

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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Fr Maurice Gordon; Fr Nixon Gomes
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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

7 May 2017

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Voices are very important. We can all recognise and remember distinctive voices – like particular sports commentators, news reporters and radio hosts. Some voices become household names. In today's era of digital television, the Internet and social media, there are so many voices out there vying for our attention. Which voices do we listen to, and which are truly good for us and our children? There are so many voices it can be overpowering. But Jesus tells us that there is one voice that truly fulfils, that is His own voice, the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, when we think of Our Lord as a shepherd leading us. He says, 'my sheep hear my voice.' How do we hear the voice of God? Or is there so much background noise that we don't hear the voice of God? It is not enough to hear passively – by 'hearing', Jesus means listening to and accepting.

The call of the Good Shepherd is a personal call; He calls us by name. There are many ways He speaks to us – through the Scriptures, and we can hear Him speak to us when we prayerfully reflect on them. He speaks through the teaching and Sacraments of the Church, to which He gave the authority to teach in His name, and to feed His sheep. He speaks through the lives of the saints, who are models of holiness for us. He speaks through the events and circumstances of each day, and through the needs of our brothers and sisters. He speaks through our conscience, which guides us to make correct decisions. Sometimes, if we have done wrong, our conscience will convict us and we will feel guilty. This is no bad thing, because it leads us to repentance and allows the good shepherd to lead us back to safety.

Sheep are docile. That means they follow and obey a good shepherd and so benefit from him. Docility is a virtue – it means observing, listening to, imitating and obeying the directions of those who know better than we do, and accepting correction. A docile person knows he does not know everything and is willing to learn. At the same time, a docile person will be prudent enough not to listen to just any voice claiming to be a shepherd. There are many false voices, 'thieves and brigands', which try to sow division and scatter the flock. We can go astray and get it wrong. What do we do then? As Peter told the crowd in the first reading, 'you must repent.' – turn back, listen to the Good Shepherd again.

Like sheep, we can sometimes get caught in a hedge or stuck somewhere and cannot free ourselves. Turning back to God, He will free us, and lead us again along the right path. As today's Psalm says, 'He guides us along the right path, and He is true to His name.'

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: This weekend 31 children will be receiving their First Communion. We congratulate them and their parents, and thank their catechists who supported them. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY – IN TWO WEEKS: 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 on **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, including Portuguese. We now plan to hold a barbeque afterwards in the parish garden. Please save the date.

CONFIRMATION 2017: This Sunday our Confirmation candidates will be going to meet the Bishop in Brentwood. The following session will be next Sunday 14th May at 4pm in the parish hall. Parishioners are asked to keep the Confirmation group in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament on the 4th June.

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.

FINANCE MEETING: The next meeting of the finance committee will take place this Monday 8th May at 8pm in the presbytery. All members are asked to attend.

FR GEORGE STOKES: This week we learned of the death of Monsignor George Stokes. Fr George served in our diocese for over 40 years, including in the parishes of Leigh-on-Sea, Westcliff-on-Sea, Brentwood Cathedral, Chelmsford and Grays. He served the Diocese with great generosity and dedication, especially in the area of Education – serving as the Director of Education from 1991 to 2016. His Requiem Mass will take place at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Grays (RM17 6SR) on Wednesday 10th May at 12 noon. May he rest in peace.

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: 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 8.am, 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. **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: Wednesday 7 June: Fr Stewart Foster – Foundation and Early Years; Wednesday 14 June: Canon Brian O'Shea – Bishops Beck, Wall and Casey; Wednesday 21 June: Fr Martin Boland – the Modern Era; Wednesday 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.

SPIRIT IN THE CITY FESTIVAL: You are warmly invited to Spirit in the City, the annual evangelization festival in the West End of London. From 9-10 June, the festival will feature times of prayer, teaching, celebration and outreach. It aims to bring Catholics together and reach out to the general public at the same time. For more information visit www.spiritinthecity.org.

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 – 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 £3211.41. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Romeo Rodrigues (RIP)
Sun 7 May	Fourth Sunday of Easter (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)
8.30am	Sr Jacinta (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Domingo Villaroel (Ints)
Mon 8 May	Feria
7.00am	Ron Hacker (RIP)
9.15am	Annie Theresa McDonagh (RIP)
Tue 9 May	Feria
7.00am	Tony Keane (RIP)
9.15am	Poole Family (RIP)
Wed 10 May	Feria
7.00am	James Fletcher (Ints)
9.15am	Holy Souls
Thu 11 May	Feria
7.00am	Sr Catherine (Ints)
9.15am	Tony Horan (RIP)
Fri 12 May	St John Houghton, Priest, Martyr
7.00am	Betty Ramsey (Ints)
9.15am	Special Ints
Sat 13 May	St Ecronwald, Bishop
10.00am	Michael Fitzpatrick (RIP)
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

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 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, Betty Ramsey.

Morning Prayer:

Rosary:

Reconciliation (Confessions):

Bible Study:

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.

Mondays at 8pm, Church Meeting Room
