

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Nixon Gomes
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

25 December 2016

The Birth of Jesus Christ the Lord (Christmas Day) (A)

On this Christmas day, we find ourselves at the crib, gazing at the newborn child in the manger. Christmas is quite simple really: it is about Him.

In the Gospel, the angel announces to the shepherds, 'do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy...today a saviour has been born to you'. The joyous news is that God, who created the universe, loved us so much that he came into the world as one of us, in the person of this Child, Jesus. He came to save us, to pull us out of the mess, out of the gutters that we find ourselves in. What does this say about us? It means that God thinks the world of us. Often the world puts us down, other people put us down, we put ourselves down, but that is not how God sees us. He thought each and every one of us was worth coming to save.

Since we were young we have been told that God loves us, but do we really believe this? The baby in the manger is the proof that God loves us. There is always great joy when a baby is born, but this is no ordinary baby. His birth changed the course of history, because He had come to give His life - to die on the cross for sinners, for you and me. The wood of the manger foreshadows the wood of the cross, and it was on the cross that He ultimately showed the depth of His love.

Perhaps after all of our Christmas preparations we feel too tired to be enthusiastic about this feast. I sometimes hear adults say that 'Christmas is just for the children'. But the wonder and excitement that children have for this day should not die in us as adults. Christmas is the wonderful news that God entered into human despair and darkness. Over the past year, there may have been sorrows and struggles within our families, and those of us recently bereaved will feel it acutely today. But let us take comfort from the Holy Family: Mary, Joseph and the Child Jesus, who had their own difficulties to face. The first Christmas was celebrated in a stable, and though there was no roast turkey or pudding, it was still a celebration of joy.

Wishing you and your families the peace and blessings of the Christ Child today, and in this holy season.

Fr Maurice

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

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS: We wish all of our parishioners and visitors a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We especially thank all those who have been involved in preparing our Church for the celebrations, and all those who participated in the Masses and services in so many different ways. Frs Maurice, Nixon, Joseph and Deacon Joseph are also very grateful for your prayers, cards, gifts and generous support throughout the year. Many thanks and may you all experience the love and joy of the Christ Child this Christmas.

NEW YEAR MIDNIGHT MASS: On the 31st December, from 10.45-11.45pm we will have an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (with priests available for confessions), followed by Mass at Midnight. Do come along – what better way to start the New Year?

MORNING MASSES THIS WEEK: This week and next there will be only one Mass each weekday morning at 10am. The 7.15am and 9.15am morning Masses will resume week commencing Monday 9th January.

ADORATION & EXPOSITION: Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will cease from Monday 19th December, resuming on Monday 9th January.

NEWSLETTER: There will be no newsletter next week. This week's edition has the Mass intentions for the next fortnight. Newsletters will resume on the weekend of 7/8th January.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016/17: The next session for the First Communion Programme will be on Saturday 14th January. As usual, children will register in the parish hall at 9.45am and the parents' session will begin at 10am in the hall of the Lower Site of OLSG School next door. Parents and children will then all gather for the 10am Mass on Sunday 15th January.

CONFIRMATION 2017: The 2017 Confirmation programme will begin on Sunday 15th January at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Young people who have registered for the programme are required to attend, and for this session parents are also required to attend. Please be on time.

GIFT AID VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers are urgently needed to help with gift aid data inputting. Please let Fr Maurice know if you can help. Additional assistance would be greatly appreciated.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2017: As next year is the 100th anniversary of the Diocese of Brentwood, in thanksgiving to Our Lady we would like to organize a parish pilgrimage. Following initial enquiries, we will run an 8-day pilgrimage to Lourdes, visiting Paris and Lisieux briefly on the return journey, from Saturday 22nd – Saturday 29th July 2017, with approximate costs of £449 per adult (11+), £399 children aged 3-11, £229 infants aged 0-3. Thank you to all who attended our information evening last Sunday; there was a lot of interest. There will be a follow-up meeting on the 21st January at 4pm, for those who will commit to make the pilgrimage.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA: To Celebrate the Centenary of Fatima. 1st - 6th September 2017. Price £649 including Flights H/B Hotel. Deposit deadline 16th January 2017. Further details and to book - see www.paxtravel.co.uk or call Stella on 02085273879.

