manage what we do now and what new approaches and new initiatives are needed to meet the challenges ahead, given that vocations to the priesthood are currently in decline.

We have to ask ourselves: What good practice exists in our parish? What factors have a significant impact on the financial position of our parish? How can we increase church attendance? How can we involve the youth of our parish? By examining these and other aspects, within the teachings of Christ and the Gospel, we may be better able to address how we can sustain and increase the number of worshippers and how we can maintain a viable and flourishing parish in the years ahead.

Conrad would welcome your thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to contact me by email: conrad.sotg@gmail.com

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: 19th SEPTEMBER 2016: There will be a meeting for all those travelling on the above pilgrimage on Sunday 31st July at 3.30pm in the Church meeting room. Please note that the cost of the airport coach return is £30; this will be taken on the day. Please confirm your attendance with Stella on 0208 527 3879.

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 call Armie on 07962 501 555.

Attention: Gift Aid (Envelope Number) 3342 If you are the donor who has offertory envelope 3342 please make yourself known to Fr Maurice. We need your contact details for the database. If you are a taxpayer, please fill up Gift Aid Declaration form, as we could not trace your gift aid form. Sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for your kind support.

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 soul of Fr James Hawes, Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception Church in Epping, who died recently. His body will be received into the Church at Epping at 4.30pm on Monday 18th July and Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon will celebrate a Mass at 7.30pm. On Tuesday 19th July, Fr James will be taken from Epping to Brentwood Cathedral where Bishop Alan will celebrate his Requiem Mass at 11.30.

May he rest in peace

ROTAS – JULY

Counting	3/7 C	10/7 D	17/7 E	24/7 F	31/7 C
Christian Kitchen	2/7 Nor	9/7 F	16/7 G	23/7 A	30/7 B
Hospital	3/7 D	10/7 A	17/7 B	24/7 D	31/7 A

The offertory collection last week was £1337.79, and an additional £139.75 was raised for the Apostleship of the Sea. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Nancy Mendieta Fahey (Ints)
Sun 17 July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
8.30am	Carmen & Bernard Fernandes (RIP)
10.00am	Patrick O'Sullivan (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish
Mon 18 July	Feria
7.00am	John Paul Ramsey (Ints)
9.15am	Baby Wilson (RIP)
Tue 19 July	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints (RIP)
9.15am	Mr Dhoopal (RIP) & Dhaljit Dhoopal (Ints)
Wed 20 July	Feria
7.00am	Flor Viado (RIP)
9.15am	Jack Cullen (RIP)
Thu 21 July	Feria
7.00am	Maureen Kerrigan (Ints)
9.15am	Natalie Rosario (Ints)
Fri 22 July	St Mary Magdalene
7.00am	Kristina Coeur-de-Lion (Ints)
9.15am	Michael Filby (Ints)
Sat 23 July	St Bridget of Sweden, Patroness of Europe
10.00am	Bernard Filby (Ints)
6.00pm	John D'Arcy (RIP)
Sun 24 July	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
8.30am	Bridie Cullen (RIP)
10.00am	Michael Mullins Snr (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish

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, 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, Padraig 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.
