

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

29th January 2017

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a prescription. It is a prescription for happiness. Everyone wants to be happy, but how do we go about it? The world proposes many solutions that promise to make us happy, but often they do not make us happy. That is because there is a superficial or passing kind of happiness, and then there is a deep and abiding happiness, which we can call blessedness: that is the kind of happiness Jesus is talking about.

Jesus' prescription has nine parts to it. We call them the beatitudes. The word itself means 'blessedness' but we can think of them as attitudes of the heart. Jesus is telling us that what is in our hearts is vitally important for our happiness.

The beatitudes remind us that ultimately, our happiness is never to be found completely in this world. We have to keep our eyes on the eternal goal of heaven. What better way could we examine our consciences than to reflect prayerfully on the beatitudes?

Even if we have failed to measure up to them, we can begin anew through the grace of God's mercy in the sacrament of penance. Jesus has given us the prescription to be followed. Let us do all in our power, with his grace and help, to reach our destination safely.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2016/17: The next session for the First Communion Programme will be next Saturday 4th February, with children in the parish hall and parents in the school as usual. Kindly be present by 9.45am.

CONFIRMATION 2017: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this Sunday, 29th January, starting at 4pm sharp in the parish hall. All candidates are asked to be on time.

DIOCESAN CENTENERY: SPECIAL DAY OF EXPOSITION AND ADORATION: There will be Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday 11th February, from 10.30am-5.30pm in the Church. As this is the Centenary year of the foundation of the Diocese, the Bishop has encouraged us all to mark the opening with prayer, and every parish in the Diocese is holding a similar day of prayer on the 11th with the Blessed Sacrament. There is a full programme of activities, including talks and exhibitions taking place over the coming year; details will be on the noticeboard in due course, but the spiritual fruits and benefits that our diocese needs will flow from prayer – so I encourage everyone to come along, and spend some time with the Lord on the 11th.

HCPT UPCOMING EVENTS: There will be a Bingo Night in support of the HCPT next Friday 3rd February in the parish hall. Doors open at 7pm and eyes down at 7.30pm. Bring your own nibbles. See posters in the Church porch for details of prices or call Peter on 07976 419 680. On Saturday 18th March there will be an HCPT St Patrick's Gala family night – more details soon.

FR THOMAS BYLES – A HERO OF THE TITANIC: Come to St George's Hall next Sunday 5th February, 3-5pm to learn the true story of Fr Thomas Byles, a priest of the Brentwood Diocese, and his heroic efforts on the night of April 15, 1912, when the Titanic sank. Tea and coffee will be available, with a 1hr DVD screening of a film, plus time for social and discussion. Come along and be inspired by Fr Thomas' concern for others.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: There will be a meeting of the finance committee on Wednesday 8th February at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are requested to attend.

SUMMER 2017 PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: BOOKING INFORMATION: Thanks to all who attended our information session about the summer 2017 Lourdes pilgrimage last Saturday. In order to secure a place on the pilgrimage, we now require that booking forms be returned to the Presbytery. Forms were handed out at the meeting last week but additional copies are available from the presbytery. Please complete the form and hand it in to the presbytery, marked "Lourdes Pilgrimage, FAO Fr Maurice, Jason & Kristina Coeur-de-Lion". **Please do not hand in any payment to the presbytery.** You will then be contacted and assigned a reference number. After receiving this, you will be given instructions to pay the deposit directly to the travel company (Lourdes Travels Ltd). **Please do not pay until you receive a reference number from the parish.** The deadline for payment of deposits is **Friday 17th March**. If you have any questions please call Jason on 07950 280 850 or Kristina on 07881 821 957. Please note there are only 49 places and they will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Thank you.

CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS AND FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Marian Missionary Sisters of the Poor are looking for:

- Anyone with love for children to support their childcare services at the centre for 1 hr. in the morning Breakfast club and 1 -3 hours after school for After School Club Monday to Friday during term time.

- Anyone with fundraising skills to join their **Volunteer Fundraising Committee** to support the Marian Mission Disadvantaged Children Centre. If you can help, contact Mother Maria Chioma on **07940143545/ 02085187499**

VOLUNTEERING AT OUR LADY & ST GEORGE SCHOOL: Recently, Anthony Walsh, Deputy Head of OLSG School spoke after Masses about volunteering in our primary school. Can you help with reading, small group work, sports, arts or perhaps some RE discussions? Whatever your strengths and skills come and share them with a wonderful group of pupils - this can be for one hour, morning or day- and can last for a month or a year. To find out more, please contact Anthony at the school on 02085208500 or email him on awalsh38.320@lgflmail.org. This is a golden opportunity to help the children in our Catholic school achieve their full potential!

SATs TUTORING: Icilda Stewart is running English Classes for Year 5 & 6 children in the parish hall, focussed on preparation for SATs Assessments in May 2017 and 2018. Please note that Maths Classes will also be offered shortly. To find out more please call Icilda on 07949 528 873.

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**. 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.

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Elizabeth Perkins, whose body will be received into the Church on Tuesday 31st January at 5pm, and whose Requiem Mass will take place in the Church on Wednesday 1st February at 10.30am.

Mary Kelly, whose Requiem Mass will take place in the Church on Thursday 9th February at 12 noon.

May they rest in peace

ROTAS – JANUARY

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| Counting | 1/1 B | 8/1 D | 15/1 D | 22/1 E | 29/1 F |
| Christian Kitchen | 7/1 Nor | 14/1 F | 21/1 G | 28/1 A | 31/12 B |
| Hospital | 1/1 B | 8/1 D | 15/1 A | 22/1 B | 29/1 D |

The offertory collection last week was £1355.60

Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

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|------------|---|
| 6.00pm | Betty Ramsey (Ints) |
| Sun 29 Jan | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) |
| 8.30am | Sr Joan (Ints) |
| 10.00am | Phil Mitchell (Ints) |
| 12.00pm | Parish |
| Mon 30 Jan | Feria |
| 7.00am | Mannion Family (Ints) |
| 9.15am | Tim & Joan Keane (Ints) |
| Tue 31 Jan | St John Bosco, Priest |
| 7.00am | Tony Keane (RIP) |
| 9.15am | Betty Ramsey (Ints) |
| Wed 1 Feb | Feria |
| 7.00am | Matthew Joseph Davey (RIP) |
| 9.15am | Helen Gertrude Davey (RIP) |
| Thu 2 Feb | The Presentation of the Lord (Feast) |
| 7.00am | Betty Ramsey (Ints) |
| 9.15am | Jason & Kristina Coeur-de-Lion (Ints) |
| Fri 3 Feb | St Anne Line, Martyr (Diocesan Memorial) |
| 7.00am | Fr Matthew Twoomey and his near relations (RIP) |
| 9.15am | Adele Bouttle (RIP) |
| Sat 4 Feb | Our Lady on Saturday |
| 10.00am | Eileen Fouhy & Patrick Fouhy (RIP) |
| 6.00pm | Tessie & Krishna Kalpee (Ints) |
| Sun 5 Feb | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) |
| 8.30am | Len & Babs Finney (Ints) |
| 10.00am | Parish |
| 12.00pm | Theresa Kalpee (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, Thampirajah Baskaran.

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
