

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

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Canon Niall Harrington; Fr Michael Barwick

Deacon Joseph Baffour-Awuah

Our Lady and St George's Primary School:

Lower Site 8520 8500. Upper Site: 8520 3552

Holy Family Catholic School: 8520 0482/8520 3587

Charity Number: 234092



Fourth Sunday of Advent (18/12/2022)
(Expectant Mothers Sunday)

Dear Parishioners,

Don't be afraid!' said the angel to Joseph in a dream. 'Fear not' or Don't be afraid' occur countless time in the Bible and each time the one who hears these words is assured that God is greater than any fear and that there is indeed an antidote to fear. For instance, God told Abraham 'fear not' before making a covenant with him. An angel said it to Zachariah, father of John the Baptist; while the Angel Gabriel similarly encourage Mary. Angels said it to the shepherds startled by Christmas glory and Jesus said to the disciples when they thought the Lord to be a ghost walking on water. A voice at Jesus' transfiguration told Peter, James and John not to fear the moment and the same assurance was given to Mary Magdalene at Jesus tomb. But in all of these circumstance the people had good and valid reasons to be afraid, reminding us also of all that makes us tremble in trepidation. How does 'fear not' speak to the loss of a job? The repossession of a house? A diagnosis of cancer? A son's or daughter's addiction to drugs or alcohol? The death of a loved one? The destruction and losses that natural disasters leave behind? How does 'Do not be afraid' even begin to speak to the tragedies of war, famine and diseases throughout the world? The reason for this admonition is clear and simple: Believers should not live in fear or allow fear to stifle their spirit and down their hopes because through it all, and despite it

all, Emmanuel, God is with us. This assurance, spoken by Isaiah as a sign to Ahaz (First Reading), was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas, God-in-our-flesh, assures us that fear is not the critical or identifying mark of a Christian, rather at the heart of Christianity is God-with-us. Christmas does not automatically cast out fear, but gazing at the Christ Child in the manger, we see the divine becoming vulnerable-the antidote to fear lives. God-is-with-us!

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Canon Miall

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

The next parish Baptism preparation programme will be on Monday 30th January at 6:30p.m. Session 1.

Please note there will be No New Year's Eve Midnight Mass on New Year's Eve 31st December 2022. The Vigil Mass will be at 6pm.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available after every parish Mass. Simply ask a priest.

Parish Carol Service this Sunday 18th December at 5pm in the Church. All welcome.

The last day for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be Wednesday 14th December. Adoration will resume on Monday 9th January, after the Christmas break.

Divine Mercy Service will resume on Sunday 8th January 2023.

We welcome Oghenemine Natufe into the Community of Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism. Every Blessing to the family

Christmas Offerings By custom, the offertory collection at the Christmas Masses is the parishioners' gift to your priests. If you use the weekly gift aid envelopes, you will find a special envelope in your box for this purpose. If you gift aid by standing order only and wish to make a personal offering so that the tax can be reclaimed, please place your offering in a plain white envelope and put your name and gift aid number on it (if you know it). Thank you.

Congratulations and Blessings to KEERTHANA SOORIYAKUMAR and SELVANESAN VADIVELU who married in Our Lady and Saint George on Saturday last.

Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School

Deputy Headteacher Vacancy- Application forms can be downloaded from the school website at www.olsgschool.org/vacancies or requested from the school office. Completed CES applications should be sent by email to office@olsgschool.org or handed in to the school office.

Closing Date: 12 noon 16th January 2023, Shortlisting: 23rd January 2023, Formal Interviews: 3rd February 2023

Red Box Holders: If you have returned your red box with your money for counting...can you please collect your empty red box in the church porch

Our sincere condolences to the Whelan family on the death of their daughter Moyra, Rest in Peace. Please remember the Whelan family in your prayers



**Wishing You all and Your Family
The Peace and Joy of the Saviour's Birth.**

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

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| 06:00pm | Edward Fletcher (Joan) |
| Sun 18 December | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| 08:30 am | Kristina (Rest in Peace) (Elvyra) |
| 10:00am | Bernard Carey (Joan) |
| 12noon | Deceased Members (Rest in Peace) (Mr and Mrs Sivagunam) |
| Mon 19 December | FERIA |
| 09:15am | Grace Furtado (Rest in Peace) (Almeida) |
| 06:00pm | John Paul Ramsey's Intention (Betty) |
| Tue 20 December | FERIA |
| 09:15am | Deceased member of Almeida and D'Souza (Family) |
| 6:00pm | Shannon Ramsey's Intentions (Betty) |
| Wed 21 December | FERIA |
| 09:15am | Eric D'Souza (Rest in Peace) (Almeida) |
| 06:00 pm | Patrick and Katy Ramsey's Intentions (Betty) |
| Thu 22 December | FERIA |
| 09:15am | Mary Jaynes' Intentions (Mum) |
| 06:00pm | People of East Africa (Betty) |
| Fri 23 December | FERIA |
| 09:15 am | Carol Phillips (Rest in Peace) (Margaret) |
| 06:00pm | Fr. Kieran Dodd (Rest in Peace) (Pact) |
| Sat 24 December | FERIA |
| 10:00am | Kim-Chi-Henry (Rest in Peace) (Family) |
| 06:00pm | Sr. Mae Limoflimot (Rest in Peace) (Friends) |
| Midnight | Private Intention |
| Sun 25 December | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD |
| 08:30 am | Christiana Nantwi (Thanksgiving) (Christian) |
| 10:00am | Agnes Fadina (Rest in Peace) (Family) |
| 12noon | Thanksgiving (Jane) |

Prayer for Expected Mothers

Almighty and everlasting God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you prepared the body of the Virgin Mary to be a worthy dwelling place of your divine Son. We pray for all expectant mothers. Amen.