

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 Acts 1:1-11

**Response to the Psalm: The Lord goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blasts.**

2nd Reading Eph 1:17-13

Gospel: Mt 28:16-20

Seventh Sunday of Easter

(World Communication Day)

Three little words make all the difference. Not the usual 'I-Love-you' trinity, or even the ubiquitous LOL ('Laughing Out loud') acronym, but a three-word phrase in the Gospel attracts me. Last Thursday's account of the Ascension of Jesus includes an unexpected addition. We are told that the eleven fell down before their saviour-'though some hesitated'. Did they really? After all they had been through together?

The Ascension took place after that whole episode with Thomas, where he first professed unbelief, then got to put his fingers and hands into the Lord's side and finally showed total faith. This was after the breakfast by the lakeshore, after Peter's swim, where those closest to Jesus got the experience the fullness of the Risen Lord in total humanity, eating with them. This was after the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the Lord revealed himself in the breaking of bread. Doubtless news of these incidents reached the eleven disciples: what else was there to talk about for them but the wonder of the resurrection?

And yet they were unconvinced: some hesitated. This could be an occasion of disillusionment- but instead this gives me hope. If even in the first eleven,

there were some who held back, occasional lapses in faith seem possible, understandable, excusable even.

The best news is that their hesitancy doesn't disqualify the disciples from the mission to spread the Good News everywhere, baptising all. Jesus sets a low bar for his missionary disciples: all they have to do is turn up, and be willing to take on the mission.

This message comes to us also. When we feel we can't pledge undying loyalty or total commitment, when in our own way we hesitate, we have a Saviour who understands- he has seen it all before, even in the first eleven. The mission is still given to us who have turned up to worship: we are to pass on what we have learned. Even on those days when our enthusiasm is short of what might be expected, we can be effective. Once we turn up.....

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 29th of May 6:30 pm in the Church. Session 1. Session 2 on June 5th.

Mass for Altar Servers of the Diocese of Brentwood celebrated by Bishop Alan Williams will take place in the cathedral, Brentwood on Saturday 10th of June at 2p.m. Please see poster on the church notice board in church porch.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 27th May 2023: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House.

Please **print** your name on the list in the church porch. Return journey cost £26/-.

Gift Aid Queries and Requests If you have any query regarding Gift Aid (e.g. missing donor box, advise Finance of a change in your personal details or tax situation, or if you want to join the Gift Aid scheme either through the use of weekly boxes, online donation or standing order), please fill up one of the forms available in the church foyer and hand it directly to one of the priests or drop it in the presbytery mail box. You can also email your request or query to Armie directly, the parish Gift Aid Coordinator, at walthamstowol&stg@dioceseofbrentwood.org Thank you.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE EASTER TALKS will explore what it means to have an intimate friendship with Christ. They will take place on Wednesdays 10th, 17th and 24th of May at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1NS from 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. The first talk, "Calling on the name of Jesus," will be given by Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral. All very welcome.

A big thank you to Louella and all who helped in any way with the May Procession in Honour of Our Lady. It was lovely to see so many parishioners and visitors attending the joyful liturgy. A special mention to the children from Our Lady and Saint George School for their beautiful rendition of Ave Maria and also the recitation of the Rosary in 5 languages.

Foundation Governors required for Our Lady and St George's Primary School
Would you be interested in shaping and supporting our school to give the best Catholic education to our children?

If so, why not apply to become a school governor. School Governors support the school's leadership team to make improvements and ensure we are operating fully in line with our Catholic life and Mission.

If you have a background in business, finance or buildings management we would love to hear from you. For further information please contact the school on 02085208500 or email office@olsgschool.org or speak to Canon Niall or Fr Michael.

THE RAFFLE PRIZE COLLECTION AND WINNERS

Collection: Sunday 28 May 2023 after each Mass.

Winners: The list of the winners will be displayed on the notice board in the Church foyer from Sunday 21 May 2023. Donations: Are still welcomed if you wish to support the fundraising effort for the Heart and Cancer Centres for Barts Health NHS Trust as part of "Barts 900 Campaign". THANK YOU again for your heartfelt support and generosity. Hazel Belizaire 07813 644431

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00pm	Carol Williams (Rest in Peace) (Geraldine)
Sun 21 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter
08:30 am	Thanksgiving (Milburn Fernandes)
10:00am	Veronica Brennan (Rest in Peace) (Joanne)
12noon	Ram and Betty Ramsey (Patrick and Katy)
Mon 22 May	FERIA
09:15am	Richard Balfe (Rest in Peace) (Family)
06:00pm	Mary Joseph (Rest in Peace) (Roy)
Tue 23 May	FERIA
09:15am	Parishioners
6:00pm	Ram and Betty Ramsey (Patrick and Katy)
Wed 24 May	FERIA
09:15am	Packie Joe Keenan (Rest in Peace) (Maloney)
06:00 pm	Special Intentions (Burns)
Thu 25 May	Saint Bede the Venerable, Pr. D
09:15am	Muriel Storr (Rest in Peace) (Paciencia)
06:00pm	Intentions of Patrick and Katy Ramsey (Family)
Fri 26 May	Saint Phillip Neri, Pr
09:15 am	Sr. Bernadatte's Intentions (Sr. Ann Marie)
06:00pm	Sr. Brendan's Intentions (Sr. Ann Marie)
Sat 27 May	Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bp
10:00am	Bob and Ruby Sibley (Doren)
06:00pm	Prayer Circle (Sr. Ann Marie)
Sun 28 May	Pentecost Sunday
08:30 am	Those Sitting Exams
10:00am	Damon O'Donovan's Intentions
12noon	Phil Kelly (Rest in Peace) (Neville 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, John Joseph (Mary), Ambrose and Felistas