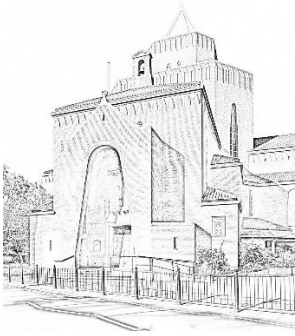


**THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF  
ST MARY & ST JOSEPH, POPLAR  
AND  
OUR LADY IMMACULATE &  
ST FREDERICK, LIMEHOUSE**



Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Bowden

Parish Administrator: Alessandro Vaglio

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**NEWSLETTER for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 2024**

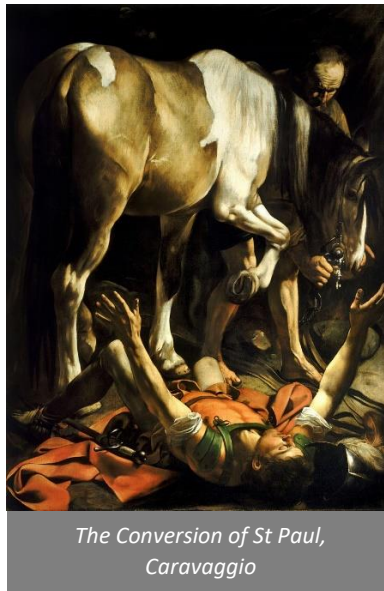
**Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament:**

Saturday 10:30am - 11:30am  
at Poplar

First Fridays 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
at Poplar

**Baptisms**

By appointment. Usually at  
1pm on Saturdays. See the  
newsletter for details of the  
baptism preparation course.



*The Conversion of St Paul,  
Caravaggio*

**Confessions:**

Saturday 10:30am - 11:15am  
at Poplar

Saturday 5.15pm - 5.45pm  
at Poplar

1st Fridays 6.00pm - 6.45pm  
at Poplar

or by appointment

**Marriages**

Six months 'notice is  
normally required.

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm	Poplar	Pro Pop
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	Fr Gilbert Ellis <i>Ann</i> William Edward Phillips <i>Ann</i>
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Feria			No Mass
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Feria	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf*	Priest's Intention Priest's Intention
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	St Francis de Sales	10.00am	Poplar	Baby Royce D'Souza <i>Ints</i>
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Conversion of St Paul	10.00am	Poplar	Christian Unity
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Ss Timothy and Titus	10.00am	Poplar	Tessa Camillire <i>Ints</i>
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Saturday Memorial of BVM	10.00am	Poplar	Peace in Ukraine

\* = In the multi-faith prayer room in the Churchill Place Shopping Centre opposite the post office.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Those of our parishes who are sick, whether at home, in hospital or hospice.  
Those who have died recently, especially Margaret Kelly, Paudian Marimuthu, Clare Veronica Protane and Marietta Ben and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Peace in the world, especially in Ukraine and in Israel and Palestine. Refugees and all who are forced to live away from home.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

The next course will be in March in the Guild Room, date to be announced.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE**

The next meeting for children and parents is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm in the Guild Room.

**CONFIRMATION COURSE**

The course will begin this month and Fr Andrew will contact those parents who have already registered their children very shortly.

**RCIA**

The next meeting is on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7pm.

**SANCTUARY LAMPS**

The Sanctuary Lamp at Poplar burns this week for a private intention.  
The Sanctuary Lamp at Limehouse burns this week for a private intention.

**NEW SATURDAY MORNING MASS AND ADORATION IN POPLAR**

The additional weekday mass at 10am on Saturday at Poplar continues. Mass will be followed by a period of adoration of the blessed sacrament during which confessions will be heard ending with Benediction at about 11.15am.

**PARISH ACTIVITY PLANNING MEETING**

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm in the Guild Room we will have a parish activity planning meeting to which anyone who is willing to contribute is welcome. We will be discussing in particular organising the Warm Bank and a Polish community gathering.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

The Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July this year. If you are interested in joining a group from our two parishes on this pilgrimage then please give your name(s), email and phone number(s) and age(s) to the parish office. Fr Andrew will then organise a meeting to provide more information and plan some fund-raising events. You don't have to commit at this stage.

