

Dates for your Diary:

Please make a note of the following dates of activities happening at St Catherine's, everyone is welcome to join.

- **First Holy Communions:**
Sat 18th May at 12 Noon
Sat 25th May at 12 Noon.
- **Confirmations:** 1st June at 6pm

CAFOD :Thank You

*Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Fast Day Appeal. Your generous donations, given in love, will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families for good and keep them safe. You raised **£785.06** and you can still give online at cafod.org.uk*

Parish Masses for the coming week:

Date	Feast	Time	Intentions
Sat		6pm	Roberto Horacio Yanez RIP
Sun 28th April	5th Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:30am 6pm	Personal Intentions James Patrick Donnelly RIP People of the Parish
Mon	St Catherine of Siena	10am	Elizabeth Mahoney (Ann)
Tues	St Pius	10am	Nora Murphy Intention
Wed	St Joseph	10am	Personal Intentions
Fri	Sts Philip & James	12noon	Holy Souls
Sat	The English Martyrs	6pm	Personal Intentions
Sun 5th May	6th Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:30am 6pm	Prudence Roderick RIP People of the Parish Holy Souls

Saturday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5.00-6.00pm

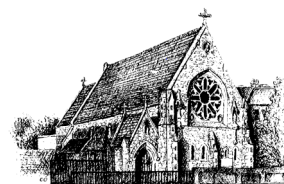
Confessions 5.00pm- 5.30pm, Rosary 5.30pm, Benediction 5.45pm.

Parish Secretary: Angela Braniff - Mon, Wed & Fri: 9.15am—3.15pm

Columban Sisters - Tel: 020 8980 3017

St Agnes School, Rainhill Way, E3 3ER Tel: 02089803076

email: office@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk



OUR LADY & ST CATHERINE OF SIENA
Parish Priest: Fr Howard James
177 Bow Road, London E3 2SG
Tel: 020 8980 3961, Email: bow@rcdow.org.uk
Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bow/>

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)



EASTER REFLECTION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We are still in the Paschal Season – our “Passover”. Interestingly, this is also the week in which Passover is being celebrated by Jews universally. Both the Jewish Passover and the Christian Paschal Season are linked, the latter being rooted in the former. Both feasts celebrate the liberation from a decadent and oppressive life to a new (way of) life. To use the words of the post Communion prayer of today’s liturgy, both feasts celebrate the passing “from former ways to newness of life.”

In today’s first reading, we see that this is what Saul – later (St.) Paul – sets out to do. After his profound and dramatic conversion, he changed from the great persecutor of the early Church to a man who now sought to be integrated into that very Community! However, his initial attempts were met with resistance by others based on their suspicion and fear. We are told that when he reached Jerusalem, “he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple.”

But an interesting thing happened: “Barnabas, ..., took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained...” As a result, Paul was able to join the others and proclaim the Gospel enthusiastically.

I would hazard a guess that Paul’s initial experience of suspicion and exclusion is repeated in parishes, church organisations, etc., much more often than we might think. We sometimes appoint ourselves judges of people’s motives, rather than trying to understand them and give them the welcome and accompaniment so needed on their new path of life.

The name “Barnabas” means “Son of encouragement”! Am I prepared to be a “Barnabas” – a person of encouragement – for others, facilitating their integration into the wider Community rather than promoting their exclusion?

by Gerard A.J. Granado, M.Th. (Edinburgh, UK)

LAUDATO SI ANIMATORS Course

Are you looking for a way to care for Creation and build a better world? You are warmly invited to register in the free 5 week online course, 8th April to 5th May. You can follow the course in your own time. The course consists in more than 4 hours of video content and a simple project at the end to become a certified Laudato Si animator. Animators - Laudato Si Animators.

Baptism

If you are interested in getting your child baptised, please speak to Fr Howard to collect an application form and register for the next course. The next course will be on Tues 30th April at 6pm. Your Child's Baptism Date will be arranged at the Course.

First Holy Communion

The next session will be on Mon 29th April 2024 at 6pm until 7:30pm in the Church.

Confirmation Course

The next session will be on Wed 1st May at 6pm as we take a break for Easter.

Weddings

Anyone wishing to get married in a Catholic Church, either at St Catherine's or anywhere else should speak to Fr Howard to complete the necessary paperwork. A minimum of 6 months is needed.

RCIA

Sessions will resume on Tuesday 30th April at 7pm.

Pilgrimage to Italy with Fr Antonio Pineda

Our Parish have been invited to join Fr Antonio Pineda on a Pilgrimage to Italy . The Pilgrimage will include guided visits in Loreto, Assisi, Florence, Padua and Venice. It is a wonderful itinerary, departing London Gatwick on 28th June and returning on 4th July 2024. More information can be found online at www.allstaintstravel.co.uk or on the leaflets at the front of the Church. Booking date closes on 30th April 2024.

Evangelisation and Faith -CAFOD Pilgrimage

CAFOD is organising a pilgrimage for young adults aged between 18- 40 from **Friday 12th – Sunday 14th July**, in a special way in this year of prayer and lead up to the year of Jubilee. Reconnecting with their faith through worship, prayer and journeying as a pilgrim together. The pilgrimage will include a two-night residential stay at the Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough, NN9 5UH. On the Saturday we will then be walking from Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence, Olney to The Church of the Holy Child in Bedford, a distance of approximately 13.5 miles.

For more information: [Young Adults Residential Pilgrimage \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://Young Adults Residential Pilgrimage (cafod.org.uk))

Sign-up link: Young Adults Pilgrimage July 24 - Formstack

Annual Matrimony Mass

Are you Celebrating 5,10,25,30,40,50,60, 60+ yrs of Marriage this year? An invitation for the Annual Mass will be made soon, please see Fr Howard for details.

Missionary from Bethlehem

The Bethlehem Nativity Group TBNG, A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land, will visit us on the weekend 11th / 12th May to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families, any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated" (when you help the poor you help our Lord

Promise of Marriage

There is a promise of marriage between : IKECHUKWUKA ANTHONY OBI and JUDITH ONYEBUCHI OLLOH at the Catholic Church of the Assumption Awolowo a road IKOYI, LAGOS NIGERIA on 15th June 2024. If anyone knows of any reason why this couple should not be married in the Church, please contact Fr Howard.

Priest Training Fund - Good Shepherd Sunday

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend we raised **£313.62**. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available in the back of the church, or by contacting the parish office. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

Guardian Angels Parish Eastertide Talks 2024

Responding to the Word of God in the Bible—A series of talks in memory of Luke Gormally. There will be five Monday evening talks followed by Q&A Sessions at 7:30-9:15pm beginning Monday 15th April at Guardian Angels Parish Hall, Mile End E3. Leaflets can be found on the table for more info.

Spiritual Direction

My name is Reyna, I am an Ignatian trained spiritual director. I offer a warm space to anyone with a desire for a closer personal relationship with their Faith. Spiritual Direction is the art to enable people to explore their spirituality and relationship with God. Please contact me reymald@blueyonder.co.uk to find out more about what spiritual accompaniment (direction) can offer you.

Fr Howard knows Reyna very well and he recommends her. Reyna will be coming to the Parish in May to speak, if any one is interested in using her services.

Financial support

Thank you for your ongoing financial support. You can give online (Account Name: WRCDT Bow; Sort Code: 40-05-20; Account Number: 01308157).

Have you thought about a standing order? Do consider it as it would help us plan for future. It is simple.

Offertory Collection for last weekend:

21st April 2024: Envelopes: £38.00; Plate: £272.22 Total: £310.22

Monthly Standing orders /Online payments for March: £2410.29

Dona Card Machine for March: £1029.97 Thank you for your generosity.