



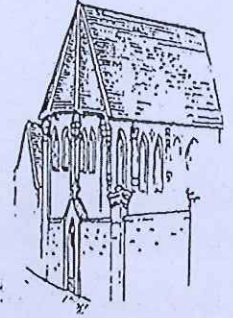
# The Catholic Parish of Manor Park St. Stephen & St. Nicholas

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## 6th Sunday of the Year (A) 12 February 2017

From Fr. Sean,

Some years ago I was alarmed by the coverage meted out to refugees by some sections of the media, who, when challenged, had no direct experience of meeting vulnerable and desperate people but were quite happy to whip up a storm of disapproval. It may appear strange that those who speak out loudest against refugees tend to live in places with small numbers or who have been migrants themselves. The former situation reflects a natural fear born of ignorance: the latter perhaps suggests a frailty beneath their hard-won apparent stability. Politicians who have the difficult task of addressing refugee crises when they arise are fond of pointing to a proud record in this country of the generous reception of people fleeing persecution and poverty. The only problem is that this was in the past and was often subject to the same complaints and lame excuses familiar today. The negative portrayal of such people contributes to a shift in the culture with a consequential negative effect on how the government is able to respond. How much more is this so in our current age where more and more countries are turning a blind eye to the sufferings of the poor and seeking protection for their own. So, not surprisingly, our government has disgracefully prematurely ended the welcome for unaccompanied refugee children it was eventually persuaded to agree to last summer. Now, instead of meeting the expected target of 3,000, just 350 vulnerable children will be accepted. The government's excuses of lack of funds and the so called pull factor for this about-face are lamentable, and demonstrate a bureaucratic lack of compassion that panders to the current climate of fear and division. This is the opportunity we have been given to show that this is not who we are.

Services for the week beginning 12 February 2017

*Morning Prayer of the Church is prayed  
Monday - Friday at 9.00am in the Lady Chapel.*

Sat 11	6.00pm	Mary Connaghan RIP (A)
Sun 12	9.00am 11.00am	Roque & Maria Dias RIP People of the Parish
Mon 13	9.15am	Joaquim & Maria Monteiro RIP (A)
Tues 14	9.15am	Fr. Isadore (Intentions)
Wed 15	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Thurs 16	9.15am 9.45am	Patsy Smith RIP Adoration
Fri 17	9.15am	John Quilligan RIP
Sat 18	5.15pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mary Finan RIP
Sun 19	9.00am 11.00am	Tunde Awolesi (Intentions) People of the Parish

**Tuesday is the European feast of SS. Cyril, monk & Methodius, bishop, patrons of Europe**

### Parish Diary

Mon	Confirmation registration	4.00pm	Parish Office
Tues	Prayer Group	9.45am	Community Room

### Please pray for those who are sick:

Masaldo Merry, Margaret Connolly, Norah Crow,  
Peggy Campbell, Denzil Lang, Clare O'Toole,  
John Oruche, Patrick Berton, Alvina Telles,  
Jude Telles, Christine Jones, & Christine Kristen.

**Thank you for your generous offerings  
5 February: £1,275.34**

## Rotas for weekend 18/19 February

	Readers	Eucharist	Children's Liturgy
6.00pm 9.00am	Jacqueline George, Sarah Brant Anusha, Tunde Awolesi	Deirdre Finan, Lesley Thomas, Christine Malone Mary Jane Ememe, Maria Emilion, Hazel Ringrow, Vida Wills, Patricia D'Monte	Noytoya, Elaine, & Helpers
11.00am	Ken Peters, Sr. Dorothy	Galvin Gabriel, Rowland Okereke, Bridget Okereke, Charlotte Doe, Caroline Alfred	

**Journey of Faith.** We take a break this week and will resume on Thursday 23 February at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

**Confirmation 2017.** Young people, together with parents, are invited to sign up to register for this year's programme, in the porch. Prospective candidates must be at least in year 11 and would ordinarily be baptized and have made first communion. Parents and young people are then asked to come at the appointed time to the parish office to register. Please bring baptism and first communion certificates with you.

**First Holy Communion.** We welcome the children preparing to receive holy communion for the first time later this year together with their families at mass this weekend. Please do pray for them as they prepare to take this important step.

**Stewards of the Gospel.** As we come towards the end of the first year of the journey Bishop Alan has asked us to embark on to meet the challenges of today and plan for the future of our parish, we are seeking to complete the diocesan questionnaire before Easter. In two weeks' time (25/26 February) at mass we will consider our next topic, the place of young people in our parish, and then invite you to continue the conversation after 11.00am mass in the Community Room.

**Kerala Mass.** You are invited to come and join the celebration for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes here on Saturday 18 February at 2.00pm.

*In our official October congregation count we averaged 581 people in church throughout the month, 84 down on the previous year. It was also noted that around 20% of the congregation arrived after mass started (typically 20 at 6.00pm, 40 at 9.00am, and 70 at 11.00am) and around 10% left before the end, each week. I know occasionally you may have good reason to be late or leave early, but if you do not may I encourage you to participate more fully.*



## Diocesan Centenary 1917 - 2017

2017 marks the centenary anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Brentwood, when the old County of Essex was cut off from the Archdiocese of Westminster. A wide array of events have been organized including prayer, exhibitions, and lectures that reflect the variety of Catholic life as it has been lived over the past one hundred years. This is an appropriate moment to look back in thanksgiving to those who lived out their faith that we might be here today. But it is also an opportunity to look to the future, consider the legacy we will pass on to those who come after us, and to renew our commitment to our faith. Please take a sheet with a list of all the events coming up throughout the year, and one of the prayer cards.

**Over 60s.** You are warmly invited to join the February gathering of the Over 60s on Tuesday 21 February 2.00pm - 4.00pm in the Community Room. There will be the usual fun and lots of refreshments to enjoy.

### TELCO 20th Anniversary Assembly York Hall 9 March 7.00pm

Members of the parish are warmly invited to the TELCO Refounding Assembly. This promises to be an excellent occasion where we celebrate 20 years of leadership development and social action with our neighbours, and launch more ambitious plans for East London. Address: York Hall, 5 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London, E2 9LJ.

We initially have 50 places to fill.

**First Communion Catechists.** A reminder to come to my house for our Passover on Friday 24 February for a 6.00pm start.

**Finance Committee Meeting.** A reminder that the next Finance Committee meeting will take place on Monday 20 February at 6.30pm in No. 146.