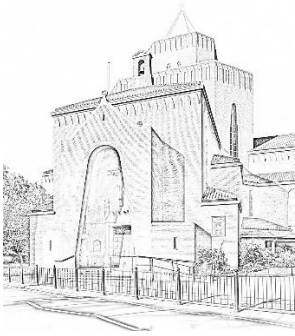


**THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ST MARY & ST JOSEPH, POPLAR
AND
OUR LADY IMMACULATE &
ST FREDERICK, LIMEHOUSE**



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 4th Sunday of Easter 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 Good Shepherd by
Philippe de Champaigne*

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 th Apr	4 th Sunday of Easter (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Private Intention
Sun 21 st Apr	4 th Sunday of Easter	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish Rose Mc Sweeney
Mon 22 ⁿ Apr	Mon 4 th Week of Eastertide			No Mass
Tue 23 rd Apr	ST GEORGE, MARTYR	10.00am	Poplar Canary Wharf*	Adrian Gilbert Scott (<i>Ann.</i>) Priest's Intention
Wed 24 th Apr	Wed 4 th Week of Eastertide	10.00am	Poplar	Nora Calling Wood (<i>Ann.</i>)
Thu 25 th Apr	St Mark, Evangelist	10.00am	Poplar	John Giller Junior (<i>Ann.</i>)
Fri 26 th Apr	Fri 4 th Week of Eastertide	10.00am	Poplar	Patrick Leach (<i>RIP</i>)
Sat 27 th Apr	Sat 4 th Week of Eastertide	10.00am	Poplar	Sister Christine (<i>Int</i>)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Glennford St Prix, Merle John-Baptiste, Peter Hill and Baby Royce D' Souza who have died recently. Please also pray for Scarlett Ebio, one of the children from our First Holy Communion course who is ill in hospital, and for Polly Blossom Veitch Beackon, Mary Jeffries and Brigid Baker, who are also very ill.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

The next meeting for children and parents is on Saturday 11th May at 4.30pm in the Guild Room.

CONFIRMATION COURSE

The next meeting for Confirmation candidates is on Thursday 25th April at 6.45pm in the Guild Room.

RCIA COURSE

The next meeting for the group is Monday 6th May at 7pm in the Guild Room.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

These are now available from the back of church. Please ensure that we have your correct address before you take your envelopes as without this we may be unable to claim gift aid.

RAFFLE

Tickets for our second raffle in aid of our Lourdes Fund (helping to pay for people to join our pilgrimage to Lourdes) go on sale this weekend. Please contact either the parish office or Sr Christine if you have prizes to donate. Let's make this one even bigger than the last. The raffle will be drawn at our parish summer BBQ which is planned for Sunday 14th July – get the date in your diary. More information to follow.

PARISH AFRICA CELEBRATION - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Calling all our families from Africa for a get together on the afternoon of Saturday 4th May. See poster for details this weekend.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS AT POPLAR

Teas and Coffees are served after the Sunday 10am mass in the Guild Room.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamp at Limehouse this week burns for the intentions of John Rosario Dsouza.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

We now have a quite a good number from the parish who have expressed an interest in joining our parish group on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes which will take place from 19th – 26th July 2024. If you are interested and you haven't done so already please speak to Fr Andrew. **Bookings close on Tuesday 30th April 2024.**

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE PRIESTS TRAINING FUND – 20th/21st APRIL

This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) when we pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and we will have a Special Collection for the Priests Training Fund. Envelopes are available at the back of Church.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

No meals are being delivered this Sunday because of the Marathon. Volunteers took an extra meal to recipients on Wednesday, a special Frozen meal to be kept for Sunday. Our next visit to Calais will be on Thursday 16th May. If anyone would like to come, please contact nip65@msn.com We are collecting medications and toiletries like toothpaste, brushes, soaps, paracetamol, creams, anti-histamines, cough and cold medications in a box at back of Church.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £138.90	Loose: £357.65	Contactless: £60	Total: £556.55
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STANDING ORDERS

February: £528.34

March: £513.34

LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY

Envelopes: £56.45	Loose: £151.45	Contactless: £76.00	Total: £283.90
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STANDING ORDERS

February: £1'317.00

March: £1'507.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

FR ANDREW WRITES

This Sunday is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because in the Gospel we hear Jesus describe himself as the Good Shepherd. With this very familiar image from the working life of rural people, Jesus describes how he is devoted to the care of us, his flock, as leader and protector, feeding and caring for the sheep, one who knows the sheep and who is known and trusted by the sheep. The prophet Jeremiah says: "I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (Jer. 3:15). In these words, God promises his people that he will never leave them without shepherds to gather them together and guide them.

We know that Jesus Christ himself is *the* living and definitive fulfilment of this promise because he is always present in the Church which is his body of which we are all members. But God also calls each of us to play our particular part as members of his body, to make our own unique contribution. Some are called to represent Christ the head through the ministerial priesthood, some are called to religious life to demonstrate a particular radical commitment to the Gospel life, expressed in different ways in different congregations. Priests and religious are really at the service of the Church, encouraging and supporting the whole People of God to find and to live out their vocations as Christians in the world. In this way there is a connection between them and the Good Shepherd. So on this Good Shepherd Sunday we are asked to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Of course, God already knows that the Church needs priests and religious. He already knows that, in this part of the world at least, numbers are declining. But he still wants us to pray that he will inspire more people to give their lives to the service of the Church in this way because, by doing so, we unite ourselves with his will. And we also open ourselves to the possibility that God might either be calling you or someone you know. Praying for vocations opens us up to that possibility and helps the individual either to respond to their call or to find the right words to encourage or prompt someone else. It took me a long time to really find and respond to my calling and that came about in the end through other people encouraging me and planting the idea that perhaps God was, as unlikely as it seemed, calling me. It is a wonderful life but not without its ups and downs and I know that a huge part of what sustains me is the encouragement of others and their prayers. So today I ask you please to keep praying for vocations to the priesthood and to just gently prompt anyone who you think God just might be calling.

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 4th Sunday of Easter

First reading Acts 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Response to the Psalm The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Second reading 1 John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

Gospel John 10:11-18

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. 'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse	
Entrance	967 - O the love of my Lord	Entrance	804 - The king of love my shepherd is
Offertory	971 - Father I place into your hands	Offertory	600 - All that I am
Communion	972 - Do not be afraid	Communion	806 - The Lord is my shepherd
Recessional	956 - I watch the sunrise	Recessional	320 - Hail, Redeemer, King divine

Next Sunday is the 5th Sunday of Easter