

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

9th July 2017

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

As we come to the end of the school year, and the summer holidays begin, most people are looking forward to a break. Life is full of activity and we can be overburdened by the demands of work and family, but can also be weighed down by fears and anxieties within ourselves. In today's Gospel, Jesus invites all who labour and are overburdened to come to Him, and He will give us rest.

What are the things that burden us? Perhaps we have family members to take care of, who present us with difficulties, or we feel frustrations at work. Perhaps we find it difficult to live a moral life in this culture, or we are burdened by patterns of sin or weaknesses in our own character. Maybe life seems unfair and God seems distant. In some way all of us are carrying burdens, which weigh us down.

Christ offers us rest. This rest does not take away the struggle, but gives us inner peace, which helps us to cope each day, knowing that we are loved and cared for by God our Father. To receive this rest we have to come to know Him, to open our hearts to Him, to invite Him into every situation, no matter how bad it is or how anxious we feel.

Jesus says, 'my yoke is easy and my burden light.' A yoke is a wooden device fastened over the necks of two animals, e.g. horses, which is attached to a plough or cart, allowing the two animals to pull it together. With Jesus, the yoke is light, because we pull together with Him, and He helps us to bear our burdens and to carry our cross.

In our age there is a tendency towards self-sufficiency: the wiser we get in the world's estimation, the more we want to determine our own life. Our egos can become inflated, giving us a disproportionate sense of our own importance. Jesus blesses His Father for 'hiding these things from the learned and clever,' not because education is bad, but because it is possible to become so sophisticated as to lose the sense of God, focussing the mind totally on the self.

It takes humility to recognise that we cannot carry our burdens alone. Humility is an antidote to prideful self-sufficiency. In the first reading, Zechariah prophesies the coming of a humble King, who will bring peace to all nations. In the Gospel, Jesus says, 'I am gentle and humble of heart.' We too must show the same humility, and become like little children, trusting in the Lord, letting Him carry our burdens with us. Only in Him do we find rest.

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.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – SUMMER 2017: Thanks to all who attended the recent meeting in preparation for the Summer 2017 parish pilgrimage to Lourdes. As discussed, outstanding payments should have been settled by **17th June**. If you have not yet paid **we now require them urgently**. We will hold a final meeting **this Sunday 9th July at 6pm** in the parish hall to finalize the programme.

DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 5 PLACES LEFT: This being the 100th anniversary of our diocese, there will be a Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 22nd July. Our parish is organising a coach, and a sign-up sheet is now on the noticeboard. **There are now five places available – so please sign up if you wish to go.** 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.**

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.

SPECIAL HOLY HOUR: In response to Mother Mary's invitation to the children of Fatima, we will have an extra hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 12-1pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel on the 13th July. The rosary will be recited, as well as the prayers given to the children at Fatima during the apparitions.

CONFIRMATION MASS OF THANKSGIVING: Next Sunday 16th July at 12pm there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for all the recently-Confirmed young people. After the Mass the Confirmandi will be presented with their certificates.

HCPT CAKE SALE: Next Sunday 16th July, our HCPT group 161 will be holding a cake sale after Masses to raise funds for next Easter's pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you like baking perhaps you might make a cake for us to sell. There will also be an opportunity to sign up for a bonus ball in our monthly lottery draw. You will set up a £5 direct debit and have a chance of winning a cash prize every month, whilst helping send a child to Lourdes every Easter.

NEWSLETTER OVER SUMMER: Next week will be 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.

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.

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.

CATECHIST DAY: There will be a mini-retreat day for all First Communion and Confirmation Catechists next 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.

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 from this weekend 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

Counting	2/7 B	9/7 E	16/7 F	23/7 B	30/7 E
Christian Kitchen	1/7 Nor	8/7 E	15/7 F	22/7 G	29/7 A
Hospital	2/7 A	9/7 B	16/7 D	23/7 A	30/7 B

The collection last week was £1468.33. Thank you for your generosity.

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

6.00pm	Joe & Maria McGee (Ints)
Sun 9 July	Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
8.30am	Bruno D'Souza (RIP)
10.00am	Dejanire Talma (RIP)
12.00pm	Frank Keavey (RIP)
Mon 10 July	Feria
7.00am	Fortunata Velandres-Hatuina (RIP)
9.15am	Martin Flynn (RIP)
Tue 11 July	St Benedict, Archbishop, Patron of Europe (European Feast)
7.00am	Percy D'Souza (Ints)
9.15am	Mgr. Zachary D'Souza (RIP) and Bruno D'Souza (RIP)
Wed 12 July	Feria
7.00am	Rego D'Souza (RIP) and Gaspar D'Souza (RIP)
9.15am	Mr & Mrs A&L Rodrigues & Family (Ints)
Thu 13 July	Feria
7.00am	Jason Coeur-de-Lion (Ints)
9.15am	James Fletcher (Ints)
Fri 14 July	Feria
7.00am	James Fletcher (Ints)
9.15am	Holy Souls
Sat 15 July	St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
10.00am	Jill Swires (RIP)
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)

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
