

# 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

## **4 December 2016** **Second Sunday of Advent (A)**

The Gospel today features John the Baptist preaching in the desert. We know that deserts are hot, dry, barren and empty open spaces. Notice that John does not preach in the city centre; he goes out into the wilderness. The desert environment provides silence and solitude, and those conditions allow the soul to connect to God and to hear Him. In the midst of noise and distraction, it is much harder to keep God in mind. So John goes out, stripping himself of all unnecessary attachments. He is in the wilderness, dressed simply and with very basic food. He is living the message he preaches, of repentance, turning away from sin and distraction, to become free and open to God.

John is considered the last of the Old Testament prophets; the immediate forerunner to Christ, and he prepares the people for the coming of Christ. This makes him a good model for us to reflect on during these weeks of Advent.

Even though John is in the desert, many people leave the city to seek him and to hear him. His message is that the Lord is near, and you must prepare yourselves for him by repentance. To repent means to be honest with oneself, identify our failings and seek earnestly to change. John's message of repentance is aimed at us too.

We have no deserts in Walthamstow to escape into, but during advent we are called to spiritually enter into the desert, to cut off our inordinate attachments, selfishness and greed, to become detached from our day-to-day preoccupations and to look honestly at ourselves. We recognize our shortcomings and sins for what they are, asking the God for mercy to fill the empty spaces in our hearts with His love.

As we get nearer to Christmas, there will be many demands and pressures on us. Let us try not to be sucked in by these, but to give space for the Lord to work in us. Let us try to follow John the Baptist and recreate the desert environment by facing ourselves honestly in prayer, with a repentant heart. In doing so, may we become ready to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Fr Maurice

**BAPTISMS:** By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Church. Godparents are also strongly encouraged to attend.

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

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**CHRISTMAS CARD:** Next weekend we will have available the Christmas cards with the times of Masses and services over the Christmas and New Year period. Please do take copies for yourselves and for friends or family members who may have lost contact with the Church.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** The parish reconciliation service will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Church. A number of priests will be available to hear individual confessions. All are strongly encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of penance before Christmas.

**ADVENT CONCERT:** Many thanks to all those who participated in last week's Advent Concert. It was well supported and there were a number of excellent contributions from different parish groups, and the primary school. The funds raised will support the school; we will announce the amount raised soon.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016/17:** The next session for the First Communion Programme will be next Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. 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 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**RED MISSIO BOXES:** If you have a red 'Missio' box at home, please return it to the presbytery for the contents to be counted and sent to the missions.

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORY:** The new 2017 Brentwood Diocesan Directories are now available in the repository, priced at £2.75. They contain details of all the parishes, chaplaincies and Mass times in the diocese.

**FOUND WALLET:** A wallet belonging to Mr. Ryan Samarakoon was handed in at the presbytery. If you know the owner, please ask him to enquire at the presbytery.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2017 – PLANNING MEETING THIS SUNDAY:** As next year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese of Brentwood, in thanksgiving to Our Lady we would like to organize a parish pilgrimage. Following initial enquiries, we expect to arrange an 8-day pilgrimage to Lourdes, visiting Paris and Lisieux briefly on the return journey, from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017, with approximate costs of £449 per adult (11+), £399 children aged 3-11, £229 infants aged 0-3. There will be an initial information evening **this Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in the Church meeting room**; anyone interested in going should attend. Soon thereafter we will request deposits to secure places.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be this Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in the presbytery.

**MARRIAGE CARE:** Marriage Care Ilford is looking for a volunteer to carry out administration work for Marriage Preparation. Training will be given. Marriage Care Ilford is also looking for suitable volunteers (male or female) to be trained as Marriage Preparation Providers and Counselors. Training will be provided. For further information on either of these opportunities, please email [marriagecareilford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marriagecareilford@hotmail.co.uk).

**STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL:** Our Lady and St George's St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is a Parish based charity focussing on the socially excluded in our local communities. The SVP members in our parish visit the lonely in their own home or in residential homes, the sick similarly in hospital, those struggling on low incomes perhaps with young children, with personal problems, debt, or any of the many situations making life difficult or requiring a need. The SVP members listen to people and try to help with either clothing, furniture and any other helpful commodities. Through their charitable work, the SVP puts the Corporal Works of Mercy into concrete action. Now imagine not having enough lay people to carry out these charitable works in the future. The Stewards of the Gospel initiative aims to address such matters. The SVP needs and welcomes new members. Your help can last a lifetime. If interested, speak to Jenny Richmond at the repository on Sundays or call 07801 628 799. See the SVP notice board in church foyer for more details about the SVP & what they do.

Please continue returning the SOTG Question Sheets, as your response is important to us. A STOG Working Group meeting will take place on **Wednesday 14 December at 7:30pm** in the Church Meeting Room. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

**HCPT 161 - Dates for your Diary:**

**Thursday 15th December** - Carol singing at Blackhorse Rd Tube Station. 5pm to 8pm,

**Friday 3rd February** - Bingo! Yes it's back by popular demand - details to follow.

**Saturday 18th March** - St Patrick's Gala Band Night and buffet! - more details to follow.

**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](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> November. **The closing date for completed forms is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.** 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.

**ROTAS – DECEMBER**

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

The offertory collection last week was £1438.21. The SVP second collection raised £685. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Special Ints
Sun 4 Dec	<b>Second Sunday of Advent (A)</b>
8.30am	Margaret Hicks (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Special Ints
Mon 5 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
7.00am	Joseph Sanches (RIP)
9.15am	Sr Jude (Ints)
Tue 6 Dec	<b>St Nicholas, Bishop</b>
7.00am	Peggy O'Shea (RIP)
9.15am	Christine Fleming (Ints)
Wed 7 Dec	<b>St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</b>
7.00am	Kath Staunton & Family (Ints)
9.15am	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
Thu 8 Dec	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)</b>
7.00am	Mary Heagney & family (Ints)
9.15am	Tim Campbell (RIP)
Fri 9 Dec	<b>St Juan Diego</b>
7.00am	Eamon, Rita & Family (Ints)
9.15am	Special Ints
Sat 10 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
10.00am	John Mills (Ints)
6.00pm	Special Ints
Sun 11 Dec	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (A) (Gaudete Sunday)</b>
8.30am	Timothy Joseph Sullivan (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Anthony Yamson (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, Phil Mitchell.

### **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

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