

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

Reading 1 Exodus 17:3-7. 2nd Reading Romans 5:1-2 and 5-8

Gospel: Saint John: 4:5-42

Response to the Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice

Third Sunday of Lent (12/03/2023)

Dear Parishioners,

The word of God is written on two levels: the spiritual and the human, the spiritual sense, and the literal sense. The listener must search for the spiritual- deeper meaning of a scripture passage. Basic questions to ask: When was it written? Who wrote it? For whom did he write it? Why did he write it? What was the culture and historical situation? What is the deeper, spiritual meaning of today's Gospel? The Jews and Samaritans were archenemies. The Jews treated them as an inferior race. Women did not count in that culture. A woman could not speak to a man in public. Much like today in some countries. John wrote today's Gospel about 60 years after Jesus. He, more than the other three, is very, very deep. He writes in symbolic language. Instead of miracles, he talks about symbols. A symbol contains what it symbolizes. So, the homilist must dig deep! Jesus was a radical teacher. He ruthlessly demolished Jewish customs, laws, and traditions that were at odds with his teaching. Tired and thirsty he sits by a well. A Samaritan woman shows up alone with her bucket. This tells us something about her because women in that culture came in groups to the well. She must have been shunned by

her neighbours perhaps for her lifestyle. Jesus initiated the conversation and risks the anger of the Jews. Loved, accepted, respected, and appreciated for who she is, for the first time, she has a conversion experience. She did nothing to earn or merit Jesus' unconditional love. Nor can we. No condemnation for her lifestyle and no penance! Forgiveness is pure gift. Changed from sinner to missionary, she runs, without the bucket, to share her joy and new life. No teaching. No preaching. She simply relates her encounter with Jesus. The hostile Samaritans believed her and hastened to Jesus. 'Being a Christian' writes Pope Benedict, 'is not the result of an ethical choice, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.'

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 next Parish Baptism Preparation programme will be on Monday 27th of March in the church at 6:30p.m. for Session 1. Session 2 is on the following Monday 3rd April.

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 Holy Mass on Saturday 25th March at 10:00am.

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.

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 contract All Saints Travel on Tel. 01793 881166 or Sheila Moran 07973240748. To book online, please follow this link

<https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ0786>

Birthday blessings to Ina and Rocky

Caritas Social Action Network, In partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, is matching Ukrainian people displaced by war with people in the Catholic community, willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and heart to consider welcoming a stranger, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

GIDEA PARK TALK ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST: On Wednesday 22nd March at 7 pm in the church hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and Member of the Pope's Biblical Commission, will speak about the Eucharist. The talk, entitled Do this in memory of me, will examine the New Testament material, and trace the understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including the latest teaching of Pope Francis. This talk is in person, and can also be followed live stream by going to www.whatgoodnews.org

HCPT Group 161 - The return! I am very pleased to announce that our very own HCPT group 161 will be returning to Lourdes this coming Easter. After 3 years absence due to the pandemic we finally get to return to the Shrine of Our Lady, on Pilgrimage, with children from our own and the wider Catholic community. Next weekend (Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th March, we will be having a retiring collection and parish appeal to support the group and its work. To give thanks for our return and to renew our commitment to the HCPT Charity, at the 12 noon Mass, Father Michael will commission and bless group 161 helpers. Thanks so very much for your continuing support. Peter Norman

Our Lady and St George SVP Conference-Walthamstow - SVP Listening Hub commencing on Tuesday 7 March 2023, thereafter the first Tuesday of every month. Parishioners and the wider community can drop-in for friendly chats and coffee, find out about volunteering with the SVP. Needy Families can access information and support with every-day issues. Also, collect donated food and other items managed by Br Paul Dowling. Please contact the Secretary Joan Nicholson for more information mobile 07436 583 288.

Bible Study: We will be restarting "reflecting" on the Sunday Scripture readings on Monday 6th March in the day Chapel at 8pm. The purpose of the group is to look, discern and pray on scripture reading then go out and live it! To prepare space and resources we would like to know if you will be interested you do not have to come regularly just when you are able. Please talk to Cliff in church porch after Sunday masses.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Intentions (Kristina)
Sun 12 March	Third Sunday of Lent
08:30 am	Michael Cosgrove
10:00am	Patrick Monaghan (Rest in Peace) (Mary and Joe Bond)
12noon	Rodgen Gomez (Rest in Peace) (Teresita)
Mon 13 March	Lenten Weekday
09:15am	Brendan and Bernard Murphy (Rest in Peace) (Anne)
06:00pm	Joan Elizabeth Mary Chase-Currier (Rest in Peace) (Christopher)
Tue 14 March	Lenten Weekday
09:15am	Parishioners
6:00pm	Thi Ngan Pham (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Wed 15 March	Lenten Weekday
09:15am	Intentions (Mary Murphy)
06:00 pm	Judith Hilton (Rest in Peace)
Thu 16 March	Lenten Weekday
09:15am	Jimmy O'Toole (Rest in Peace) (Connolly)
06:00pm	Thanksgiving (Mary Murphy)
Fri 17 March	Saint Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland
09:15 am	Ram and Betty Ramsey (Rest in Peace) (Patrick)
06:00pm	Paddy Webster (Rest in Peace) (Connolly)
Sat 18 March	Lenten Weekday
10:00am	Jimmy O'Toole (Rest in Peace) (Connolly)
06:00pm	Bernard and Sheila Moss (Rest in Peace) (Family)
Sun 19 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent
08:30 am	Catherine Murnane (Rest in Peace) (Family)
10:00am	Madeleine Melling (Rest in Peace) (Joe and Mary Bond)
12noon	Stephanie Yamson's Intentions (Family)

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, Pdraic Maloney , Pauline Brookman, Damon, Fatimata, Sherry Family, Bridie Curley, Jason Leonard Hamilton Barber (Tracy), Cyril and Rose Ogidi, Barry and Sheila Mayo