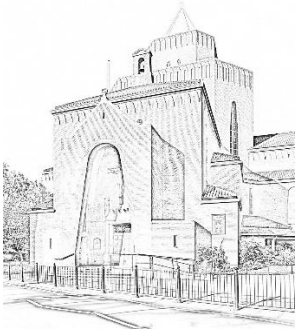


**THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ST MARY & ST JOSEPH, POPLAR
AND
OUR LADY IMMACULATE &
ST FREDERICK, LIMEHOUSE**



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NEWSLETTER for the Third 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 Cleansing of the Temple,
El Greco*

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 2 nd Mar | 3 rd Sunday of Lent | 6.00pm | Poplar | Malani Priscilla de Silva (<i>1st Ann</i>) |
| Sun 3 rd Mar | 3 rd Sunday of Lent | 10.00am 12noon | Poplar Limehouse | Jacek Kudlinski (<i>RIP</i>) McSweeney Family (<i>Ints</i>) |
| Mon 4 th Mar | Lenten Feria | | | No Mass |
| Tue 5 th Mar | Lenten Feria | 10.00am 12.30pm | Poplar Canary Wharf* | Maureen Everett (<i>Ann</i>) Priest's Intention |
| Wed 6 th Mar | Lenten Feria | 10.00am | Poplar | Private Intention |
| Thu 7 th Mar | Lenten Feria | 10.00am | Poplar | David Adams (<i>Ann</i>) |
| Fri 8 th Mar | Lenten Feria | 10.00am | Poplar | Peace in the Holy Land |
| Sat 9 th Mar | Lenten Feria | 10.00am | Poplar | Baby Royce d'Souza |

* = 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 7th March at 6.45pm in the Guild Room.

RCIA

The next meeting is on Monday 4th March at 7pm in the Guild Room.

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.

There will be a meeting at **7.30pm on Tuesday 12th March** in the Guild Room for anyone who is interested in the pilgrimage to Lourdes to find out more about the pilgrimage. Please do come along even if you haven't already expressed an interest or you are currently unsure.

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.

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 Guild Room 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. Raffle tickets at £1 each are on sale now (before and after mass and from the parish office).

WARM HUB

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

HELP NEEDED AT CLERGY HOUSE

Thank you very much to those who have been coming to help clear the cellar. There's still more to do so 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.

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.

The fasting month of Ramadan will begin next weekend and our Muslim friends have invited us to an Iftar Gathering on Thursday March 21st at 6pm in St. Matthias Community Centre when they will break their day's fast and we can meet together.

We also hope to come together on Good Friday at 11.45am, when we will stand together outside Iceland in the Market, praying for Peace.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Envelopes: £107.00 | Loose: £370.23 | Total: £477.23 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|

STANDING ORDERS

December: £543.34

January: £513.34

LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Envelopes: £64.00 | Loose: £147.05 | Total: £211.05 |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|

STANDING ORDERS

December: £1'507.00

January: £1'507.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

FR ANDREW WRITES

In last week's newsletter I shared a few thoughts about prayer during Lent. This week I would like to say a little about the second pillar of Lent, fasting. People of all religious traditions have been fasting as part of their religious observance since the history began. There seems to be something instinctive in human beings that recognises the value and appropriateness of fasting from time to time. And indeed, we find something like it literally at the very beginning. In the book of Genesis, God places our first parents, Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden with an abundance of food for them to eat. But right at the beginning of human history God imposes a kind of fast: 'You may eat indeed of all the trees in the garden. Nevertheless, of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you are not to eat.' The rest, as they say, is history: human beings disobeyed God, grasping at the forbidden fruit. And this sets up a kind of pattern of human sinfulness at the root of which is a desire to take for myself what I want regardless of whether this is what God wills and regardless of the effect it may have on others. And we see this pattern playing out, not just in our own individual lives, if we are honest, but also the world stage, as rich nations take more than their fair share of the world's resources to the detriment of the poor.

Our Lenten fasting, therefore, is not just about shedding a few pounds, but it is rather about reversing that pattern of disobedience in our own lives. Fasting is therefore bound up with repentance, with turning back to God. Of course, there was a deeper significance to what happened in the Garden of Eden, it wasn't just about desiring the forbidden fruit, it was also, at the prompting of the serpent, about an attempt by humanity to make ourselves our own God, to be ourselves the arbiters of what good and true and beautiful and this too we see playing out all the time to disastrous effect. When we make ourselves our own God then very quickly might become right and greed and anger and lust and all the rest run riot. So the hunger that fasting creates in us reminds us of our real dependence upon God for everything. So just like prayer, fasting also opens our heart again to God.

Jesus himself, who by his obedience restored to humanity those gifts lost through disobedience, begins his saving work with a fast for 40 days in the wilderness. In this way he opens up the way for us to follow him in order to enjoy the fullness of life that he intends for the whole human race.

And fasting also opens our heart to our neighbour in a powerful way. CAFOD Family Fast Day recently demonstrated that fasting can not only make us feel solidarity with those who are forced to go hungry but can even enable us to help them. While there is certainly fellowship experienced in eating together, fasting together arguably creates a stronger bond. In a few days' time, our Muslim brothers and sisters around us will begin the fast of Ramadan. Lets really take our Christian Lenten fast seriously this year and perhaps in that way we might experience a deeper solidarity with them at this time of division.

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 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B

First reading Exodus 20:1-3,7-8,12-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Response to the Psalm You have the message of eternal life, O Lord.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans, madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel Jn 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

| Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar | | Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Entrance | 873 - Come, Lord Jesus, come | Entrance | 872 - My God, accept my heart |
| Offertory | 609 - In bread we bring you | Offertory | 772 - Lord Jesus Christ |
| Communion | 629 - I am the bread of life | Communion | 940 - Lord for tomorrow |
| Recessional | 847 - O Lord, all the world belongs to you | Recessional | 847 - O Lord, all the world belongs to you |

Next Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Lent - Year B (Laetare Sunday and Mother's Day)