

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (05/02/2023)

(Racial Justice Sunday)

Dear Parishioners,

'You are the salt of the earth' (v.13a). 'You' sets the listeners apart from other people (scribes, Pharisees, etc.), who are not the salt of the earth.

Jesus doesn't say, 'You have within you the potential to become the salt of the earth. 'He says, 'You ARE the salt of the earth' – indicating that, by God's grace, the miracle of our transformation has already begun.

Salt has little influence while sitting in a saltshaker. However, it is of great value once it is mixed, in the right proportions, in our food. When it is sprinkled on food – or, better yet, cooked into food – it transforms the food. So also, Christians sitting alone in the comfort of their homes are unlikely to make much of a difference to the people outside their door – the people who need Christ. It is as we rub elbows with others, both Christians and non-Christians, that we have the opportunity to bring a Christ-like flavour to their lives.

People value salt. They use it not only for seasoning, but also as a preservative for food. Like eyeglasses, its usefulness exceeds its size. Salt is inexpensive but, if it were not, we would still require it – not only to enhance or to preserve food, but also to sustain life.

Salt then is perfect metaphor for the people of God:

- We have a responsibility to transform the environment in which we find ourselves, just as salt transforms food.
- We are often few in number, but it is no matter. Just as a few grains of salt can make a big difference in food, so also a few faithful Christians can make a big difference in the world.

Jesus warns us not to be complacent. If salt loses its taste, it becomes worthless. In Jesus' day, much salt was recovered from the Dead Sea and was adulterated with various substances. At some point, the adulteration could become so pronounced that people would discard the salt as worthless

Have a Blessed Week

Canon Miall

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

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.

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.

My Day by Day Booklet for the Season of Lent is now available in the Repository. It is a most helpful companion for Lent. The cost is £2. If you buy the Lenten and the Easter My day by Day booklet the cost is £3.

Please remember that if you need a Mass booked for a particular day and time you need to give at least 12 weeks notice. In fact there are Masses already being booked for 2024

There will be an appeal given at all the Masses on the weekend 24th and 25th of February in support of Aid to the Church in Need.

On Sunday next we welcome Samuel Isaac Foxton Todd and Jonathan Paul Michael Jude McDonagh into the Community of Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism. Blessings to both families.

During the Season of Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday after the 6pm Mass.

Please pray for the children who will make their first Reconciliation on Saturday 25th of February

“Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is inviting people from the night of March 31st 2023 (9pm) to the morning of April 1st (8:30am), to join this year's Sponsored Sleepout in one of our four locations; Colchester, Forest Gate, Romford and Southend. The sleepout will help to raise awareness and money to help our local homeless charities and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. All information can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/sleepout and to register please email sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org”

Embark on a Luxury, All-Inclusive Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 5th – 12th September 2023, with All Saints Travel Ltd and Fr John Moloney. Be face to face with the world of Jesus and His Gospel, lived out before your eyes. The beautiful, tried and tested 8-day itinerary promises to bring the faithful pilgrim an unforgettable and life-changing experience. This pilgrimage will include a non-stop return flight from the UK to Tel Aviv with Israel's national airline, EL AL (in-flight meals included), all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner every day), an executive touring coach, a professional local Christian guide, all entrance fees, all tips and gratuities (paid directly to the guide, driver and hotel staff), as well as luxurious 5* en-suite accommodation. You will stay at a 5-star hotel in Jerusalem for 4 nights and in a 5-star hotel set on the Sea of Galilee with stunning views and private beach access for 3 nights. Full details are online <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/HL0756/>.

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Maureen Hollebrand a former parishioner who died at Waltham Abbey

We also pray for the happy repose of the should of Stephen Lawrence Rest in Peace. The Requiem Mass for Stephen's soul will be on Friday 17th of February at our Lady and Saint George at 11:00am.

The Requiem Mass for Marie Seki Rest in Peace was in Our Lady and Saint George on Thursday last 2nd of February. May her soul Rest in Peace.

Next Sunday is the 10th anniversary of the death of Antonia Rossi, Rest in Peace.

Happy Birthday and Blessings to Jennifer Das and also Swan.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Bernard Carey (Joan)
Sun 5 February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
08:30 am	Parishioners
10:00am	Carmel McLnerney (Rest in Peace) (Monaghan)
12noon	Raouf Tobia (Amal)
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	John Mark Alvaro (Rest in Peace) (Teresita)
06:00pm	Muriel Chelty (Rest in Peace) (Kristina)
Sat 11 February	Our Lady of Lourdes, Principal Patroness of the Diocese
10:00am	Swan's Intentions (Kristina)
06:00pm	Intentions (Betty)
Sun 12 February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
08:30 am	Parishioners
10:00am	Moyra 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, 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, Sherry Family, Bridie Curley