

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

16th July 2017

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Over the next several Sundays, our Gospel readings at Mass feature Jesus describing the Kingdom of God through parables. Today we hear the parable of the sower (Mt 13:1-23), a story we all know, but let us reflect deeply on it and identify where we are.

The seed represents God's word, scattered freely and generously by God, the sower. God knows His seed has the power to transform lives, if it takes root in our hearts. But in order for this to happen, the soil of our hearts must accept the seed, shelter it and give of itself to make the seed grow. It won't happen automatically. Jesus warns us of three pitfalls – if our hearts resemble these grounds, there is little chance the seed will grow.

Firstly, some seed falls on the edge of the path and is eaten straight away. This represents those who hear the Gospel but do not take it seriously, or who do not really believe. The first challenge is therefore to shelter the seed within the soil, to protect it and give it a chance to grow. We can help this along by trying to understand our faith, using our intellect to learn about it, and nourishing it through prayer.

The seed on rocky ground represents those who hear the word and receive it joyfully at first. The seed sprouts quickly but doesn't develop deep roots. The rocks represent difficulties and persecutions, and when faced with these, the growing seed withers. Our Lord explains that these seed represent timid believers who fall away to preserve human respect, following the crowd rather than taking a stand. We ask ourselves, 'have we the courage to speak up for the faith?'

The parable then speaks of seed that falls where it must compete with thorns and weeds. These are more subtle forces that can choke the seed. All our worldly concerns – work, recreation, ambition, money, comfort, personal relationships, that may be good in themselves, can eventually crowd out and displace the Kingdom of God, which Jesus tells us we ought to 'seek first' (Mt 6:33). Is the Kingdom of God our first priority?

If our prayer and sacramental life is regular and serious, the chances are that the seed of God's word has found reasonably fertile soil in our hearts, and that enables us to bear fruit. But there is no room for complacency. If we can produce a thirty-fold crop, the Lord mentions 60 and 100-fold. In cooperation with Him, we can always produce more.

The Lord says, 'listen, anyone who has ears.' Today, let us hear this parable as if for the first time, and may it penetrate the soils of our hearts, to produce a good crop.

Fr Maurice

BAPTISMS: By appointment. Prior attendance to Baptism Course required. The next course will take place on Monday 24th July at 7.30pm in the Church. Prospective godparents are also very much encouraged to attend.

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

SUMMER: This week our schools are beginning to break up for the summer holidays. We wish all of our staff and students a restful and blessed summer recess.

NEWSLETTERS: This weekend we issue the last newsletter before the summer break. Newsletters will resume on 2nd/3rd September. Mass intentions for the intervening weeks will be published on the Church noticeboard.

MASSES NEXT SATURDAY 22nd JULY: Please note that next Saturday 22nd July, the morning Mass will take place at 11am instead of 10am. The 11am Mass will open the Parish Lourdes pilgrimage, which will depart afterwards. Also, as advertised previously, there will be no 6pm evening Mass at St George's that day.

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES: The parish is blessed to have three coaches going on pilgrimage on the 22nd July – two to Walsingham and one to Lourdes; both are joining the Diocese as part of a broader programme of events. A pilgrimage is a special journey undertaken to draw us closer to God; we recognise that we are only pilgrims in this life, and we are called to journey together onwards to the promised land of heaven. Let us pray for the success of our pilgrimages:

All-powerful God, you always show mercy towards those who love you and you are never far away from those who seek you. Remain with us, your servants, on this holy pilgrimage and guide our way in accord with your will. Shelter us with your protection by day, and give us the light of your grace by night, and as our companion on the journey, bring us safely home. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen. Mary of the Way, pray for us.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE: For all those who have signed up, the coach will depart the parish on Saturday 22nd July at **8am sharp**. A cost of £15 per seat to cover transport expenses will be collected on the day. **Please arrive by 7.45am.**

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: This will begin with Mass in the Church at 11am on Saturday 22nd July. **Please be on time.**

PETITIONS FOR LOURDES: There is a blue box in the foyer for any parishioners who would like to submit prayer petitions to Our Lady. Please write your prayer intentions and petitions, place in an envelope and put into the box before next Saturday 22nd July. The parish group going to Lourdes will take the petitions (unopened) and leave them at the shrine during the pilgrimage. In this way all parishioners can participate in the pilgrimage, even if not physically attending. Please do not place any money in the box.

