

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

14 May 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see that as the early Church grew in size, the Apostles began to designate particular functions. The first deacons are appointed to serve the poor with food, allowing the Apostles to focus on their mission of preaching and teaching. The other members of the Church spread the message in their own circles, so the number of followers 'greatly increased'. The task of evangelisation, or telling other people about Christ, is not just for the ordained, but is part of the mission of every baptised person. No Christian is an individual – the way we carry out our own tasks affects others.

Yet the Church is not a club, nor a mere charitable organisation. It is, as the second reading puts it, the 'People of God'. We are called to live in communion or fellowship with God – to participate in the life and love between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Just as stones make up a building, St Peter says we are called to be 'living stones', with Christ as the foundation, upon whom we rest. With Christ as our Head, we are the cells making up His body. You and I share in Christ's work – He has chosen us to participate in the work of redemption.

We speak of Christ as a priest, because He offered Himself in Sacrifice – a priest is one who offers sacrifice. Through our baptism, all of us have a share in Christ's priesthood, called the common priesthood of the faithful. Some of the baptised are called to the ordained ministry, whose major role is to act in the person of Christ at the altar. But all of the faithful, by their common priesthood, make their own sacrifices in union with the Sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Practically speaking, when the priest offers the bread and wine at Mass, all present should offer themselves, their joys and sorrows, and those they wish to pray for, through Christ to the Father. Offering our sacrifices in union with Christ unites us to the Father. As Jesus says in today's Gospel, 'to have seen Me is to have seen the Father. I and the Father are one.'

Not only the ordained priest, but also every baptised person has the duty and privilege of proclaiming Christ and drawing others into the Catholic Christian community. The Church is like an orchestra; we have different gifts, but sound best when each member plays in harmony with the others. We are not isolated individuals, but interconnected members.

What is my role? What task has Christ given to me?

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 22nd May at 7.30pm in the Church. Prospective Godparents are also encouraged to attend.

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

PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY – NEXT SUNDAY: This year, being the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, and the 100th anniversary of our diocese, we hope to make our annual procession in honour of Our Lady the best yet, in thanksgiving to God. The procession will take place **next Sunday May 21st**, starting at **2pm** at the Upper Site of Our Lady & St George School, and proceed along Shernhall Street to the Church where the rosary will be prayed in several languages. There will be a barbeque afterwards in the parish garden. Please come along. Parishioners are welcome to wear traditional clothes and/or bring flags from their home countries for the procession. We will hold a barbeque afterwards in the parish garden.

FR MAURICE 40TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: This year, Fr Maurice celebrates 40 years of Ordination to the Priesthood. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on **Friday 16th June at 7.30pm** in the Church, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall and garden. More details will be available in coming weeks, but please save the date – all parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

CONFIRMATION 2017: The next Confirmation session is this Sunday at 4pm in the parish hall. The group will also be involved in the procession for Our Lady next Sunday.

OUR LADY STATUE: To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, a statue of Our Lady of Fatima is visiting homes of our parishioners from the month of May through to the end of October. If you would like to have the statue in your home for a day during this time, please contact Louella on 07545 625 109.

MEETING FOR PARISH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: For all those who have signed up for our Parish Lourdes pilgrimage (22-28 July), the next meeting will be on **Saturday 27th May at 3pm in the parish hall**. A representative from the tour company will attend, and more information about the timetable and other logistics will be provided. All pilgrims are asked to attend this meeting.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The new offertory envelopes are now available in the porch – **please collect them if you haven't already – there are still a number of boxes requiring collection**. 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.

DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – SPACES FILLING FAST: This being the 100th anniversary of our diocese, there will be a Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 22nd July. Our parish will be organising a coach, and a sign-up sheet is now on the noticeboard. The coach will depart the parish at about 8am, and there will be a Mass at 3pm in Walsingham on that day, which will fulfil the Sunday obligation. A cost of £15 per seat for transport expenses will be collected on the day. The coach is now about half full – so sign up to avoid disappointment. **Please note that there will be no 6pm Saturday evening Mass on Saturday 22nd July at St George's.**

MARCH FOR LIFE UK, BIRMINGHAM, 20th MAY: March for Life UK is a national annual pro-life festival that consists of live music, family fun activities, educational stalls, Christian prayer and inspiring speakers. The highlight of the day is a joyous march through the heart of Birmingham city centre proclaiming our central message of "Life from Conception, No Exception". To read more about the event, visit <http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/>. There are coaches travelling from all over the UK to Birmingham for the event; details are on the website.

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.

DIOCESAN CENTENARY LECTURES: On the Wednesdays of June, there will be a series of Centenary Lectures covering the history of our diocese, at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall, Ingrave Road, CM15 8AT, beginning at 7.30pm. Details are as follows: Wed 7 June: Fr Stewart Foster – Foundation and Early Years; Wed 14 June: Canon Brian O’Shea – Bishops Beck, Wall and Casey; Wed 21 June: Fr Martin Boland – the Modern Era; Wed 28 June: Dr Paul Docherty – Patron Saints of the Diocese.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AT BRENTWOOD: **Saturday 17th June** 10.30am-12pm, Fr Martin Boland – “The beautiful will save us: beauty in the thought of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI”. **Saturday 24th June**, 10.30-12pm, Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon - ‘God has a dream for each one of us’. **Saturday 15th July**, 10.30am-12pm, Bishop Alan Williams - “Contemplative prayer – is it for me?” All seminars take place in the Conference Hall at Cathedral House, 28 Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN CENTENARY CELEBRATION MASS: On Sunday 18th June at 11.30am at Brentwood Cathedral (Ingrave Road CM15 8AT) there will be a Solemn Choral Mass celebrated Bishop Alan, at which will be premiered the Missa Brevis composed by Diana Burrell, specially commissioned by the Brentwood Cathedral Choir for the Diocesan Centenary.

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 soul of Jill Swires,
mother of Fr Mark Swires, who died last week.

May she rest in peace.

ROTAS – MAY

Counting	7/5 B	14/5 F	21/5 B	28/5 B
Christian Kitchen	6/5 Nor	13/5 F	20/5 G	27/5 A
Hospital	7/5 B	14/5 D	21/5 A	28/5 B

The offertory collection for last week was £1601.58. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Assis Dias (RIP)
Sun 14 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)
8.30am	Marcella & Rosemary (Ints)
10.00am	Amanda & Imelda Siedentopf (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish
Mon 15 May	Feria
7.00am	Pat McManus (Ints)
9.15am	Margaret Moore (Ints)
Tue 16 May	Feria
7.00am	Ron Hacker (RIP)
9.15am	Sr Brendan (Ints)
Wed 17 May	Feria
7.00am	Mary (RIP)
9.15am	Ambrose Dillsworth (RIP)
Thu 18 May	Feria
7.00am	Maria Staunton (RIP)
9.15am	Bookhan and Pulwah Kalpee (RIP)
Fri 19 May	Feria
7.00am	Ladislav Ondercin (Ints)
9.15am	Holy Souls
Sat 20 May	Feria
10.00am	Special Ints
6.00pm	Juliet Dias (RIP)
Sun 21 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter (Day of Prayer for Human Work)
8.30am	Natalie Rosario (Ints)
10.00am	Angelina Hoareau (RIP)
12.00pm	Parish

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, Betty Ramsey.

Morning Prayer:

Rosary:

Reconciliation (Confessions):

Mon-Fri: 9.00am. Sat. 9.40am

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.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday-Friday 7.30-8.30am; Mondays: 10am-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-4pm; Fridays 9.45-10.45am; Saturdays 10.30-11.30am.

Bible Study:

Mondays at 8pm, Church Meeting Room
