

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE**

132 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HU

Tel: 020 8520 5877 Fax: 020 8520 4805

E-mail: [parishoffice@olsg.co.uk](mailto:parishoffice@olsg.co.uk) Website: [www.olsg.co.uk](http://www.olsg.co.uk)

**Fr Niall Harrington; Fr Nixon Gomes**

**Fr Joseph Anthiamkulam (Syro-Malabar Chaplain);**

**Rev. Joseph Baffour-Awuah (Permanent Deacon)**

Our Lady & St George's Primary School:

Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552

Holy Family Catholic College: 8520 0482/8520 3587

**Charity Number: 234092**



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Gaudete Sunday 16/12/2018 (2 Week Issue)**

**Dear Parishioners,**

A quarter century ago, a survey in central Belfast-at this time of year-asked people to indicate what thought first came to mind when the word 'Christmas' was mentioned to them. The majority answered by some distance, it seems, was 'busyness'. Would this year, in any city, be different? The truth remains that, despite the sentimentality and sense of expectation which can publicly envelope it, our intensely commercialised Christmas can feel more like an imposition upon our spirits than a source of uplift for them. Somehow we realise that, even though we may participate with much goodwill, our Christmas celebration will not bring, at any meaningful level, the 'joy' our scriptures speak of this Sunday. Why?

When St Paul speaks of our 'happiness', in today's liturgy, he is clear that it is a happiness rooted in Christ and in an awareness of his presence. 'The Lord', he tells the Philippians. 'is very near'. The prophet Zephaniah was even more direct. 'Rejoice', he exhorted Israel, 'The Lord your God is in your midst'. Gaudete Sunday calls us to a real joy as we enter the latter half of this season of preparation. It is a joy derived from an awareness that the Lord is, indeed, near to us. Christmas time ahead will call us to an even deeper joy, conscious that the Saviour has come among us as the prophets once foretold.

There can be no substitute sources for Christian joy in either the Advent or Christmas seasons. Attempts to find other avenues to this happiness will prove themselves counterfeit. It is telling that a certain mid-January day, when the financial impact of seasonal excess is said to confront us, has become known

Continue over leaf

across the western world as 'Blue Monday'. Its annual recurrence may only be challenged when we choose a radically new approach to Christmas and begin to retrieve something of its true mystery and promise. Advent is the time for such an approach to begin.

Prepare the Way of the Lord.

*Fr. Niall*  
(Fr. Niall)

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

The next Parish Baptism Preparation Course will be in January 2019

**Masses for Christmas:** Monday 24th of December (Christmas Eve) . 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at Whipps Cross Hospital. Family Mass at 6p.m. 11:30 p.m. Carols and Readings followed by midnight Mass at 12a.m. Christmas Day Tuesday 25th of December: 8:30a.m, 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

**26th December 10a.m.** During this Mass the altar servers will receive their bronze altar serving medals and one server who has completed 10 years altar serving and he gets a silver medal.

Our parish Advent Carol Service is this Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of December 5p.m. in the Church. All are welcome. Please bring a friend or two..

**Change of Parish Mass times for weekdays.** : As of the 1st of January 2019 the 7 a.m. Mass will cease. The 9:15a.m. Mass, Monday to Friday will continue. An evening Mass at 6p.m. will commence in the new year for Mondays to Fridays.

Thank you to Anu Jose Padayathil and family who will sponsor the 2 big Church door wreaths.

From 1 pm on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December we plan install the Church decoration. Parishioners who may be able to lend a hand on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December even an hour or two will be much appreciated. Thank you.

**Red Boxes:** Please return all Red (Missio) Boxes. The good lady who looks after the collection must have the boxes returned for the end of year accounts. Please do not forget to write your name and address and details in the label under the red box. Thank you for your generosity

By tradition your offerings at Christmas is your personal gift to the priests . Thank you.

Tuesday 18 of December at 7p.m. Holy Family will have their Carol Service here in Our Lady and St George's Church.

Monday 17th of December Our Lady and St George's Primary School will hold their Christmas Carol Service in Our Lady and St George's Church

**Diocesan Vision:** 2 weeks ago we saw the publication of the latest Vision document for future of the diocese. Copies are available in the church porch, one per family. The document is also available on-line and also for people who have access for read aloud functions. A video message from Bishop Alan is also on the diocesan website. The latest appears to be that the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary and St Patrick's Parish , Blackhorse Road, St Joseph's Parish , Leyton and this parish of Our Lady and St George have been partnered together. In the coming year the priests of those 3 parishes and their respective Stewards of the Gospel will meet for a number of times. Please pray for the deliberations.

Mass Attendance last weekend 641 . The collection last week was £1314.99p  
Average weekly standing order collection is £330. Thank you for your generosity.

ROTAS

<b>Counting Rota</b>	02/12F	09/12E	16/12F	23/12B	30/12B	06/01F
<b>Hospital Rota</b>	02/12D	09/12A	16/12B	23/12D	30/12A	06/01B



Joke of the Week: : Anger is all the rage  
(Attributed to Tim Vine)

## Birthday Greetings to Nigel Doherty



**Wishing You all and Your Family  
The Peace and Joy of the Saviour's Birth.  
Fr. Niall , Fr. Nixon , Fr. Joseph and Deacon Joseph**

## Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Edward Fletcher (Rest in Peace) (Joan Carey)
Sun 16 December	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
08:30am	Vincent Cunningham (Rest in Peace) (Crawley)
10:00am	Oscar and Georgiana Trotman-Singh (Rest in Peace) (Jenny and Cliff)
12:00noon	Parishioners
Mon 17 December	<b>FERIA</b>
07:00am	Mary Thersa and Jon Redman (Intentions) (Betty)
09:15am	Ramsey Family Intentions. (Betty)
04:00pm	Whipps Cross Hospital Mass – Alma Willock's Intentions (Harve)
Tue 18 December	<b>FERIA</b>
07:00am	John and Mary Staunton (Rest in Peace)
09:15 am	Tommy Brennan (Rest in Peace)
Wed 19 Decemberr	<b>FERIA</b>
07:00am	Josie Maloney (Rest in Peace)
09:15 am	Paula (Rest in Peace) (Paul Quinn)
Thu 20 December	<b>FERIA</b>
07:00am	Josie Maloney (Rest in Peace)
09:15am	Josie Maloney (Rest in Peace) (B. Halloran)
Fri 21 December	<b>SAINT PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</b>
07:00am	Josie Maloney (Rest in Peace) (PAT Moss)
09:15am	Thanks giving (Apap Family)
Sat 22 December	<b>FERIA</b>
10:00am	James O'Donnell (Rest in Peace) (Mary Gilligan)
06:00pm	Kinga and Ryszard (Rest in Peace) (Anita)
Sun 23 December	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
08:30am	Mary and Mark Fletcher (James Fletcher)
10:00am	James Gilligan (Rest in Peace) (Mary Gilligan)
12:00noon	Parishioners
Mon 24 December	<b>FERIA</b>
03:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass at Whipps Cross Hospital.
06:00 pm	Sean McKenna (Rest in Peace) (P. Mckenna)
Midnight Mass 00hrs	Jane's Intentions (Betty)
TUE 25 December	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>
08:30am	Deceased Souls of the Coeur-de-Lion and Kalpee (Rest in Peace)
10:00am	Theresa's Intentions (Betty)
12:00noon	Fr. Niall's Intentions (Betty)
Wednesday 26 December	<b>Saint Stephen, The First Martyr</b>
10:00am	Stella and Gabriel (20 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)
Thursday 27 December	<b>SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</b>
10:00am	Fr. Nixon's Intentions (Betty)
Friday 28 December	<b>THE HOLY INNOCENT</b>
10:00 am	Mark and Mary Fletcher (Rest in Peace) (James Fletcher)
Saturday 29 December	<b>FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
10:00am	Marie Gbondo (Rest in Peace) (Family)
06:00pm	Tommy Brennan (Rest in Peace) (Family)