MORNING MASSES OVER SUMMER: Please note the final 7am weekday Mass will take place on Friday 21st July. 7am Masses will resume after the summer break, on Monday 4th September. During the intervening period there will be one weekday Mass at 9.15am.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will cease for the summer after Friday 21st July. Adoration on Saturday 22nd is

cancelled owing to the Walsingham and Lourdes pilgrimages commencing on those days. Regular adoration will resume on Monday 4th September. We wish all our watchers a restful summer break.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION- 15 AUGUST: Tuesday 15th August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is a holy day of obligation. Masses on that day will be at 9.15am and 7.30pm.

DIVINE MERCY HEALING SERVICE: The last Divine Mercy Healing Service will be on Sunday 16th July at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Services will resume on 10th September at 5pm.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL: On display in the Church meeting room is our response to part B (Reflective Questions) and Part C (Our Community's Initial Thoughts and Ideas about the Future) of the Parish Questionnaire that was submitted to the Diocese at Easter. Part B is a summary of your responses to the survey that was carried out last October. The Diocese has sent us their preliminary observations to our Parish Questionnaire, which is on the SOTG notice board. Please take time to read these.

DIGNITY BAGS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS - APPEAL: At the Easter Vigil we welcomed several new members to our parish. These new members now wish to take up a project in thanksgiving to God for their journey of faith and the prayers and support they received. They have chosen as their project one of the appeals launched by the charity "Samara's Aid" which supports refugees in the camps in Syria and Iraq. After each of the Sunday Masses until October members of the team will be available to give you information, handouts, shopping list and answer any questions about the appeal, and how you can help.

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.

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@olsq.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.

ROTAS – JULY / AUGUST

Counting	16/7 F	23/7 B	30/7 E	6/8 F	13/8 B	20/8 E	27/8 F
Christian Kitchen	15/7 F	22/7 G	29/7 A	5/8 Nor	12/8 B	19/8 C	26/8 D
Hospital	16/7 D	23/7 A	30/7 B	6/8 D	13/8 A	20/8 B	27/8 D

The collection last week was £1297.81. The second collection for the Holy Family Sisters of the Needy (two weeks ago) raised £520, which will support vulnerable local women. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Patrick Fletcher (RIP)
Sun 16 July	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
8.30am	Carmen & Bernard Fernandes (RIP)
10.00am	Parish
12.00pm	Newly-confirmed young people (Ints)
Mon 17 July	Feria
7.00am	Jane Frances (Thanksgiving)
9.15am	Johnny, Louis and Breda Barry (Ints)
Tue 18 July	Feria
7.00am	Sr Camilla (Ints)
9.15am	Mary & Jim Gordon (Ints)
Wed 19 July	Feria
7.00am	Shakien Mulchanchi (RIP)
9.15am	Jason Coeur-de-Lion (Ints)
Thu 20 July	Feria
7.00am	Coeur-de-Lion and Kalpee family (Ints)
9.15am	Special Ints
Fri 21 July	Feria
7.00am	Natalie Rosario (Ints)
9.15am	Divine & Mercy Osunwoke and family
Sat 22 July	St Mary Magdalene (Feast)
11.00am	NOTE LATE START John D'Arcy (RIP)
6.00pm	NO 6PM MASS TONIGHT
Sun 23 July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
8.30am	Bridie Cullen (RIP)
10.00am	Joe, Margareta Anne (Ints)
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
