

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

1st Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17

Response to the Psalm: You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2: 13-25

Third Sunday of Lent (03/03/2024)

In order to understand today's Gospel passage, we need to stress an important detail. The merchants were in the courtyard of the pagans, the place accessible to non-Jews. This very courtyard had been turned into a market. But God wants his temple to be a house of prayer for all peoples (cf. Is 56,7). Hence Jesus' decision to overturn the tables of the money changers and drive out the animals. This purification of the sanctuary was necessary for Israel to rediscover its vocation: to be light for all people, a small nation chosen to serve to the salvation that God wants to give to everyone.

There is no human heart in which Christ does not want to be and cannot be reborn. In our lives as sinners, we often turn away from the Lord and extinguish the Spirit. We destroy the temple of God that is in each of us. Yet this is never a definitive situation: it takes the Lord three days to rebuild his temple within us!

No one, no matter how wounded by evil, is condemned to be separated from God on this earth forever. In a way that is often mysterious but

real, the Lord opens new cracks in our hearts, the desire for truth, goodness and beauty, which make room for evangelisation. We may sometimes encounter mistrust and hostility: but we must not allow ourselves to be blocked, rather to be hold onto the belief that it takes God three days to raise. His Son in someone's heart. It is also the story of some of us: profound conversions resulting from the unpredictable action of grace! I think of Second Vatican Council: 'Christ has died for all and since the ultimate vocation of humanity is in fact one, the divine one; therefore we must believe that the Holy Spirit in a manner known only to God offers to everyone the possibility of being associated with the Easter mystery, (Cost. Past. *Gaudium et spes*, 22)

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 Baptism preparation course** will be on Monday 25th March at 6:30p.m. in the church for Session 1.

The **monthly Mass for the Tamil Community** is on the third Sunday of each month at 5pm in Our lady and St George Church.

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

Syro-Malabar Station of the Cross every Friday of lent at 5pm.

All Mass intentions are booked up until mid April.

Volunteer at the St John Bosco Children's Camp; from 27th July – 3rd August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, and now is the time to apply. Details: www.boscocamp.co.uk

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR LENT

Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'. The commentaries are also available in book form from Darton, Longman and Todd www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk

L3 CHILDCARE PRACTITIONER NEEDED

Marian Mission Pre-School is urgently looking to recruit a qualified and experienced Early Years Practitioner to work with our team. Applicant Must possess Level 3 or above and Must have 2 years min experience within a Pre-school setting. support the Marian Mission Disadvantaged Children Centre. Contact Mother Maria on 07940143545/ 02085187499

Friday 15th March 10am after morning mass students from Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form will do The Stations of the Cross, based on World Youth Day stations. This is an open invitation to the parish community to come and be involved with what our schools do to develop their faith journey and hopefully ours, During this time of our Lenten preparation.

The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre are recruiting a couple/two adults to support the nine elderly sisters who live in the main house. The role is residential in a two bedroom bungalow, adjacent to the main home in Colchester. Precise role, and salary are dependent on the skills of the successful applicants. For further information please contact: crssuk@canonesses.co.uk.

40 hours Adoration. The annual parish 40 hours Adoration will begin on Thursday March 22nd, after 6:00pm Mass to Saturday March 24th 9:45am followed by the Holy Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with Jesus, as we prepare for Holy Week. Please sign up for the hours you are able to attend. "Can you not spend one hour with me" Please sign/print your name for the hour(s) you wish to participate.

Mass times and intentions at Our Lady and St. George

06:00 pm	Richard and Nora Keane (Keane)
Sun 3 March	Third Sunday of the Lent
08:30 am	Special Intentions (Milbury Fernandes)
10:00 am	Simon and Robin (Rest in Peace) (Family)
12noon	Bridie Cronin's Intentions (Family)
Mon 4 March	Monday of the Third Week of Lent
09:15 am	Thanksgiving (Mary Murphy)
06:00 pm	Thomas Daly (Rest in Peace) (Sr. Anne Marie)
Tue 5 March	Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent
09:15am	Thanksgiving (Diana Brown)
06:00 pm	Josephine Jeapes (Rest in Peace) (Coldrick Family)
Wed 6 March	Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent
09:15 am	Tina Horn (Rest in Peace)
06:00 pm	Parishioners
Thu 7 March	Thursday of the Third Week of Lent
09:15 am	Rose Maslen (Rest in Peace) (Family)
06:00 pm	Sister Agatha's Intention (Sr. Anne Marie)
Fri 8 March	Friday of the Third Week of Lent
09:15 am	Grace McCaley (Rest in Peace) (Liberee)
06:00 pm	Sister Christine's Intention (Sr. Anne Marie)
Sat 9 March	Saturday of the Third Week of Lent
10:00 am	O'Connor Family Intentions (Mary and Jim)
06:00 pm	Intentions (Christopher Chase Carrier)
Sun 10 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent
08:30 am	All Prisoners of Conscience (Marta)
10:00 am	Newman Family Intentions (Sean)
12noon	Patrick, Roseanne O'Connor Intentions (Mary and Jim)

Prayer List

Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris) Brid O Halloran, Josephine Walsh (Paul), Liberee, Anne (Christina), Bridie Curley, Sharon Baker, Bridgit Morris, Mavis Hacker, Marjorie Singh, Pietro and Maria Marrai, Rosie Ebreo, Kathleen Lloyd, Linda Campbell, Bridie Cronin, Baby Jimmy, Sierra Smucker-Halls (Carol), Maureen Newland (Carol), Anna (Gawlik), Theresa (Curley), Terry Wheeler, Padraic Maloney, Damon, Bridie Curley, Jason Leonard Hamilton Barber (Tracy), Cyril and Rose Ogidi, Barry and Sheila Mayo, John Joseph (Mary), Ambrose and Felistas and family, Margaret Phillips, Margaret and Norris Levine, Dr. Michael Weston, Chris Cullen, Kim Ahn and family, Bruce Pereira, Nigel Smith