

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



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NEWSLETTER for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 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 1.00pm on Saturdays.

Parish Office
Tue - Fri 10.00am - 2.30pm



Moses with the Ten Commandments 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 31st Aug	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Peace
Sun 1st Sep	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish Anthony Smith *(Ann.)*
Mon 2nd Sep	Feria Week 22			No Mass
Tue 3rd Sep	St Gregory the Great	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf*	Brendan James Brennan *(Ann.)* Private Intention
Wed 4th Sep	Funeral of Shane Terry	**12noon**	Poplar	Funeral of Shane Terry
Thu 5th Sep	Feria Week 22	10.00am	Poplar	Domnick Cyril D'Silva *(RIP)*
Fri 6th Sep	Feria Week 22	10.00am	Poplar	Priest's Intention
Sat 7th Sep	Saturday Memoria BVM	10.00am	Poplar	Regina De Souza *(Int.)*

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Vera Rabess, Michael Hamilton, Eddie Cashman, Sr Breda Bresnihan, Sr Margarita Byron, Judy Mathurin, Shane Terry, Josefina Legaspi and Warren Andrew Whitty who have died recently. Please also pray for Susan Mansfield, Sylma Simon, Frances Samuels, Polly-Blossom Veitch-Beackon, Gillian Wallace and Mary Jeffries who are all ill.

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS

Shane Terry – Wednesday 4th September at 12noon at Poplar
Eddie Cashman – Wednesday 11th September at 2pm at East London Crematorium
Vera Rabess – Friday 4th October at 10am at Poplar

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The First Holy Communion Programme for children who will have reached Year 3 next academic year will begin at the start of October this year. Application forms are available now at the back of church. It is very important that you take a form, fill it out and return it as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is Sunday 22nd September 2024.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

This year's confirmation programme is going to be a little bit different to previous years. Confirmation is about young people taking a mature and confident step forward as young adult members of our community. It is not just about rite of passage. In the past, sometimes Confirmation has been more like a graduation ceremony which marks the end of someone's involvement in the Church. It shouldn't be like this and so something needs to change. Therefore, this year, the Confirmation course will only be open to young people in year 9 who are already demonstrating a commitment to being involved in our parish communities. After Christmas we will begin our regular meetings but between now and then young people may apply for the programme but they will need to show how they are committed.

There will be two key elements to that commitment. The first is regular attendance at mass. Only young people who are regularly coming to mass will be able to join programme. If you haven't been in the habit then now is the time to start. The second element is involvement in our community. You may already be doing something for others but if not then you will need to start now. You can either propose some voluntary work or ask Fr Andrew or Sr Christine if they can suggest something for you. So it's time to start thinking. More information will follow. And there will be a meeting for parents and young people at which they can register their interest in the coming weeks.

COMING INTO THE CHURCH OR RETURNING TO CHURCH

Next year's RCIA programme will begin at the start of October. The RCIA is a programme for adults who wish to explore the Catholic faith with a view to either joining or returning. It is suitable for those who are not baptised or those who have been baptised in other Christian denominations and who wish to be received into the full communion of the Church. It is also suitable for those may have been baptised as Catholics but who have drifted away and wish to reconnect and/or who never made their First Holy Communion or were Confirmed as children. Application forms are available at the back of the church and the deadline for applications is Sunday 22nd September 2024.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Further to Fr Andrew's piece in this week's Newsletter and pending the appointment of a Building Manager, any volunteers for keeping the grounds around the Church and Clergy House would be very welcome. Please contact the office if you are available and interested.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £84.45	Loose: £348.62	Contactless: £147.00	Total: £580.07
STANDING ORDERS May: £543.34	June: £543.34		
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £37.00	Loose: £107.05	Contactless: £137.00	Total: £281.05
STANDING ORDERS May: £1,507.00	June: £1,507.00		
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

I can hardly believe it but this Sunday marks exactly one year as parish priest of our two parishes! It's been a wonderful year that has flown by. Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for making me so welcome and for helping me in so many different ways. Secondly, I would like to apologise for all things that I haven't managed to attend to. There has been a lot to get to grips with but having got through a year and having had some time to reflect over the summer I hope that this next year I will do better.

However, it is not all about me. These are your parishes. I see my role as encouraging and facilitating your greater involvement in our communities. I would like to propose that we make this a special focus for this coming year. So I would like everyone to ask themselves a simple question: is there something more that I could do to help to build up my parish? It doesn't have to be anything too adventurous or time consuming, it is really true that every little helps. One example of something that began in this last year which was entirely the initiative of parishioners and continues to be their responsibility is the teas and coffees after the 10am mass at Poplar. I would like to thank those who have started this and kept it going. It is a simple thing that has made a big difference especially as a way of welcoming newcomers to the parish.

I know that you all have all kinds of gifts and talents and that many of you have ideas of what we could be doing. As a way of bringing some of this together we are going to have a simple survey in both parishes in the coming weeks. There will be three questions: 1. Name and contact details. 2. Any skills, gifts or talents that you have and that you would be willing to offer at the service of our parishes. 3. Any suggestions for things that you would like to see happening in our parishes (with a particular emphasis on things that you would be happy to be involved with yourself).

For now, have a think and we will have the survey at the end of this month or the beginning of October.

In the meantime there is one specific thing that I feel I need help with and that is the buildings. As parish priest of Poplar and Limehouse I am responsible for 2 churches, 2 halls, 2 flats with tenants and 1 house with tenants plus the grounds around those places. There is always something that needs doing in these buildings and the danger is that I get distracted with those things. I am therefore considering employing someone who might help with general buildings maintenance. The role and terms of employment could be adapted around the right person but please have a think and ask around for anyone who might be interested and let me know. 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 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Response to the Psalm The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Second reading James 1:17-18,21-22,27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation cf.Jn6:63,68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: "This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	908 Blest are the pure in heart	Entrance	821 The Kingdom of God
Offertory	892 The cry of the poor	Offertory	610 Take our bread
Communion	902 Peace is flowing like a river	Communion	872 May God accept my heart
Recessional	887 God whose almighty word	Recessional	820 Seek ye first

Next Sunday is the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)