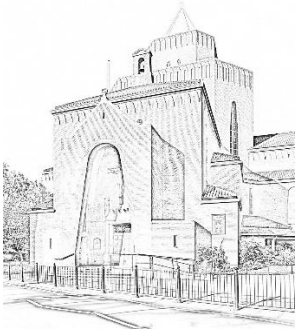


**THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ST MARY & ST JOSEPH, POPLAR
AND
OUR LADY IMMACULATE &
ST FREDERICK, LIMEHOUSE**



Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Bowden

Parish Administrator: Alessandro Vaglio

Clergy House, 9 Pekin Street, London E14 6EZ

T: 020 7987 4523 E: Poplar@rcdow.org.uk | Limehouse@rcdow.org.uk

W: www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/poplar | www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/limehouse

NEWSLETTER for the Epiphany of the Lord 2024

**Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament:**

Saturday 10:30am - 11:30am
at Poplar
First Fridays 6.00pm - 7.00pm
at Poplar

Baptisms

By appointment, see the
newsletter for details of the
baptism preparation course



Velázquez, Adoration of the Magi

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 6 th Jan	The Epiphany of the Lord	6.00pm	Poplar	Margaret Kelly RIP
Sun 7 th Jan	The Epiphany of the Lord	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	Pro Pop Maria Nhan Kong
Mon 8 th Jan	The Baptism of the Lord	10.00am	Poplar	Paudian Marimuthu RIP
Tue 9 th Jan	Feria	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf*	Priest's Intention Nathan Johnson
Wed 10 th Jan	Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Baby Royce D'Souza
Thu 11 th Jan	Feria	10.00am	Poplar	John Attard
Fri 12 th Jan	Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Elvira Vaglio
Sat 13 th Jan	Saturday Memorial of BVM	10.00am	Poplar	Peace in the Holy Land

* = 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 course is on Monday 8th January at 7pm in the Guild Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

The next meeting for children and parents is on Saturday 13th 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 8th 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 Patrice Francis.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

A huge "Thank you" to all our volunteers who peeled, served and delivered over 700 cooked dinners to isolated residents of Tower Hamlets over the Christmas and New Year period. In the words of one elderly recipient: *It was not just the meal, it was the friendly faces at the door. A lovely young man delivered dinners to me accompanied by his two children. They made my Christmas. Thank you.*

FR ANDREW'S INDUCTION AS PARISH PRIEST OF LIMEHOUSE

Bishop Nicholas Hudson will celebrate the 12noon mass on Sunday 14th January during which he will formally induct Fr Andrew as parish priest of Limehouse. There will be a reception afterwards, let's give Bishop Nicholas a real Limehouse welcome!

NEW SATURDAY MORNING MASS AND ADORATION IN POPLAR

For an experimental period, Fr Andrew will be celebrating an additional weekday mass at 10am on Saturday at Poplar (where possible this will be a Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary). Mass will be followed by a period of adoration of the blessed sacrament during which confessions will be heard and will end with Benediction at about 11.15am.

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS

The funeral of Marietta Ben will take place at Poplar at 10am on Friday 26th January 2024.

FR VICTOR

Fr Victor Camilleri OFM, who served the Maltese community here in the Diocese for over 50 years, and was such an enormous help to the priests and parishes of the deanery, has now retired from ministry due to ill health. We will always be grateful for his support and presence. Please remember him in your prayers.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £275.38

Loose: £432.22

Total: £707.60

STANDING ORDERS

November: £513.34

LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £50.10

Loose: £157.43

Total: £207.53

STANDING ORDERS

November: £1'507.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

FR ANDREW WRITES

The new year is a great time for trying to do things better. Personally, I have resolved to try and take a bit more exercise to halt the ever-expanding waistline. You will have noticed that we are also trying a new-look newsletter. There are a few changes which we hope are improvements. Firstly, it is larger which should enable us to get more in more easily. Secondly, we have rolled the newsletters for the two parishes of Poplar and Limehouse into one. Much of the news and information is the same and we hope it will be helpful for each community to see more clearly what the other is doing. Thirdly, we have set out the readings for Sunday on the back page. In December of this year a new lectionary will be published, including a new translation of the scriptures for use at mass, which will unfortunately mean that our Parish Mass Books will no longer be useable. It would be very expensive to replace the books, but one alternative would be for us to include the readings in the newsletter which is only possible with this larger format. Apart from being more economical, there are two further advantages to having the readings in the newsletter: you don't need to find the page in the mass books and you can take the readings home with you to reflect on them through the week. Let me know what you think.

This Sunday we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord which reminds us that the Christ Child whom we have been adoring over Christmas is for everyone, he is revealed as the light of the world symbolically by the visit of the wise men from the east bringing their gifts. In this we can see how we too should lay everything at the feet of Jesus the light of the world, our gifts but also our concerns and worries, all that delights us and all that puzzles us. In him alone will we find the answers to the questions which are in our hearts.

Speaking of gifts, I would like to record a heartfelt thank you for all your generous gifts and cards and Christmas wishes and also to thank you for your generosity in placing gifts under our trees for needy children. May Christ the light of the world illumine your hearts and minds, so that, as this new year unfolds, you may truly come to know what hope his call holds for you.

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.

MASS THIS SUNDAY - The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

First reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Response to the Psalm All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Second reading Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation Mt2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse	
Entrance	144 - In the bleak midwinter	Entrance	166 - As with gladness
Offertory	170 - We three Kings	Offertory	169 - O worship the Lord
Communion	137 - Away in a manger	Communion	145 - What child is this
Recessional	150 - The first Nowell	Recessional	170 - We three kings

Next Sunday is the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B