

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

26th March 2017

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

The man in today's Gospel is physically blind – but lack of eyesight is not the only form of blindness. As we hear, there are others who are able to see and yet are spiritually blind. The Pharisees, with all their supposed knowledge, and observance of the Law, are unable to perceive who it is that performs the miracle, and they refuse to believe. They, and even the disciples, are quick to assume that the blind man, or his parents must be sinners. They suffer from inner blindness, and are unable to perceive it.

Is the same true for us? Even if we are good with the externals, are there attitudes or behaviours in my life that make me blind in some way? Am I so quick to notice the faults in others that I miss my own weaknesses? The readings today teach us that while man judges by appearances, God judges by the heart.

Like the man in the Gospel, we are all born blind in the sense that we are born with original sin, which darkens our minds, weakens our wills and blurs our vision of what is good. We need the humility to acknowledge our blindness; it is pride that keeps us in the dark, and our hearts hardened.

At Baptism we are transformed – moved from blindness and darkness to sight and light. When we live in that light, others will be able to see Christ in us. As St Paul says, 'the effects of light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth'.

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.

EASTER: This Friday our schools break up for Easter. We wish our students and staff a restful break. The Easter Cards with the times of Masses and services over Holy Week will be available next Sunday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent we will have the Stations of the Cross in the Church on Friday evenings at 6.45pm. Recalling and praying the Way of the Cross is an excellent Lenten practice to help us prepare for Holy Week. Do come along.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will take place on Monday 10th April at 7.30pm in the Church. A number of priests will be available for individual confessions. Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the best ways to prepare our hearts for Easter.

CHRISM MASS: This year's Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday 12th April at 7pm at Brentwood Cathedral. At the Chrism Mass all the priests of the diocese gather with the Bishop, and the holy oils to be used for the Sacraments during the coming year are blessed and distributed to each parish. We have arranged a coach which will depart from outside the Church at 5pm sharp, to travel to the Cathedral, returning at approximately 9.30pm. If you wish to join the trip, please put your name down on the list in the foyer, one name per line. A donation of £5 is requested to defray the cost of travel, which will be collected on the day. The coach seats 50.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The new offertory envelopes are now available in the porch – please collect them. The small boxes are for standing order donors; the larger boxes are for weekly donors. Please collect your envelopes as soon as possible. If you cannot find your box, or you wish to join the Gift Aid Scheme, please email finance@olsg.co.uk or call Armie on 07962 501 555. The scheme allows the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 given by UK taxpayers 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 are part of the scheme and your tax situation changes in the future, please let us know.

WELCOMERS MEETING: Welcomers from all the Masses are requested to attend a meeting on Saturday 1st April at 7.15pm to prepare for the Easter Triduum. Please contact Cliff on 07801 628 799 to confirm your attendance.

SUMMER 2017 PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Thanks to those who have returned forms and deposits for the Lourdes trip. We will hold a meeting for all attendees to discuss logistics, schedules and next steps. This will take place on **Friday 21st April at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall.

CONFIRMATION 2017: The next session for the Confirmation programme is this Sunday, 26th March, starting at 4pm sharp in the parish hall.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC): All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are asked to attend a meeting next Saturday 1st April, 11am-12pm for a refresher on practicalities surrounding these duties. This meeting is compulsory, and all EMHC are asked to confirm attendance in advance or send apologies. Please contact Jenny Richmond on 07801 628 799 or in-person after Mass to confirm or give your apologies, or if you have questions.

READERS FOR HOLY WEEK: Readers are asked to check their noticeboard in the church porch; if you are on the rota for Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday), please tick to confirm you will be able to read. We also ask you to please attend a brief rehearsal on Saturday 8th April, 1-2pm in the Church.

ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE: There will be a practice for all altar servers on Saturday 8th April, 3.00pm-4.30pm, which will include rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter. All servers are asked to attend.

FIRST COMMUNION CARDS: A good range of First Communion greeting cards and gifts are now available on sale in the repository.

