

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 in Ordinary Time (29/01/2023) (Double Edition)

Dear Parishioners,

Happiness in this life and the next is within reach of all, according to Jesus in today's Gospel. That sounds like news everyone wants to hear! Who does not want to be happy? But there is a snag and a paradox at the root of this because it sounds like a reversal of what is promoted and promised in our shopping centres, TV advertisements and in the culture generally. Jesus' recipe for happiness is most certainly counter-cultural.

Matthew's version of what is commonly known as the Beatitudes- the blessings attached to certain interior dispositions- comes within the context of Jesus' teaching during the Sermon on the Mount. Generally, one speaks of eight Beatitudes, but Matthew offers nine- eight addressed to the crowds gathered around Jesus, as he teaches on the mountain and one to his close disciples. Among his hearers are Jews who know the Hebrew Scriptures well and will be familiar with Jewish teaching on the Two Ways – the Way of Life and the Way of Death. They will make connections between the Wisdom literature, the Prophets (e.g., Prov 3:13; Sir 25:7-9; Isa 32:20) and what Jesus is saying now as he speaks of 'the kingdom of heaven' being realised in the here and now. The final beatitude is addressed, with singular pronoun 'you', to the inner circle of disciples who are already committed and paying the price by enduring persecution of one kind or another.

Considering the teaching in today's Gospel as a recipe for happiness in this world and the next is not wide of the mark, because the Greek word *makarios*, which means happiness, is the opening word used in each of the 'beatitudes' in the gospel text. Jesus is appealing to his audience to reflect on what happens to one's sense of spiritual wellbeing when one can rise above greed, above preoccupation with wealth, possessions, power, fame and self-interest. Generosity, humility, kindness, mercy, peace-making and endurance (characteristics of discipleship) bring their own rewards even in the here and now, but also in the life to come.

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 and Session 2 on the first Monday 6th of February. 6:30p.m.

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

A **Day of Reflection for Proclaimers of the Word** will be held in the parish hall on Saturday Morning 18th February 11am -1pm.

Could your New Year's resolution be to help build a better world through volunteering?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help develop our work in parishes or Catholic schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice throughout the diocese? Training and support are provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk

Blessed Palms If you wish to return your blessed palms please place them in the basket in the church porch. These will be burned to create the ash for Ash Wednesday 22nd February.

Dates for your Dairy

Thursday 2nd February is the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord.

Friday 3rd February is the Feast of Saint Blaise. Throats will be blessed at both Masses.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Fr. Cathal O’Gallachoir (Rest in Peace) (Bernadette)
Sun 29 January	Fourth Sunday in ordinary Time
08:30 am	Antonio Terenzio and Josephine Tonti (Rest in Peace) (Elizabeth)
10:00am	Carmel McInerney (Rest in Peace) (Bond)
12noon	Margaret Raffo (Amal)
Mon 30 January	FERIA
09:15am	Georgina Koduah (Rest in Peace) (Hospital Chaplaincy)
06:00pm	Finola Finn (Rest in Peace) (Pat and Mary Moss)
Tue 31 January	Saint John Bosco, Priest
09:15am	Gerry, Annamarie and Family (Mary O’Connor)
6:00pm	Tim Campbell (Rest in Peace) (Kristina)
Wed 1 February	FERIA
09:15am	McDonagh Family Intention (Mary O’Connor)
06:00 pm	Alan James Kennedy (Rest in Peace) (Angela)
Thu 2 February	The Presentation of the Lord
09:15am	Intentions (Elizabeth)
06:00pm	Fr. Michael’s Intention (Jane)
Fri 3 February	Saint Anne Line, Martyr
09:15 am	Drew Kimberlin (Rest in Peace) (Keane)
06:00pm	Fr. James McDermott (Rest in Peace) (Johanna)
Sat 4 February	FERIA
10:00am	Eileen and Patrick Fouhy (Rest in Peace) (Jeff)
06:00pm	Bernard Carey (Joan)
Sun 5 February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
08:30 am	Parishioners
10:00am	Carmel McInerney (Rest in Peace) (Monaghan)
12noon	Raouf Tobia (Amal)

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

Mon 6 February	Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
09:15am	Razil Tor (Rest in Peace) (Nelly and Cesar)
06:00pm	Intentions (Jeff)
Tue 7 February	FERIA
09:15am	George and Teodora Bartolo (Rest in Peace) (Elizabeth)
6:00pm	Francesco Mortali (Rest in Peace) (Janet)
Wed 8 February	FERIA
09:15am	Hughie Connors (Rest in Peace) (Mary)
06:00 pm	Elaine Francis (Rest in Peace) (Kristina)
Thu 9 February	FERIA
09:15am	Paddy Monaghan (rest in Peace) (Keane)
06:00pm	Mathew (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Fri 10 February	Saint Scholastica, Virgin
09:15 am	Parishioners
06:00pm	Muriel Chelty (Rest in Peace) (Kristina)
Sat 11 February	Our Lady of Lourdes, Principal Patroness of the Diocese
10:00am	Susan's Intentions (Kristina)
06:00pm	Intentions (Betty)
Sun 12 February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
08:30 am	Parishioners
10:00am	Maura Whelan (Rest in Peace) (Hodges)
12noon	Jacqueline Keavey (Rest in Peace) (Catherine)

Prayer List

Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris) Brid O Halloran, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Alma Willox, Liberee, Maria Green, Anne (Christina), Grace, Bridie Curley, Sharon Baker, Bridgit Morris, Mavis Hacker, Marjorie Singh, Pietro and Maria Marrai, Peggy McManus, Rosie Ebreo, Kathleen Lloyd, Johanna Whitley, Linda Campbell, Fr. Francis Coveney, Bridie Cronin, Baby Jimmy, Sierra Smucker-Halls (Carol), Maureen Newland (Carol), Anna (Gawlik), Theresa (Curley), Terry Wheeler, Pdraig Maloney, Pauline Brookman, Damon, Fatimata, Peter Norman