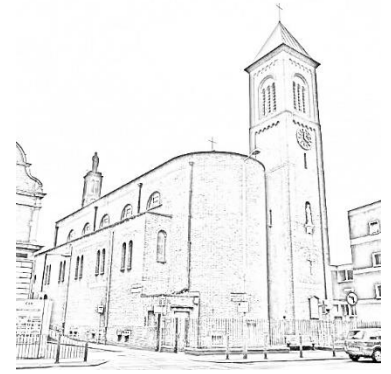
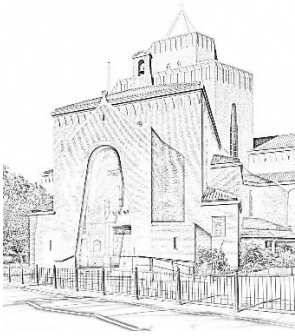


**THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ST MARY & ST JOSEPH, POPLAR
AND
OUR LADY IMMACULATE &
ST FREDERICK, LIMEHOUSE**



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NEWSLETTER for the Fifth 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.



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 16 th Mar	5 th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	Poplar	Marcia Mann-Anderson (<i>RIP</i>)
Sun 17 th Mar	5 th Sunday of Lent	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	Susan Abarca Salazar Napsy Bolano (<i>Anniv</i>)
Mon 18 th Mar	Lenten Feria			No Mass
Tue 19 th Mar	ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BVM (Solemnity)	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf*	Thomas Jayaseelan (<i>Int</i>) Constance Alfred (<i>Anniv</i>)
Wed 20 th Mar	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Immaculate Padua Christine (<i>Int</i>)
Thu 21 st Mar	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Donna Kavanagh (<i>Anniv</i>)
Fri 22 nd Mar	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Merle John Baptiste (<i>RIP</i>)
Sat 23 rd Mar	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Karen Camillire (<i>Int</i>)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Merle John-Baptiste and for Baby Royce D'Souza who sadly passed away. Royce's funeral will be on 27th March at 11am at Poplar. Please also pray for Scarlett Ebio who is ill. Scarlett is one of the children on our First Holy Communion Programme.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

The next meeting for children and parents is on Saturday 20th April at 4.30pm in the Guild Room.

CONFIRMATION COURSE

The next meeting for Confirmation Candidates is on Thursday 21st March at 6.45pm in the Guild Room, after which all Candidates are asked to attend all of the Holy Week Liturgies.

RCIA

The date for the next meeting is Monday 18th March at 7pm in 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.

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. Bookings are now open via <https://forms.rcdow.org.uk/booking-for-westminster-diocese-lourdes-pilgrimage-2024/> or by telephoning the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173.

However, it is vital that if you want to be part of the parish group you first contact the parish office and that you do so as soon as possible.

Sue Blinman is going to Lourdes at Easter so do let her know if you would like her to take any intentions.

CHURCH CLEANING AT POPLAR

We need volunteers to come and start cleaning and preparing our beautiful church, polishing brass etc... for Holy Week and Easter. Please let the parish office know if you can give even just a little time.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who helped to organise and who came along to the Polish community gathering last Saturday. Dziękuję i Bóg zapłać.

WARM HUB

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

CONTACTLESS CARD READERS

We now have card readers for those who prefer to pay for things by card. You can use the readers to contribute to the offertory collection, to other appeals and for purchases from the repository.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

These are now available. Please contact the parish office to arrange collection and confirm your details.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

Drivers needed to help cover some of our Muslim drivers during Ramadan. These Volunteers have never stopped delivering over the four years. It would be really great to give them a break during Ramadan when (because of night prayer) they suffer sleep deprivation. Email nip65@msn.com if you can help.

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: £212.25	Loose: £520.11	Contactless: £118.00	Total: £850.36
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STANDING ORDERS

December: £543.34

January: £513.34

LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £45.00	Loose: £151.44	Contactless: £170.00	Total: £366.44
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STANDING ORDERS

December: £1'507.00

January: £1'507.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

FR ANDREW WRITES

The first thing that you will have noticed on coming to church this weekend is the fact that the statues and crosses etc.. are all covered. This is because this Sunday is Passion Sunday and the start of the last two weeks of Lent. Next Sunday will be Palm Sunday and beginning of Holy Week. The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready!

The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. It may seem strange especially that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. But we can think of this as a little bit like the lights in theatre being dimmed before the start of the performance when a spotlight focuses on the drama as it unfolds. Because Holy Week really is a kind of living drama when we are invited to journey with Jesus in prayer and in our imagination from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the last supper and the Garden of Gethsemane and then to the cross and into the darkness of the tomb and into the light and joy of the resurrection. Throughout Holy Week we will be re-enacting elements of this journey in dramatic ways. So now the lights are dimmed and the anticipation grows and we can use this coming week to prepare.

So how should we prepare ourselves? Well, Lent has already given us some tools: prayer, fasting and almsgiving and we can redouble our efforts in this coming week. On a practical level, it is a good idea to plan ahead. You can collect a card from the back of church now with the times of all the Holy Week services. Please take one and perhaps sit down and plan, especially if you've got a whole family and work to juggle, work out what you can do and what you might need to do to make space for it. Of course, it isn't always possible to do everything but the Holy Week liturgies are best appreciated when you experience the whole thing, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. That way you really experience the contrasts and the progression. As well as the main events, Palm Sunday Mass, The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8pm on Holy Thursday, the Good Friday liturgy at 3pm on Good Friday and the Easter Vigil at 7pm on Holy Saturday (as well as Easter Sunday mass), there are other events that might appeal. On Good Friday, there will be Children's Stations of the Cross at 11am (especially for little ones who might struggle with the 3pm liturgy), there will be a simple interfaith prayer for peace at 11.45am outside Iceland and a walk of witness starting from Poplar at 6pm and going to Limehouse for Stations of the Cross at about 6.30pm. If you like time for quiet prayer then the watching at the altar of repose after the 8pm mass on Thursday evening is a really beautiful way to unite ourselves to Jesus. So now that the stage is set and the lights are dimmed get yourself ready!

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 5th Sunday of Lent, Year B

First reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Response to the Psalm A pure heart create for me, O God.

Second reading Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation John 12:26

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:
‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’ A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. ‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’ By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse	
Entrance	801 - Love divine	Entrance	801 - Love divine
Offertory	748 - Unless a grain of wheat	Offertory	610 - Take our bread
Communion	218 - 218 Deep within	Communion	627 - This is my body
Recessional	749 - The Servant King	Recessional	756 - When I survey the wondrous cross

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday