

**PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO  
8 OGLE STREET, LONDON W1W 6HS**



**P. Priest: Fr Oscar Ardila / Sister: Sr Pauline**  
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**Neocatechumenate: Michael Anderson 07956281186**  
**Confessions: Tues to Fri at noon before 12:30 Mass**  
**Masses: Tues to Fri 12:30pm**  
**Evening Mass Thursdays 6pm**  
**Saturday 8:15pm & Sunday 9am & 11am**

# THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 2025



**"God so loved the world." JOHN 3:16**

### Music in St Charles Borromeo

I am very pleased to welcome José Blasco Sánchez as music director in residence in our parish.

José comes from Spain, has experience as a chorister, a director and a composer and is very keen to encourage everyone in our community to take a more active part in the singing during our celebrations.

A parish WhatsApp group has been created where each week we shall share the videos and sheets of music for the hymns to be sung the following Sunday. All parishioners wishing to take part in singing the hymns at Mass are warmly invited to join the WhatsApp group and to come to a short rehearsal before Sunday Mass.

St Charles Borromeo  
Parish  
Grupo de WhatsApp



In addition, we are opening auditions for a specialised choir to take place every Sunday after Mass and at other times by appointment. No formal musical training is required—just a good ear, willingness to learn and a desire to serve the Lord through singing. Singers will be selected to rehearse and perform sacred music of high artistic quality—such as Renaissance polyphony by Victoria, Palestrina, Tallis and Allegri—on major feasts and solemnities and Gregorian chant at most Sunday Masses throughout the year. In this way, we can all sing together more confidently and with greater unity. May the Lord bless this new effort to glorify Him with our voices and to promote that fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is the right and duty of every Christian by reason of their baptism.

### Mass Schedule

Sat 13th September	8:15pm Of the Catechumenate
Sun 14th September	9am Neylon Family RIP
The Exaltation of the Cross	11am Pro Populo
Mon 15th September	7:00am For peace in the Holy Land
Our Lady of Sorrows	
Tue 16th September	12:30pm Inigo Seguraola RIP
St Cornelius & St Cyprian.	
Wed 17th September	12:30pm Nigel Mundy-Wb-
Thu 18th September	12:30pm L Edvard—wellbeing
	6pm Filipina Fernandes RIP
Fri 19th September	12:30pm Martin Da Silva

### RCIA

Meeting Saturday 20th September at 2pm

**CAFOD** See how to donate to the Gaza crisis appeal at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk). Thank you for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East

**CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH  
COME AND LISTEN!**



Every Monday and Thursday at 8pm  
beginning on 22nd September 2025

At the request of Cardinal Nichols we shall offer Mass at 7am on Monday 15 September for peace in the Holy Land and for all those who suffer in Gaza and throughout the Middle East.

# The fire of the Cross



*Beloved,*

Three days after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 17th September 1224 on Mount La Verna, St Francis of Assisi received the wounds of the Cross in his hands, feet and side ('the stigmata').

In his *Life of St Francis* St Bonaventure tells us:

*"While [Francis] was praying on the side of the mountain, he beheld a Seraph... and as he flew towards [him], there appeared between the wings the form of a man crucified and... fastened unto a Cross ... Francis rejoiced at the gracious aspect with which Christ, under the form of the Seraph, looked upon him, but His crucifixion pierced his soul with a sword of compassion and grief... He understood, by the revelation of the Lord, that this vision had been presented to his eyes... that the friend of Christ might know that he was to be transformed into Christ Crucified... by the fire of the Spirit. The vision disappearing, left behind it a marvellous fire in his heart and a no less wondrous sign impressed on his flesh."*

At Mount La Verna near the chapel of the stigmas, one can read:

*"Throughout his life [Francis] always and only followed the footsteps of the Cross, always and only knew the sweetness of the Cross, always and only preached the glory of the Cross."* (FF 1328)

Like a few others, Francis had discovered that the cross, that is, the experience of contradiction, humiliation, poverty and pain which the spirit of evil uses to tempt us to revolt, is transformed by the Holy Spirit into blazing charity when a soul embraces it filled with faith in God and love for Christ.

After receiving the stigmata, Francis spent the night with a poor man out in the open right in the middle of winter. The man was unable to sleep. tormented by the cold. Inflamed with the fire of love, Francis stretched out his hand to the man and, as soon as he touched him, the cold was dispelled, warmth came upon him and he slept until the morning among the rocks and the snow more sweetly than he had ever done resting in his own bed

This is the fire that enkindles souls with divine life and makes them rest on the cross as if it is a bed of love. May the fire of the cross be always burning in our hearts.

*Fr Oscar*