OLSG NURSERY INTAKE 2017/18: Children born between 01.09.2013 and 31.08.2014 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 the form 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 (8.45am to 3.15pm) part funded. Packs are available from the Lower Site School Office from Monday 14th November. **The closing date for completed forms is Thursday 9th February 2017.** If you have any queries please telephone Mrs Moloney on 020 8520 8500

ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION, OLSG SCHOOL: If your child was born between 01.09.2012 and 31.08.2013 they are due to start school in September 2017. To apply for OLSG School, please see further information on the Church noticeboard for details of the forms to be completed.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: Registering to donate to the parish via the offertory 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.

RCIA (BECOMING A CATHOLIC): The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 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. Sessions take place on **Thursday evenings at 8pm in the Church meeting room**, and will recommence after Christmas on the 5th January. If you would like more information about the RCIA process please speak to one of the priests or contact Bernadette Wilson on 07804 611 914.

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 are also on call 24-hours in case of emergency.

ROTAS – DECEMBER

Counting	4/12 D	11/12 F	18/12 B	25/12 B	1/1 B
Christian Kitchen	3/12 Nor	10/12 B	17/12 C	24/12 D	31/12 E
Hospital	4/12 A	11/12 B	18/12 D	25/12 A	

The offertory collection last week was £1473.93.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.30pm	Sean McKenna (RIP)
Sun 25 Dec	The Birth of Jesus Christ the Lord (Solemnity)
Midnight	Parish
8.30am	Daniel Grannell (RIP)
10.00am	Fr Maurice Gordon (Ints)
12.00pm	Fr Nixon Gomes (Ints)
Mon 26 Dec	St Stephen, the First Martyr (Feast)
10.00am	Philip Mitchell (RIP) and Esther Mitchell (Ints)
Tue 27 Dec	St John, Apostle and Evangelist
10.00am	Fr Patrick Daly (Ints)
Wed 28 Dec	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

10.00am	Fr Jesuraja (Ints)
Thu 29 Dec	St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop, Martyr (National Feast)
10.00am	Sr Jude (Ints)
Fri 30 Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Feast)
10.00am	Simon Moules (Ints)
Sat 31 Dec	Seventh day within the Octave of Christmas
10.00am	Alice Bacon (Ints)
6.00pm	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
Sun 1 Jan 2017	Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)
Midnight	Parish
8.30am	Reg Unger (RIP)
10.00am	Ron & family
12.00pm	Tim Campbell (RIP)
Mon 2 Jan	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church
10.00am	Christine Walton (RIP)
Tue 3 Jan	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
10.00am	Barry McDermott (RIP)
Wed 4 Jan	Feria of Christmastide
10.00am	Kitty & Richard Mackey (Ints)
Thu 5 Jan	Feria of Christmastide
10.00am	Josie & John Mills (Ints)
Fri 6 Jan	Feria of Christmastide
10.00am	Kathy & Mick Ogles (Ints)
Sat 7 Jan	St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
10.00am	Alice Bacon (Ints)
6.00pm	Kelly Moss (RIP)
Sun 8 Jan	The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Pat McKenna (Ints)
12.00pm	Sr Angela & Sr Marlia (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, 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, Pdraig Hester, Regina Jose, Kojo Gyebi-Ababio.

Morning Prayer:

Rosary:

Reconciliation (Confessions):

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.45am

Weekdays after morning Mass

Sat. 10.30am – 11.30am. 5.00pm – 5.45pm. 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.

Bible Study:

Mondays at 8pm, Church Meeting Room
