

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

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**Canon Niall Harrington; Fr Michael Barwick
Fr Joseph Mukkatt (Syro-Malabar Chaplain);
Deacon Joseph Baffour-Awuah**

Our Lady and 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 (12/12/2021)

'Gaudete' Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

Is this the most inappropriately titled Sunday in the whole year? The Third Sunday of Advent is supposed to be 'a Day for Joy', but where's the joy in this midwinter Sunday? Where's the joy in the tiresome shopping, the over expectant children, the demanding teens, the squabbling families-even the Christmas cards arriving from those we haven't sent any to?

Where's the joy in the forced jollity of office parties and other social events where people estranged from each other by COVID must make merry whether they feel like it or not? Where's the joy for families torn apart by illness and the shadow of infection, wounds very slow to heal, no matter how much the pandemic recedes? Where's the joy with for people tired and bruised by life?

The Joy can only come with one person: **Jesus**, our hope. Hope seems a better theme for today than joy, which is so easily confused with pleasure or something equally fleeting. Hope, on the other hand, is that virtue so rarely spoken of and yet the basis for our continuing along the Christian way. Faith inspires and love identifies us, but hope keeps us plodding along.

The Philippians' reading today lays the groundwork for hope and suggests conditions in which it will grow. St. Paul advocates tolerance, prayer and confidence in God, the perfect antidote to worry.

Hope is not the same as optimism: optimism tells us that 'things will get better' but they don't always. Hope tells us that God is in control, that it is in God's world that we live and breathe and have our being, that our Church is God's too and it's God's role to sort it out and bring things to a good conclusion. God will do so. We hope in God. And joy may follow.

Have a Blessed Week.

Canon Miall

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

Baptism Ceremonies: Second and Third Sunday of each month at 1.15pm. The next Baptism preparation course will be on Monday 31 January 2022 at 6:30pm in the Church.

The new Mass Intention Book for 2022 has arrived. Any parishioner who wishes to book a Mass for a particular date and time in 2022 can do so now.

Mass Times for Christmas **Christmas Eve:** 6PM, 8PM and Midnight.
Christmas Day: 8:30 AM, 10 AM and 12 Noon.

Only a couple of Brentwood Diocesan Directory remain on sale in the repository.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available after all Masses (Weekdays and Sundays).

Dates for Your Diary Thursday 16th December: Parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 7 PM. Sunday 19th December: Parish Carol Service in Our Lady and St George's Church at 5 PM.

Please return the completed questionnaire and place in the basket provided.

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Parish Preparation course for the sacrament of Baptism: From January 2022, the preparation course for parents will consist of two sessions. Both sessions (the first session on the last Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the church and the second session on the next Monday). Both sessions are part of the preparation course. The next session course begins on Monday 31st January 2022.

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS) and Walsingham House at Abbotswick offer retreats, pilgrimages and many other events for many thousands of young people every year; most of the work is led by volunteers, trained as young leaders in the Church. The BCYS also supports our catechists and school lay chaplains. Today a speaker will tell us more about the BCYS and there will be a collection for their vital work, or you can donate online at www.bcys.net/donate.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTION: *What does the Incarnation of Christ mean?* takes place by Zoom **today** Sunday 12th December, 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. The input and discussion will be led by Fr David Pearce. To join this meeting go to Events at www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk.

ADVENT SERVICE VIDEO is available to watch on youtube. “The season of Advent, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty.” *Pope Francis* Go to *Thresholds of Hope* on youtube or copy <https://youtu.be/c2KQhRXzOFU>

Why not try something NEW this New Year? Join Youth 2000 at Trinity Catholic High School in Woodford Green. NEW will be a weekend filled with fun, friendship, inspiring talks and, of course, lots of praise as we welcome in 2022. The retreat will run from Friday 31st December - Sunday 2nd January 2022. Head to www.youth2000.org/new today to book your space

Simon Connolly, Rest in Peace We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Simon Connolly, Rest in Peace. The funeral service for Simon’s soul will be on Wednesday 15th December at 11:30 AM here at the church.

Marie Veronica Rose Aldworth, Rest in Peace We also pray for the happy repose of the soul of Marie Veronica Rose Aldworth, Rest in Peace. The funeral service for Marie’s soul will be on Thursday 6th January 12 noon in Our Lady and St George.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Annie Cullen (Rest in Peace) (John Rafferty)
Sun 12 Dec	Third Sunday of Advent
08:30am	Kristina (Rest in Peace) (Elvyra)
10:00am	Timothy O Sullivan (Rest in Peace) (Mary)
12:00noon	Bernard Berney (Rest in Peace) (Kristina)
Mon 13 Dec	Saint Lucy , Virgin and Martyr
09:15 am	Mary McGlinchey (Rest in Peace) (Keane)
06:00 pm	Jacob Madaki (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Tue 14 Dec	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
09:15am	Mary McGlinchey (Rest in Peace) (O'Gorman)
06:00pm	Deceased of Staunton Family (Sr. Anne Marie)
Wed 15 Dec	FERIA
09:15am	Mary McGlinchey (Rest in Peace) (Carmody)
11:30am	Requiem Mass- Simon Connolly (Rest in Peace)
06:00 pm	Deceased of Claffey Family (Sr. Anne Marie)
Thu 16 Dec	FERIA
09:15am	Mary McGlinchey (Rest in Peace) (Maloney)
06:00pm	Thanksgiving (Sr. Anne Marie)
Fri 17 Dec	FERIA
09:15 am	Fr. Michael's Intentions (Jane)
06:00pm	Mary McGlinchey (Rest in Peace) (Moss)
Sat 18 Dec	FERIA
10:00am	James O' Gorman's Intentions (Keane)
06:00pm	Edward Fletcher (Rest in Peace) (Carey)
Sun 19 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent
08:30	Bernard Berney (Rest in Peace) (Kristina)
10:00am	Honour of Our Lady (Betty)
12:00	Berney and Peggie Higgins (Rest in Peace) (Ann Haylock)

Prayer List

Jenny Richmond, Betty Ramsey, Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris) Brid O Halloran, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Alma Willox, William Wyndham, Liberee, Maria Green, Anne (Christina), Agnes Fadina, Grace, Bridie Curley, Sharon Baker, Bridgit Morris and Mavis Hacker, Marjorie Singh, Pietro and Maria Marrai, Peggy McManus, Rosie Ebreo, Kathleen Lloyd, Johanna Whitley.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions: Every Saturday after 10.00 a.m. Mass until 11:15 am.

Repository Opening Times: Sundays: 9.15 a.m.

to 10.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. to 12.15 a.m. Nelly and Rosie look after the Repository.