**LEPRA APPEAL – SECOND COLLECTION FOR WORLD LEPROSY DAY**

Next weekend 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> January there will be a second collection for World Leprosy Day. Your contribution will ensure that people affected by leprosy around the world have the chance to receive the necessary support and to live a more dignified life.

**NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR**

Cold Alert! Please keep an eye out for neighbours (all ages) who may be feeling the cold and have inadequate heating. We don't want to find somebody suffering from hypothermia alone next door to us! Leaflets regarding recommended temperatures are available in the porch.

*Our next visit to Calais will be this coming Thursday. We will be taking woollies, sleeping bags, food and hopefully some euros!*

Warm Bank: Vicky is ready to open the Guild Room doors offering a warm hub beginning on Thursday February 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers needed. This will be on our Parish planning meeting agenda.

## RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

### POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £145.00

Loose: £453.12

Total: £598.12

### STANDING ORDERS

November: £513.34

December: £543.34

### LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £110.00

Loose: £95.52

Total: £205.52

### STANDING ORDERS

November: £1'507.00

December: £1'507.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

### FR ANDREW WRITES

This coming Thursday we celebrate the feast of the Conversion of St Paul and this day traditionally marks the end of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul marks his conversion from being a persecutor of Christians to being probably the most prolific and effective Christian missionary, spreading the Gospel message far and wide and bringing many people to faith in Jesus. But why should that feast in particular be associated with the desire for Christian unity?

The answer, I think, lies in what Christians really understand by 'conversion'. In Caravaggio's famous painting of the Conversion of St Paul on the Road to Damascus (reproduced on the front of newsletter this week), we see Paul thrown from his horse and lying upside down on the ground. The Acts of the Apostles makes no mention of a horse in fact, and it is probably Caravaggio who is responsible for fixing the idea in our minds that St Paul was in fact thrown from his horse. But the idea and Caravaggio's dramatic rendering of it gets to the point. St Paul didn't just sit down and weigh up the pros and cons of Christianity and decide that, on balance, it was probably a good thing. No! Paul's world really was turned upside down by an encounter with the risen Christ. Before this encounter with Jesus, who makes it personal by asking Paul why he is persecuting *Him*, Paul was in the driving seat or the saddle if you like, holding the reins, in control. Afterwards Paul is on his back, thrown from the saddle, no longer in control. That is what conversion is about, it's a total change of position where we allow Jesus to take centre stage, to take the reins. And this isn't a one off, it's a continuing way of life and often involves a series of jolts and challenges to our attempts to seize back control, to take the reins again and get back in the driving seat.

And here's the point, it is precisely when we as Christians try to put ourselves in the centre, in the driving seat or the saddle, when we try to hold on to the reins of power that we end up divided. It is only by putting Christ at the centre, allowing ourselves to be unseated, or in other words undergoing a constant conversion, that we come to see one another for what we truly are, fellow brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, fellow sons and daughters of God our Father. It is through this road of conversion that we discover and are constantly reminded of our common humanity and this is the ground of Christian unity and of unity and peace among all peoples.

May God bless you all.

*Fr Andrew*

Items for the Newsletter should be given to Fr Andrew or Alessandro at the parish office by Wednesday evening for inclusion the following weekend.

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*MASS THIS SUNDAY - The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B*

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**First reading**

Jonah 3:1-5,10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

**Response to the Psalm**

Lord, make me know your ways.

**Second reading**

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Mk1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is close at hand:  
repent, and believe the Good News.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

<b>Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar</b>		<b>Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse</b>	
Entrance	887 - God whose almighty word	Entrance	877 - The Summons
Offertory	863 - Follow me	Offertory	600 - All that I am
Communion	979 - O the word of my Lord	Communion	627 - This is my body
Recessional	871 - Lord, you have come	Recessional	863 - Follow me

*Next Sunday is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B*