

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

First Sunday of Lent (26/02/2023)

Dear Parishioners,

Today, at the beginning of her own 40 days of Lenten observance, the eyes of the whole Church are fixed on Jesus, tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Jesus is preparing himself for his active ministry, and ultimately for his sacrificial death on the Cross. And His Church is preparing herself once more to celebrate at Easter the saving ministry of her redemption. So, with Jesus, for 40 days, the whole Church now gives herself to fasting, to self-discipline, to spiritual exercise and to active works of charity. In the words of St. Benedict, she strives during these days to keep her manner of life most pure, and to wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times (HR 49).

It's both consoling and important for us to know that Jesus was tempted, and that he resisted his temptations.

Although free from sin, Jesus shared our human nature fully. Now, fasting in the desert, he is sharply confronted with the reality vulnerability of his human weakness. The devil, watching closely, sees his opportunity, and strikes. His aim, by any means at all, is to turn Jesus aside from his chosen pathway of humility and obedience; of suffering death and resurrection. Jesus sees, with clear open eyes, what following his pathway must cost him. He understands also his radical ability to avoid it. Yet, unlike Adam his ancestor, Jesus defeats

the tempter, and he does so as man, in a human way, using only the weapons that are at hand also for us.

Today the Church gravely warns us, and reminds us, that the devil exists, that he is our enemy, and that he does not sleep. On our own we are weak and liable to fall. But we are never alone. We stand in the power of the Holy Spirit, and of Jesus, who never ceases to feed us with his word, and with himself. And in any case of necessity, he will send his holy Angels to defend us, to care for all our needs, and to lead us, unfailingly, to our heavenly homeland.

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.

The **next Parish Baptism Preparation programme** will be on Monday 27th of February in the church at 6:30p.m. for Session one and the following Monday 6th of March again at 6:30p.m. for Session 2.

A thank you to all who attended the Proclaimers of the Word reflection on Saturday morning last weekend. A big thank you to Fr Michael for presenting the course which was most helpful to all. Copies of the practicalities are available in the porch. Any Proclaimer of the Word from this parish who did not attend the course must update themselves on what is required. Thank you to Cliff for providing the refreshments.

A spokesperson from **Aid to the Church in Need** will visit the parish on this weekend 25th and 26th of February and make an appeal to support this great charity in their work.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday of Lent immediately after the 6p.m. Mass.

40 hours Adoration Commencing with the Holy Mass at 6:00pm on Thursday 23rd March and finish with Hoy Mass on Saturday 25th March at 10:00am.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 9th - 16th May 2023 costing £697 per person HB including flights. To be led by Fr Gerald Ezekwere. For more details please contact All Saints Travel on Tel. 01793 881166 or Sheila Moran 07973240748. To book online, please follow this link <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ0786>

Christian Kitchen This charity does wonderful work in the Borough of Waltham Forest for the homeless , 365 nights of the year.. Catholics are playing their part in supporting this great work . Should anyone wish to help please contact Paul Dowling. Paul over 15 years has been a driving force in supporting Christian Kitchen. Quietly and with no fuss he has been very dedicated. God bless you Paul.

Screening of The Letter Join us to watch The Letter, a new documentary about how spiritual values unite us in the face of the planetary emergency. After we watch the film, we'll discuss what we can do to join the movement of people who are building a better future. It takes place on Saturday 4th March -. doors open at 2 pm for refreshment and will finish at 5 pm – venue: Christ the King Church Hall, 455, Chingford Rd., E4 8SP – transport: from Walthamstow Central station: 97, 215, 357; from Blackhorse Rd station and St James Street station 158, W11. If you need to travel by car do think of sharing it. Parking available. Contact Chris (Sr) on 020 8521 0231 or Christ the King Parish Office: 020 8527 3087 or look at your church's website.

Job Vacancy: Walsingham House at Abbotswick are seeking to appoint a new Retreat Manager. If you have experience and a passion for Youth Ministry, and would like to help shape the retreat work of Walsingham House at Abbotswick then please see the website for more information (www.bcys.net/retreat-manager/) or email Claire Bailey, Director of Youth Ministry (clairebailey@dioceseofbrentwood.org) Closing date for applications is Monday 13th March 2023.

Bingo Night - Friday 10th March Our Lady and St George's primary school and HCPT group 161 are holding a bingo night fundraiser on the 10th March in the upper site school hall from 7pm. See Danielle or Peter for details.

A **pre marriage course** for couples planning to marry in the next 12 months will take place on Wednesday 29th March and Thursday 30th March. The course will begin at 7:30pm in the parish hall.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	John Elms (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Sun 26 February	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
08:30 am	Caroline Sherry-King (Rest in Peace) (Seamus and Evelyn)
10:00am	Marie Hodge (Rest in Peace) (Family)
12noon	Emeel Raouf Tobia (Amal)
Mon 27 February	Lenten Weekday
09:15am	Finola Finn (Rest in Peace) (Keane)
06:00pm	Thanksgiving (Mathew)
Tue 28 February	Lenten Weekday
09:15am	Padraig Maloney's Intentions (David Moss)
6:00pm	Fr. Jeba Marshall's Intentions (Kristina)
Wed 1 March	Saint David, Bishop, Patron of Wales
09:15am	Finola Finn (Rest in Peace) (O'Halloran)
06:00 pm	Betty and Ram Ramsey (Rest in Peace) (Patrick)
Thu 2 March	Lenten Weekday
09:15am	Parishioners
06:00pm	Michael Martin (Rest in Peace) (Christopher)
Fri 3 March	Lenten Weekday
09:15 am	Tim Sheehan (Rest in Peace) (Keane)
06:00pm	Mc Cann Family Intentions (Mary)
Sat 4 March	Lenten Weekday
10:00am	Judith Hilton (Rest in Peace)
06:00pm	Nora and Richard Keane (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Sun 5 March	Second Sunday of Lent
08:30 am	Joyce Fernandes and Family (Family)
10:00am	Therese Coleman (Rest in Peace) (Margaret)
12noon	Ekbal Raouf Tobia (Amal)

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, Padraic Maloney, Pauline Brookman, Damon, Fatimata, Sherry Family, Bridie Curley, Jason Leonard Hamilton Barber (Tracy)