

Catholic Parish of Our Lady and St George

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Canon Niall Harrington; Fr Shajin Jose Antony

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

Second Sunday of Advent- Peace Year A

First reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

Second reading Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Keep on repenting

The Greek for 'repent' (metanoeo) means, 'to change one's mind.' However, given Matthew's emphasis on 'bearing fruit,' his idea of 'repentance' probably goes back to the Hebrew shuv — 'to change one's ways.' It involves more than just thinking in a different way. The word 'Repent' is really a command, and is in the present tense, which denotes continual or repeated actions, i.e., 'Keep on repenting!'

In repenting we ask the God, who has turned towards us, buried us in baptism and raised us to new life, to continue his work of putting us to death. In other words, to repent is to volunteer and ask that the 'death of self' which God began to work in us in baptism continue to this day. The repentant person comes before God saying, 'I can't do it myself, God. Let me die to self so that you can give me new life. You buried me in baptism. Bury me again today. Raise me to a new like.' That is the language of

repentance. Repentance is a daily experience that renews our baptism. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand What should be our response to the coming of heaven? Should it be worship, praise and giving thanks? Ironically, those are good responses, but in Matthew's gospel, not the ideal ones. Jesus never reprimands people for failing to worship or give thanks in this gospel compare Luke *7:17-18), but he does rebuke those who have witnessed his mighty works and not repented (11:20-24). For Matthew, the ideal response seems to be repentance. We know from Jesus' teaching in Matthew that people can worship God with their lips even when their deeds demonstrate that their hearts are far from God (15 3-9). Thus, the responsive worship of the crowds in 9.8and 5:31 is commendable but will be in vain if performed with unrepentant hearts. It is Matthew's warning to the overtly religious of his day, the Pharisees and Sadducees and perhaps to us in this season of Advent it is good to want to celebrate and praise, but make your priority repentance. Let the coming one change our lives.

Have a Blessed Week

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

The next Parish Baptism Preparation Course will be Monday 26th January at 6:30 p.m. session 1 2026 and session 2 on Monday 2nd February 2026

Parish Advent Carol Service will be on Sunday 21st December at 5pm ALL ARE WELCOME

Adoration: The last day for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be Wednesday 17th December, 2025. Adoration will resume on Monday 5th January, 2026.

We wish all our Adorers a Joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch will be on Sunday 7th December 2025 from 2.30pm - 5pm. In the lower site of Our Lady and St George's School entrance at the back of the church car park. There are a few places left.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2025/26 packed full of information Catholic Fellowship Disability Network, Diocesan Clergy Jubilee 2026, Statistics for 2024. Schools in Diocese and much more. Price £3.20. Available from the repository

Reverse Advent Calendar see poster on Noticeboard you can decide what donations you can make towards helping families in need, in our Parish. Closing date for returning donations is Sunday 21st December.

Repository has many Religious themed Christmas cards and many other items suitable for Christmas.

The Parish finance statement April 2024 to April 2025 is available in the church porch.

Card Reader if you wish to make payments by card with the machine at the back of the church for votive candles, the minimum payment is £1.

If you wish to increase your standing orders to the parish, please collect a leaflet in the Church porch

Fr Shinto moved to Cambridge last Sunday afternoon. We wish him many Graces and Blessings.

We look forward to Fr, Shinto's replacement Fr. Robin when he arrives.

We welcome Edgar Austin Allman and Alfred Patrick Kelly Allman into the community of Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism. Blessings to the family.

Note: The 4th Sunday of Advent is a day of special prayers for all expectant Mothers, please introduce yourself to a priest before Mass for a maternal blessing

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Violet Anderson, Rest in Peace. The Requiem Mass for Violet's soul will be on Monday 8th December 11:30 am here in Our Lady and Saint George.

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Bridie Curley who has died in Kiltullagh County Galway. Condolences to the Curley family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, Bishop Emeritus of Brentwood Diocese, who died peacefully at his home in Stock on Monday 24th November May he rest in peace. His requiem mass will be at the Cathedral Tuesday 16th December at 11.30am.



Linda Campbell

Mass Times and Intentions at Our and St. George

Please note: If you want to book a Mass for a particular day and time you need to give 8 weeks' notice

Mon 8 December	The immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
09:15 am	Eileen Nulty (Rest in Peace) (Maloney)
06:00 pm	Nelly Tec (Rest in Peace) (Vhee)

Tue 9 December	Tuesday of the Second week of Advent	
09:15 am	Eileen Nulty (Rest in Peace) (Moss)	
06.00 pm	Anna Fedorak (Rest in Peace) (Nestor)	
Wed 10 December	Wednesday of the Second week of Advent	
09:15 am	Padraig Stephenson (Rest in Peace) (Moss)	
06:00 pm	Intentions (Christopher)	
Thur 11 December	Thursday of the Second week of Advent	
09:15 am	David Woodward (Rest in Peace) (Kevin and Brendon)	
06:00 pm	Thanksgiving (Christopher)	
Fri 12 December	Friday of the Second week of Advent	
09:15 am	Special Intention	
06:00 pm	Intentions (Christopher)	
Sat 13 December	Saint Lucy	
10:00 am	Intentions of Thomas Family (Ursula)	
06:00 pm	Edward Fletcher (Joan)	
Sun 14 December	Third Sunday of Advent	
08:30 am	Thanksgiving (Christopher)	
10:00 am	Anthony Yamson's Intention (Sylvia)	
12 noon	Roger O'Kelly (Rest in Peace) (Geraldine)	

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve
6 PM 8 PM No Midnight Mass
Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day
8.30 AM 10.00 AM 12.00 Noon
Friday 26th December – Saint Stephen's Day
10 AM 6 PM

Prayer List

Richard and Christine Martin, Michael Gaffney, Hilda Collett (Chris), Josephine Walsh (Paul), Liberee, Anne (Christina), 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), Anna (Gawlik), Theresa (Curley), Terry Wheeler, Padraic Maloney , Damon, Bridie Curley, Cyril and Rose Ogidi, Barry and Sheila Mayo, John Joseph (Mary), Margaret Phillips, Margaret and Norris Levine, Dr. Michael Weston, Bruce Pereira, Nigel Smith, Mary Murphy, Phyllis Beer, Chirs Cullen, Mrs Best, Michael Brown, Anne Close, Robinson, Frieda, Fr. Jose, Melissa Isaac and Mum, Moreena Blackwood, Mick Curley (Christina), William Nkyi-Acheampong. Marie Rachelle Bell Bower, Ermin Elizabeth Bryce, Doreen Palmer. Peter Willshire, Mary O'Sullivan, All expectant mothers.