LENTEN RETREAT, PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING: There will be a Lenten Retreat at the Parish of Christ the King, 455 Chingford Road E4 8SP on Sunday 2 April from 1-4pm, starting with soup and roll.

OLSG NURSERY QUESTIONNAIRE: Interested in Nursery/Childcare provision at OLSG School – please complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/OLSGnursery>

FORMED FOR LOVE: An International Theology of the Body Symposium for Young Adults, at St Patrick's Soho Square, London W1D4NR, 19-22 April 2017. The event spreads the joy of St John Paul II's teaching on God's plan for human love. This year we are hosting two distinct events in an effort to bring these teachings to not only young adults but to enable teachers to bring the message into their classrooms.

Formed for Love - Educator's Day – New Approaches to Teaching on Human Sexuality: On 19 April 2017 there will be a one-day **seminar for Catholic Educators** with keynote lectures from Professor William Newton (Franciscan University of Steubenville, USA). This day will enable educators to understand the Catholic vision of the human person, drawing particularly, but not exclusively, from St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. We then will explore how this understanding of the human person can be applied to 'hot topics' such as same-sex marriage, gender theory, and euthanasia, before moving on to explore different ways to tackle these topics with young people living in our current culture.

Formed for Love - International Symposium for Young Adults: The International Symposium for Young Adults (aged 18-35 years) will be held from 19 April (evening) - 22 April 2017. The symposium will offer an opportunity to explore the teachings of St. John Paul II. Participants can attend workshops, Mass, and participate in discussions around the key themes of Theology of the Body. **Full details of both events along with the registration forms can be found at www.formedforlove.com**

OLSG SCHOOL PLACES: For Children born between 01.09.2013 and 31.08.2014. Parents wishing to apply for a nursery place for September 2017 can download the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) from the school website www.olsgweb.org or collect it from the Lower Site Office (140 Shernhall St, E17 9HU). There will be a choice of full-time or part-time places, term time only. Part time hours are 1) Mornings 8.45am – 11.45am; 2) Afternoons 12.15pm – 3.15pm; 3) Fulltime 8.45am – 3.15pm, part funded. Information packs are available from the Lower Site school office. If you have any queries, please phone Mrs. Moloney on 0208 520 8500. Our primary school also currently has two spaces in reception and four spaces in Year 2. For more information please contact Mrs. Moloney.

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 – MARCH

Counting	5/3 E	12/3 F	19/3 D	26/3 E
Christian Kitchen	4/3 Nor	11/3 F	18/3 G	25/3 A
Hospital	5/3 B	12/3 D	19/3 A	26/2 B

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
John Arthur Reed. His funeral will take place on 3rd April at 2.45pm at the
City of London Crematorium.

Ronald Hacker, husband of Mavis Hacker, whose Requiem Mass will take place
on 19th April at 12 noon.
May they rest in peace.

The offertory collection last week was £1539.77. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Sheila and Bernard Moss (RIP) & James Harte (RIP)
Sun 26 Mar	Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)
8.30am	Fr Joe Dias (RIP)
10.00am	Judy Flynn (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish
Mon 27 Mar	Feria
7.00am	John Paul Ramsey (Ints)
9.15am	Holy Souls
Tue 28 Mar	Feria
7.00am	John Joseph Hayden (RIP)
9.15am	Marie Kelly (RIP)
Wed 29 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Darren Rodrigues (Ints)
9.15am	Scholastic Ngongo Kashinda (RIP)
Thu 30 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Pascal Hayden (RIP)
9.15am	Eileen Gallagher (RIP)
Fri 31 Mar	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	William Balfe (RIP)
Sat 1 Apr	Feria
10.00am	Theresa Kalpee (Ints)
6.00pm	Assis Dias (RIP)
Sun 2 Apr	Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Benedict, Innocent, Agatha & Holy Souls (RIP)
12.00pm	Mary Kelly (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, 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, Linda Campbell, Brid O'Halloran.

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
