

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



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NEWSLETTER for 5th 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.



Detail from a mosaic in the Basilica of S. Clemente, Rome

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 27th Apr	5th Sunday of Easter (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Eugenia Toulon *(Ann.)*
Sun 28th Apr	5th Sunday of Easter	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish Jimmy Leek *(RIP)*
Mon 29th Apr	St Catherine of Siena			No Mass
Tue 30th Apr	Tue 5th Week of Easter Funeral of Glennford St Prix	10.00am 11.30am	Poplar Poplar	Richard Burrows *(Ann.)* Funeral service
Wed 1st May	St Joseph the Worker	10.00am	Poplar	Ellen Frost *(Ann.)*
Thu 2nd May	St Athanasius	10.00am	Poplar	William Delaney *(Ann.)*
Fri 3rd May	Sts Philip & James	7.00pm	Poplar	Confirmation Mass
Sat 4th May	English Martyrs	10.00am	Poplar	Priest's Intention

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Brigid Baker, 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, and for Polly Blossom Veitch Beackon, Mary Jeffries and Alan Percival (former youth worker in Pope John House), who are also very ill.

FUNERAL OF GLENNFORD ST PRIX

The funeral service for Glennford St Prix will be at 11.30am on Tuesday 30th April at Poplar. The 10am mass will take place as normal but there will be Canary Wharf mass on that day.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

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

CONFIRMATIONS

There will be **rehearsal on Thursday 2nd May at 7pm in the church**, it is important that all candidates attend and, if possible their sponsor. The **Confirmation Mass is at 7pm on Friday 3rd May**. Please arrive in plenty of time.

RCIA COURSE

The next meeting for the group is Monday 29th April 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) are now available. 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, 3pm to 5.30pm in the Guild Room at Poplar. Meeting to finalize arrangements on Wednesday 1st May at 7pm in the Guild Room.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS AT POPLAR

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

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

If you would like to join the parish group going to Lourdes 19th – 26th July 2024 there is still time to book – just! **Bookings close on Tuesday 30th April 2024.** You must book by Tuesday either by filling in the online booking form https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/ or by calling the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Remember to make it clear that you wish to be part of the Poplar and Limehouse group travelling with Fr Andrew. You do not have to pay at the time of booking but you must book before the deadline expires. Once you have booked please let the parish office know.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

A new Dance Project for girls (over 16) and young women begins next Friday in St. Matthias Community Centre at 5.30pm.

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: £119.10	Loose: £420.28	Contactless: £2.30	Total: £541.68
STANDING ORDERS February: £528.34 March: £513.34	Priest Training Fund	£264.65	
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £21.25	Loose: £43	Contactless: £71	Total: £135.25
STANDING ORDERS February: £1'317.00 March: £1'507.00	Priest Training Fund	£65.00	
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

This Monday is the feast of St Catherine of Siena. You may recall that Christine spoke of St Catherine in her wonderful talk about vocations last Sunday, and especially her message: 'be the person God has created you to be and you will set the world aflame.' St Catherine is patron of Italy and of Europe and a fascinating figure. So I thought I would say a few words about her here.

Catherine was a Dominican tertiary and a mystic who died at the age of 33 years. In her short life she had a tremendous influence on the world and on the church. She tended to victims of the plague, brokered peace between warring factions in Italy and even persuaded the Pope to return to Rome from Avignon. Catherine became a great mother figure in the Church.

We call the Church 'Holy Mother Church' and rightly so because she became our Mother when she bore us as her children in the font, giving us the new life of baptismal grace. But the Church needs more than fonts in order for us to really experience her as our mother, it needs great mother figures such as St Catherine.

Although she died a consecrated virgin at such a young age, St Catherine had long been called Mother, by her religious followers (known as the Caterinati), which included Kings and Popes. Catherine had all the passionate love for the Church and her children that any mother has. She knew, as any mother does, that love, especially maternal love is not cheap, not easy. The love of a mother is always bittersweet, it always entails pain. From the pangs of child birth to the bittersweet experience of that tiny dependent child growing up and to some extent growing away from them.

And this insight of St Catherine which motivated her maternal passion for the reform of the Church was fed by her meditation on the passion of Jesus Christ. She saw in his blood, shed for us, the passion of his love for souls, she saw in the wound in Christ's side a shelter and a gateway to eternal bliss. And she turned this mystical meditation on the passionate love of Jesus into practical action, encouraging and exhorting many, especially priests and bishops, to a more faithful proclamation of that love. The church needs spiritual mothers today and spiritual mothers don't come from just anywhere. Like Eve taken from Adam's side, they are made from the gaping wound in the side of Christ.

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 Easter

First reading Acts 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Response to the Psalm You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Second reading 1 John 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation Jn15:4,5

Alleluia, alleluia!
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	906 - If we are living	Entrance	920 - A new commandment
Offertory	643 - Gifts of bread and wine	Offertory	609 - In bread we bring you
Communion	631 - Bread of life	Communion	921 - This is my will
Recessional	671 - Morning has broken	Recessional	278 - Now the green blade riseth

Next Sunday is the 6th Sunday of Easter