

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE

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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

18 June 2017

Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ) (A)

Deserts are hot and harsh environments with no food and little vegetation. Humans are not able to live in such places without perishing from dehydration and starvation. If we suddenly found ourselves in the desert, we would soon become aware of what is essential for survival. The first reading today recounts the experience of the Israelites when God led them from slavery in Egypt through the desert to the Promised Land. They were hungry, thirsty and groaning. God had already given them the Ten Commandments, and now led them through this time of suffering to test them and see if they really trusted in Him. He provided what was truly necessary – bread from heaven and water from the rock – to show them that they depend on Him for every good thing.

Our lives are in some ways like going through the desert. It can feel like a long and tiresome journey, where we are not happy or at peace. We can try to cling to things that give us comfort, just like the Israelites preferred to be in slavery in Egypt. But God had to lead them through the desert to freedom. There can be things in our lives that enslave us, addictions – big or small – and breaking free is difficult. It takes time, patience, and trust in God. The Lord purifies the chosen people in the desert, giving them what was essential to sustain them for each day, so they would not forget their dependence on Him.

As the Israelite people received the essentials for life, likewise the Lord gives us what is essential for eternal life in the Eucharist. In today's Gospel, Jesus says, 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. Whoever eats me will draw life from me.' To receive Holy Communion is to receive Jesus Himself. If we receive this food with a clean heart and the right disposition, our souls are filled with grace; we are nourished and strengthened on the road to eternal life. Holy Communion can transform us into Who it is we receive, that is Christ – we become what we receive.

The Eucharist is the greatest treasure and gift that Christ left for us. We should never underestimate its power, but it is essential to approach it with the right attitude. If we are conscious of having committed any serious sin, we should go to confession before receiving Holy Communion at Mass. We also keep a fast one hour before Communion. To put ourselves in the right frame of mind, we should spend some time quietly preparing ourselves before Mass. When we go to meet a friend, we think a lot about it beforehand; where we will meet, what time we will arrive, what we will say, what we will wear. We will make great efforts for something as trivial as going to a concert, and yet be lazy when it is time to meet Jesus at Mass. Yet here at Mass we not only meet, but may also intimately receive our Lord and Master, hidden under the appearance of bread and wine. We priests also have to remind ourselves that saying Mass is not a routine. If we approach Mass with the right frame of mind, the Lord will transform us.

On this feast of Corpus Christi, we are reminded of this great gift of the Eucharist. Through it we receive the grace that reminds us of our total dependence on the Lord. Jesus said, 'I am the living bread come down from heaven. He who eats this bread will live forever.' Does the prospect of eternal life with the Lord really attract us? The Eucharist is the foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required.

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

FR MAURICE 40TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY – THANK YOU: Fr Maurice wishes to express his thanks and deep appreciation for all the kind wishes and gifts given on the occasion of his 40th Ordination anniversary. In particular, special thanks go to all those who assisted in the planning and preparations for the Mass of thanksgiving last Friday, to all who came, donated items and helped in any way. It was a great coming together of the whole parish and a wonderful and uplifting event. Please continue to keep Fr Maurice, and all priests in your prayers.

SEMINARY TRIP: Last Sunday, as part of the celebrations for Fr Maurice's jubilee, he took a group of 17 young men from the parish to St Mary's College, Oscott, near Birmingham, which is a seminary for the training of priests. The Brentwood Diocese currently has three seminarians there, and we were warmly welcomed by them, and by the Vice-Rector Fr Paul Keane, who is also a priest of our diocese. It was a very enjoyable day and the lads heard about the history of the seminary, and got an insight into the daily life of a student for the priesthood. We toured the library, and the grounds, and received a talk about the chapel and its treasures, which gave us an insight into the history of the Catholic Church in this country. We ended the afternoon with games of pool and football, and a time of adoration before departing the seminary and enjoying a meal together on the way home. We thank God for this wonderful day and continue to pray for future vocations to the priesthood.

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.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – SUMMER 2017: Thanks to all who attended the meeting last Saturday in preparation for the Summer 2017 parish pilgrimage to Lourdes. As discussed at the meeting, the outstanding payments should have been settled by **17th June**. If you have not yet paid please do so as soon as possible. We will call a final meeting in early July to finalize the programme.

HOLY FAMILY SUMMER FAIR: Saturday 1st July 2017, 12:00-4:00pm: 1 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow, London E17 3EA. The Friends of Holy Family Catholic School and Sixth Form are holding an afternoon of family fun. Come and join us for games, food stalls, bouncy activities, home made cakes & refreshments, football shootouts, DJ, Irish dancing and Holy Family's Got Talent! A limited amount of outdoor selling tables will be available at £10.00 (available in advance only), to book a table please email t.friends@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk for a booking form or phone the school on 0208 520 0482. Entrance fee: 50p Adults, 20p children/concessions.

CATECHIST DAY: There will be a mini-retreat day for all First Communion and Confirmation Catechists on Saturday 15th July, beginning with 10am Mass at St George's, and followed by a directed programme of talks from 11am-4pm at the Oblates of the Assumption, 20 Higham Station Avenue, Chingford. Sr Josephine Canny will lead the day. A letter was sent to all Catechists; please return the reply slip to let us know whether you can come.

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. **If you signed up but are no longer able to go, please cross off your name as there are many others**

looking for a space. 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. **Please note that there will be no 6pm Saturday evening Mass on Saturday 22nd July at St George's.**

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.

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. 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA: 1st SEPTEMBER 2017: There will be a meeting, in the Church meeting room, on Sunday 30th July 2017 at 3pm for all those travelling on the pilgrimage to Fatima. This meeting will finalise travel details and any questions you may have. This will be the only opportunity to book your coach for travelling to the airport. The cost will be £30 return fare and collected (cash only) at the meeting. If you cannot attend this meeting please contact Stella on 0208 527 3879.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The new offertory envelopes are now available in the porch – **if you haven't already taken yours, please do so.** 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.

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Gerry Butcher, a retired priest of the Brentwood Diocese who died last week. His funeral arrangements will be made later.

May he rest in peace.

ROTAS – JUNE

Counting	4/6 B	11/6 E	18/6 F	26/6 E
Christian Kitchen	3/6 Nor	10/6 B	17/6 C	24/6 D
Hospital	4/6 D	11/6 A	18/6 B	25/6 D

The collection last week was £1225.57. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Deceased members of the Dias family
Sun 18 June	The Body & Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) (A)
8.30am	Members of St George's Blessed Sacrament Confraternity
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Krishna Kalpee (Ints) & Fr Maurice Gordon (Ints)
Mon 19 June	Feria
7.00am	Nick Flynn (RIP)
9.15am	John Teahen (RIP)
Tue 20 June	Feria
7.00am	Patrick O'Sullivan (RIP)
9.15am	Zabrina Yasmin Malik (Ints)
Wed 21 June	St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious
7.00am	Josie Mills (Ints)
9.15am	Fr Maurice (Ints)
Thu 22 June	SS John Fisher (Bishop) and Thomas More, Martyrs
7.00am	Kathy Ogles (Ints)
9.15am	Segun Coker (Ints)
Fri 23 June	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity)
7.00am	Special Ints
9.15am	Tessie Kalpee (Ints)
Sat 24 June	Nativity of St John the Baptist (Solemnity)
10.00am	Private intention
6.00pm	Deceased members of the Rodrigues family (RIP)
Sun 25 June	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Day for Life
8.30am	Parish
10.00am	Kitty Mackey (Ints)
12.00pm	Padraig Hester (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, Padraig 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
