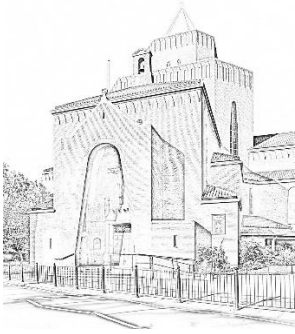


**THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ST MARY & ST JOSEPH, POPLAR
AND
OUR LADY IMMACULATE &
ST FREDERICK, LIMEHOUSE**



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NEWSLETTER for the Second Sunday of Lent 2024

**Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament:**

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

Baptisms

By appointment. See the
newsletter for details of the
baptism preparation course.

Marriages

Six months' notice is required.



*The Transfiguration,
Fra Angelico*

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

**Stations of the Cross during
Lent**

Friday 6pm at Limehouse
(not First Fridays)

Sat 24 th Feb	2 nd Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	Poplar	The People of the Parish
Sun 25 th Feb	2 nd Sunday of Lent	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	Pat O'Neill <i>RIP</i> Cocklin Family <i>Ints</i>
Mon 26 th Feb	Lenten Feria			No Mass
Tue 27 th Feb	Lenten Feria	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf*	Marie O'Neill <i>Ints</i> Private Intention
Wed 28 th Feb	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Baby Royce D'Souza
Thu 29 th Feb	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Priest's Intention
Fri 1 st Mar	St David	10.00am	Poplar	Julia Bowden <i>Ints</i>
Sat 2 nd Mar	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	For peace

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Mick Simmons, Margaret Kelly, Paudian Marimuthu and Patrick Leach who have died.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

The next meeting for children and parents is on Saturday 9th March at 4.30pm in the Guild Room.

CONFIRMATION COURSE

The next meeting for Confirmation Candidates is on Thursday 29th Feb at 6.45pm in the Guild Room.

RCIA

The next meeting is on Monday 4th March at 7pm in the Guild Room. The members of our RCIA group will be formally welcomed into our parish community during the 10am mass next Sunday 3rd March.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS AT POPLAR

Teas and Coffees will be served after both the Saturday 6pm Mass and the Sunday 10am Mass in the Guild Room at Poplar each week.

POLISH COMMUNITY GATHERING

On Saturday 9th March there will be a Polish Community gathering from 1pm to 4pm in the Guild Room.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

19th – 26th July this year. If you are interested in joining a group from our two parishes on this pilgrimage then please contact the parish office.

Please consider contributing to our Lourdes Appeal which will be used to help anyone to join the pilgrimage who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it. See the white buckets with Lourdes Appeal on.

WARM HUB

The Guild Room is open each week as a warm hub from 10.30am – 1pm.

HELP NEEDED AT CLERGY HOUSE

Please contact the parish office if you can take some items from the cellar to the tip.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL

Please see the special white bucket at the back of church and use the envelopes for gift aid.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

This coming Friday is the 1st Friday of the month and so there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 6pm at Poplar instead of Stations of the Cross at Limehouse.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL

There is a second collection for CAFOD this weekend, please see the envelopes at the back of Church.

PARISH SYNOD GATHERINGS

Thanks to all who attended the synod gathering in Poplar this weekend. The gathering for Limehouse is at 2pm on Sat 2nd March in the Hall.

ST PATRICK'S DAY SOCIAL AND FUND RAISER

On Sat 16th March at 7pm (after the 6pm mass) there will be a party in the Guildroom to celebrate St Patrick's day and to raise funds for Lourdes. There will be a raffle, if you have prizes to donate please contact the parish office.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

The next visit to CALAIS will be on Thursday March 7th. If you would like to come and see for yourself the needs that charities are addressing in Calais, email nip65@msn.com or talk to Sr. Christine.

Wanted: Car Drivers and Bikers urgently needed Sundays and Wednesdays, please come to St. Matthias Community Centre on 113 Poplar High St. between 11.30am and 12noon.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £135.50	Loose: £388.84	Total: £524.34
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STANDING ORDERS

December: £543.34

January: £513.34

LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £45.00	Loose: £135.31	Total: £180.31
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STANDING ORDERS

December: £1'507.00

January: £1'507.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

FR ANDREW WRITES

During Lent the Church gives us three tools to use in order to open ourselves to the grace of God and so prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. They are: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. I spoke in last week's newsletter about Lent being like the spring, a time of re-awakening, and part of that is opening, just as the petals of a flower open so must our hearts. If we are not careful, the hardships of life can cause us to close up in on ourselves. Lent is a time for opening and Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving are all things designed to open us up so that God can get in and transform us.

This week I would like to say a few words about prayer. Prayer takes many forms, some more formal, like the mass, others less structured, like adoration, and some very private, when we are alone with God. But whatever the form, all prayer is really just having a conversation with God. To have any conversation we need to be present to the other and to be attentive, we may have things that we want or even need to say but there may also be times, as there often are with loved ones, when we need not say anything at all and simply 'being there' is enough or perhaps listening rather than talking is more important.

Of course, when we tell God what we need, we're not actually telling him anything he doesn't already know. So why bother? Because asking God for what we need makes us humble. Now humility is not about pretending to have a low opinion of ourselves, it's about honesty and, if we are honest, we know that we depend upon God for everything, for life itself, for health, for strength, for everything. When we approach God with this kind of humility we prepare ourselves to receive what *HE* wants to give us, which is always so much greater than whatever it is that we think we need. So don't be afraid to tell God what you need or desire.

Sometimes we can get very distracted when we try to pray or we can find the experience dry and unrewarding. Don't give up! God is more interested in what is in our heart than with our powers of concentration. If we persist in prayer even when we are distracted or find it unfulfilling, we show the love in our hearts, our desire for him, and that is what matters because that desire opens our hearts.

Remember that prayer, being a conversation, is a two-way thing. Sometimes we need to listen, perhaps reading the scriptures or just listening to our hearts, attending to what is going on in our lives and sometimes we might need to stop talking. We can recognise the authentic voice of God because he will only ever ask us to love and never to hate, to give life and never to destroy. But perhaps most importantly we should think of prayer as something that God does in us, if we let him. We are not doing God a favour or adding anything to his greatness by praying, rather we are opening our hearts to him, which is what Lent is all about.

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 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B

First reading

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Response to the Psalm

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second reading

Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt17:5

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse	
Entrance	970 - Be Thou My Vision	Entrance	725 - Immortal, invisible
Offertory	643 - Gifts of bread and wine	Offertory	603 - Blest are you, Lord
Communion	210 - We behold the splendour of God	Communion	720 - Be still, for the presence of the Lord
Recessional	787 - Sing it in the valleys	Recessional	321 - Crown him with many crowns

Next Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Lent - Year B