

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

9 April 2017

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)

Today we begin Holy Week and the scene is set by St Matthew's account of our Lord's passion. We see the forces of darkness arise against Jesus, through the various evils performed by the different characters. We place ourselves in the scene and can probably identify with some of the characters – the betrayal of Judas, the laziness of the disciples, the deceit of the crowd and the cowardice of Peter and Pilate.

Betrayal is one of the hardest things to deal with, especially when someone we thought was our friend stabs us in the back. Here Jesus is betrayed by one who followed Him closely, and shared the Last Supper with Him. How deeply hurt Jesus must have been. How often do we deeply hurt others by speaking ill of them or gossiping behind their backs? Or do we elevate ourselves by putting others down or scapegoating them?

Jesus' agony in the garden was the one moment when, humanly speaking, He was at His lowest ebb and most in need of a friend. How sad then, at that moment, there was nobody there for Him. How often do I know that God, or my neighbour needs me or asks something of me, and I am slothful in responding, or indifferent, or cannot be bothered? We miss opportunities to do good through spiritual laziness.

We think also of those who falsely accused Jesus, who lied for their own personal gain, to be rid of Him, and the frenzied mob who condemned Him. Jesus is silent before His accusers. He makes no resistance. Have we the courage to stand for what is right?

Jesus is also let down by two big acts of cowardice. Pilate washes his hands of Him, even while knowing He is innocent, and Peter denies knowing Him, not when faced by a big court, but by a simple servant girl. Are there times when we are afraid to declare our faith in the Lord because of what others might think of us?

After the resurrection, Jesus forgives Peter's denial. But Judas despairs of forgiveness, and loses all hope, killing himself. Can we seek and accept forgiveness, knowing that the Lord wants to heal us?

Jesus enters into the depth of sin, and takes all the weight of sin upon Himself on the cross. This is very good news for us. He did it out of love for us, and as we begin Holy week we contemplate anew this great love. Looking at ourselves we can feel burdened by sin and guilt, and feel powerless against it. But when we look at the cross, hidden in our suffering Lord is the power of forgiveness. There is no sin He cannot forgive, but we have to acknowledge it and receive His mercy. In our parish this Monday evening at 8pm there will be the opportunity to make a good confession and to be reconciled with God and neighbour and to be at peace with ourselves.

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: 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.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will take place this Monday 10th April at **8.00pm** 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.

PARKING DURING EASTER TRIDUUM: Please note that the car park beside the parish hall will be very busy during the main services of Holy Week. Parishioners are asked to keep the school driveway clear, and not to block other cars in. If feasible, you are encouraged to walk to Church or use public transport. Parking is also available in local side roads (please observe local regulations). Parking is not permitted in the Church driveway.

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: The next session for the Confirmation programme will take place this Sunday, 9th April at 4pm in the parish hall.

CHRISM MASS: This year's Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday 12th April at 7pm at Brentwood Cathedral. All seats on the coach are now booked. The coach will depart from outside the Church at 5pm. A donation of £5 is requested to defray the cost of travel, which will be collected on the day.

RECEPTION AFTER EASTER VIGIL – HELP URGENTLY 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 there is a small reception in the meeting room to welcome the new members. **We kindly request donations of finger food and drinks, and assistance with setting up and clearing away.** If you are able to assist in any way, please put your name on the board in the Church porch, to help us with planning. 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 if you haven't already.** 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.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: The annual Mass for Migrants, in honour of St Joseph the Worker, will take place at St Anthony of Padua Church, Forest Gate, E7 9QB on Saturday 20th May, beginning with a banner procession at 10.30am, followed by Mass at 11am.

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:

Angelina Horeau, who died last week. Her Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 20th April at 12pm, followed by burial at Chingford Mount Cemetery.

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

The offertory collection last week was £1607.45
Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

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)
Mon 10 Apr	Monday in Holy Week
7.00am	Jane (Ints)
9.15am	Theresa (Ints)
Tue 11 Apr	Tuesday in Holy Week
7.00am	Brid O'Halloran (Ints)
9.15am	Linda Campbell (Ints)
Wed 12 Apr	Wednesday in Holy Week
7.00am	Eilee-May Glarvin (RIP)
9.15am	Tessie Kalpee (Ints)
Thu 13 Apr	Maundy Thursday
9.15am	NO MASS: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
8.00pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Joel Dias (RIP)
Fri 14 Apr	Good Friday
9.15am	NO MASS: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
11.00am	Stations of the Cross for Children
3.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7.30pm	Prayer around the Cross
Sat 15 Apr	Holy Saturday
9.15am	NO MASS: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
8.00pm	Celebration of the Easter Vigil Parish (Ints)
Sun 16 Apr	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
8.30am	Mary Darby (Ints)
10.00am	Hugh Higgins (RIP)
12.00pm	Liam Driver (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, 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 Klimauskaite, 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
