

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

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) – Joy

YEAR A

First reading Isaiah 11:1-10

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

Second reading Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Joy and encouragement

The common theme running through today's readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings stress the need for patience in those awaiting the rebirth of Jesus in their hearts and lives. They give us a message of hope - for people almost three millennia ago, for people at the beginning of the first millennium and for people today. Today is called Gaudete Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: 'Gaudete in Domino semper,' i.e., 'Rejoice in the Lord always'. Today, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior, we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments. Besides, this joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is 'rose coloured', and the 'rose coloured' vestments are often used at the Eucharist, because they represent a lightening of the dark

violet of the rest of the penitential season of Advent. They remind us of the color of the sky at the very brink of morning, when the sun is just beginning to come up. The horizon takes on a pale rose colour that gradually gets redder and brighter as the sun rises. For faithful Christians, life is like a 'long sunrise', and death is the entrance into the bright, 'everlasting day' of eternal life.

We, too, should be encouraged by today's readings. They remind us that our lives can also be transformed, if we are patient and place our trust in God. The message of Advent is that God is present among us, in our everyday lives. We must prepare our hearts to recognise and welcome Him. 'If a man is the center of his [own] life, everyone around him becomes hell for him because everyone around him interferes with him and obstructs what he wants to do' (jean Paul Sartre). Let us believe in our hearts the Gospel message about Jesus given by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Will we allow the Holy Spirit, through these Gospel reports, to create a metanoia (a change of thinking about God, ourselves, and the world) in us during Advent?

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.

Urgent Appeal: we have been contacted by Refuge UK requesting help for clothes

2 girls winter coats 14-15 yrs

1 girls winter coat 11-12 yrs

1 boy winter coat 8-9 yrs

Any children's clothes from 4 to 14 years

3 bottoms Women's size small

3 winter tops Women's size medium

Only good quality or new please. These **must** be handed to Cliff D'Souza after Sunday Masses or at weekday evening Masses. And **not** left in church porch

Jamaican Hurricane Melissa Appeal

Fundraiser will be held in parish hall on 3rd January 2026 at 7pm. Event is coordinated by Hazel Belizaire. Flyer enclosed and also see poster on noticeboard for FULL details.

To minimize our overheads, we are looking for donations of drinks (alcohol and soft) unwanted white dinner plates, side plates, white bowls, wine glasses and cutlery.

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.

We welcome Kylian Josephus Julian John 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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, Bishop Emeritus of Brentwood Diocese. May he rest in peace. His Requiem Mass will be at the Cathedral Tuesday 16th December at 11.30am. It will be live streamed see link below

<https://www.shealolin.co.uk/bishop-thomas>

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 15 December	Monday of the Third week of Advent	
09:15 am	Carol Phillips (Rest in Peace) (Margaret)	
06:00 pm	Intentions (Christopher)	
Tue 16 December	Tuesday of the Third week of Advent	
09:15 am	Thanksgiving (Christopher)	
06:00 pm	Vilma Pahinag (Rest in Peace) (Helen and Mary Jane)	
Wed 17 December	Wednesday of the Third week of Advent	
09:15 am	Hilda D'Souza (Rest in Peace) (Olga and Victor)	
06:00 pm	Kathleen Lloyd (Rest in Peace) (Christopher)	
Thur 18 December	Thursday of the Third week of Advent	
09:15 am	Holy Souls	
06:00 pm	Rose Mary Borg (Rest in Peace) (Christopher)	

Fri 19 December	Friday of the Third week of Advent	
09:15 am	Padraig Stephenson (Rest in Peace) (Maloney)	
06:00 pm	Intentions (Christopher)	
Sat 20 December	Saturday of the Third week of Advent	
10:00 am	Fr. Michael's Intentions (Nestor)	
06:00 pm	David John (Rest in Peace) (Len Finney)	
Sun 21 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
08:30 am	Intentions of Norah, Trish and Maureen	
10:00 am	Marie Therese Green and Family (Rest in Peace) (Doreen)	
12 noon	Geff's Intentions (Sylvia)	
Mon 22 December	Late Advent Weekday	
09:15 am	Mary Ward (Rest in Peace) (Carol Halls)	
06:00 pm	Thanksgiving (Christopher)	
Tue 23 December	Saint John of Kanty, Priest	
09:15 am	Intentions (Christopher)	
06:00 pm	Intentions (Christopher)	

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6 PM Intentions (Christopher)

8 PM Parishioners

No Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.30 AM Thanksgiving (Christopher)

10.00 AM Private Intentions

12.00 Noon Peace in the World

Friday 26th December – Saint Stephen's Day

10 AM Intentions (Marashi)

6 PM Thanksgiving (Matthew)

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