

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



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NEWSLETTER for 7th 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 Ascension
by Gustave Dore

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 11th May	7th Sunday of Easter (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Kathleen Devereaux *(RIP)*
Sun 12th May	7th Sunday of Easter	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish Victor & Philomena Sebastian
Mon 13thMay	Mon 7th Week of Easter			No Mass
Tue 14th May	ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf*	Private Intention Priest's Intention
Wed 15thMay	Wed 7th Week of Easter	10.00am	Poplar	John Waters *(Ann.)*
Thu 16th May	Thu 7th Week of Easter	10.00am	Poplar	Marita Gasper *(Ann.)*
Fri 17th May	Fri 7th Week of Easter	10.00am	Poplar	John Attard *(Ann.)*
Sat 18th May	Sat 7th Week of Easter	10.00am	Poplar	Mark Hill *(Int)*

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Jean Bateman, Sarah Andrews, Alan Percival, Brigid Baker, Glennford St Prix, who have died recently. Please also pray for Scarlett Ebio and Francis Jarmula, both children from our First Holy Communion course, and for Polly Blossom Veitch Beackon, Mary Jeffries, and Gillian Wallace who are all ill.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Today there will be a special collection in aid of the Catholic Communications Network.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

The next meeting for children and parents is on Wednesday 15th at 7.00pm in the Guild Room for those who were unable to attend on Saturday. A reminder that parents and children are expected to attend mass each week as well as the meetings. Being part of our community at mass is a vital part of introducing children to the practice of the faith and participation in the mass. If you are unable to attend either mass or one of the meetings you must contact Sr Christine beforehand.

REPOSITORY SHOP

The repository shop at Poplar now has lots of gifts and cards suitable for First Holy Communion in stock. If you would like Marie to order anything in for Limehouse please let her know.

CARD READERS AT POPLAR

Apologies to anyway who has found the rather intermittent operation of the card readers frustrating. I hope that we have now fixed the problem and the readers appear to be working much better. There will now be one reader at the back of church and one in the Guild Room. You can use either for the offertory collection or Lourdes Fund and you can use the one at the back of church to pay for items from the repository and the one in the Guild Room to contribute towards teas and coffees. Please let Fr Andrew know whether or not they seem to be working.

RCIA COURSE

The final meeting will be on Monday 13th May at 7pm in the Guild Room. At the 6pm Mass on Sat 18th May (the Vigil of Pentecost), Fabio will be baptised and both he and Aleksandra and Theo will be confirmed. There will also be a presentation for all members of the RCIA group at that mass.

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. The first prize is £100 of M&S vouchers. Please contact either the parish office or Sr Christine if you have other prizes to donate. 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 EUROPE CELEBRATION

Saturday 18th May from 2pm – 5pm in the Guild Room at Poplar.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Sunday 2nd June is the Feast of Corpus Christi. On Saturday 1st June at 3pm in the Guild Room Fr Andrew will give a talk on the Eucharist to help us prepare. Extraordinary Ministers in particular are asked to attend but the talk is open to anyone. The talk will be followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. At all masses that weekend, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist will be recommissioned. We hope also to have a procession with the Blessed Sacrament at Poplar on Sunday 2nd June after the 10am Mass.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

A new Dance Project for girls (over 16) and young women has begun on 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. We can be reached on 07813478891 if more details needed.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £118.00	Loose: £449.65	Contactless: £240.00	Total: £807.65
STANDING ORDERS February: £528.34 March: £513.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £61.25	Loose: £120.15	Contactless: £101.00	Total: £282.40
STANDING ORDERS February: £1'317.00 March: £1'507.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

On Thursday we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord when we celebrate how Jesus ascended body and soul into heaven. It's easy to imagine the Ascension as marking the end of Our Lord's ministry or even the end of his incarnation (his coming and being among us as one of us, as man). But that is not the case. The Ascension of Jesus does not bring the humanity of God to end, far from it. What Jesus does when he ascends into heaven is to take our humanity with him into heaven, into God so that God is forever united to humanity in his person. If at Christmas we celebrated God coming down to us, at the Ascension we celebrate Jesus taking our humanity up to God there to remain forever and where Christ our head had gone, there we his body are called to follow.

The change that comes about in the Ascension is not a change in God because he is changeless and eternal. Rather the change has taken place in us. Because of Christ's Ascension which is really part of his dying and rising again, we are changed so that we are made capable of receiving God in a new way. That new way of receiving God is what we are praying for now in this period between the Ascension and Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. On the feast of the Annunciation we remembered what extraordinary things the Holy Spirit can do in human hearts, and we have all received the Holy Spirit in our baptism and confirmation, but what we are doing now in praying for the Holy Spirit to come again to us is opening our hearts just as Mary opened her heart when she said to the Angel: be it done unto according to your word. Here's a prayer that you might find helpful as we prepare for Pentecost:

"Holy Spirit, powerful Consoler, sacred Bond of the Father and the Son, Hope of the afflicted, descend into my heart and establish in it Your loving dominion. Enkindle in my tepid soul the fire of Your Love so that I may be wholly subject to You. We believe that when you dwell in us, You also prepare a dwelling for the Father and the Son. Deign, therefore, to come to me, Consoler of abandoned souls, and Protector of the needy. Help the afflicted, strengthen the weak, and support the wavering. Come and purify me, let no evil desire take possession of me. You love the humble and resist the proud. Come to me, Glory of the living, and Hope of the dying. Lead me by Your grace that I may always be pleasing to you. Amen."

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 7th Sunday of Easter

First reading Acts 1:15-17,20-26

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: 'Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours. Now in the Book of Psalms it says: Let someone else take his office. 'We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.' Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, 'Lord, you can read everyone's heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.' They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

Response to the Psalm The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

Second reading 1 John 4:11-16

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God. We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.

Gospel Acclamation cf.Jn14:18

Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!

Gospel John 17:11-19

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us. While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures. But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full. I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	644 - Alleluia, sing to Jesus	Entrance	644 - Alleluia, sing to Jesus
Offertory	293 - Abba, Father	Offertory	610 - Take our bread
Communion	627 - This is my body	Communion	968 Be still and know I am with you
Recessional	764 - Colours of day	Recessional	279 - Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday