

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

2 April 2017

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

On the last two Sundays we have heard the Gospel accounts of Jesus meeting the woman at the well and Jesus healing the blind man. Today, Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead. In all these situations, the person Jesus encounters is transformed, as are those witnessing the event. The woman at the well is caught up in a destructive lifestyle, thirsting for forgiveness and love – Jesus offers Himself as the living water that satisfies. The blind man lives in darkness and Jesus heals him and draws him into the light. In today's Gospel, Lazarus is dead, and Jesus calls him forth to life.

As He summoned Lazarus from the dark tomb, Our Lord calls us to 'come forth' from the darkness of sin and into the light of His love.

The penitential season of Lent encourages us to seek the mercy of Christ, to look beyond the immediate to the eternal. It is a time of purification, of renewing our hearts again. The Lord can mend and heal the brokenness and wounds of our lives, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Like today's Psalm tells us, we should cry out to the Lord from the depths of our hearts and wait for Him. He will not always act in our time – Martha and Mary had to wait. But the Lord seeks our faith, as He sought faith from the woman at the well, the blind man, and in today's Gospel, from Martha and Mary. There is no doubt that He will act in His time, if we are patient and open to Him.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 24th April at 7.00pm in the Church.

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

EASTER: Last Friday our schools broke 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 are now available. Please take one, and feel to take extra copies to pass to relations or friends who may be interested in the Church, or lost contact with it.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: There will be no Eucharistic Adoration from 10th April until 23rd April. Adoration will resume on 24th April.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA: The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday (14th April) at 7.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and will continue every evening from Easter Sunday to the following Saturday, at 7pm in the Chapel. Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on the 23rd April, beginning at 1.30pm with adoration, rosary, recitation of the Divine Mercy chaplet and opportunity for confession, and concluding with Mass at 4pm. Please see poster in foyer for details.

CONFIRMATION 2017: This weekend our Confirmation group is on retreat at Walsingham House on Canvey Island. Please keep our 30 young people and their families in your prayers.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent we 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.

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 next Saturday 8th April, 1-2pm in the Church.

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

RECEPTION AFTER EASTER VIGIL – HELP NEEDED: At the Easter Vigil (8pm, Saturday 15th April), we will welcome several new members to our parish family through the celebration of Baptism and full reception into the Catholic Church. Afterwards the parish comes together to celebrate Easter and welcome our new members. If you are able to contribute some food, or help in another way with the celebration, please put your name on the board in the Church porch. There will be more details in next week's newsletter. For more information please call Bernadette on 07804 611 914.

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.

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA – 1st-6th SEPTEMBER 2017: Our Holy Father, Pope Francis will be making a pilgrimage to Fatima to celebrate the centenary of the Fatima apparition, in May. If you would like to experience the same unique journey, we have spaces available on our forthcoming pilgrimage in September. Please see Church notice board for details, or www.paxtravel.co.uk or call Stella 0208 527 3879.

ST PATRICK'S HCPT NIGHT – THANK YOU: The recent St Patrick's Family Gala night raised £1548 for the HCPT. Thank you to all who participated for helping to make it a success.

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

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 – APRIL

Counting	2/4 F	9/4 D	16/4 E	23/4 F	30/4 E
Christian Kitchen	1/4 Nor	8/4 B	15/4 C	22/4 D	29/4 E
Hospital	2/4 D	9/4 A	16/4 B	23/4 D	30/4 A

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 £1505.68.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

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)
Mon 3 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Thanksgiving
9.15am	Ms Agnes Okotie (RIP)
Tue 4 Apr	Feria
7.00am	John Mills (Ints)
9.15am	Marcelo Tor (RIP)
Wed 5 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Mary Heagney and Family (Ints)
9.15am	Sr Mary Barry (Ints)
Thu 6 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Mary Murphy (Ints)
9.15am	Christine Fleming (Ints)
Fri 7 Apr	Feria
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Padraig Hester (Ints)
Sat 8 Apr	Feria
10.00am	Stephen Pious (RIP)
6.00pm	Juliet Dias
Sun 9 Apr	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Jack Browne (RIP)
12.00pm	Margaret Messenger (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, Padraig 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
