

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



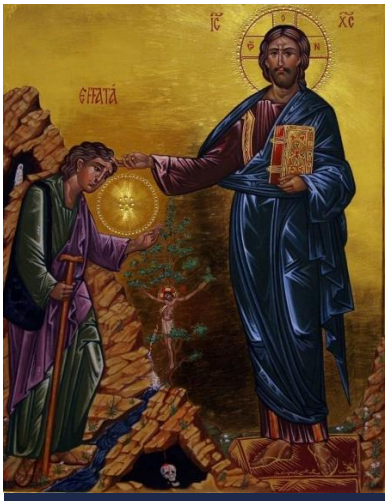
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NEWSLETTER for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 2024

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



Ephphatha – Jesus heals the deaf mute.

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 7th Sep	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Sr Christine *(Int.)*
Sun 8th Sep	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	Eileen Lyddon *(Ann.)* Rex Dennes Jayaseelan *(Int.)*
Mon 9th Sep	Feria Week 23			No Mass
Tue 10th Sep	Feria Week 23	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf†	Fr Michael Cooley *(RIP)* Priest's Intention
Wed 11th Sep	Feria Week 23	10.00am	Poplar	Angela Victor *(RIP)*
Thu 12th Sep	Feria Week 23	10.00am	Poplar	Private Intention
Fri 13th Sep	St John Chrysostom	10.00am	Poplar	OLSJ School
Sat 14th Sep	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	10.00am	Poplar	Peace

*= Teas and Coffees in the Guild Room each week after the 10am Sunday mass, all are welcome.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Zane Sullivan, Joan Aiken, 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 Bernadette McSweeney, Dorren Maciejewski, Susan Mansfield, Sylma Simon, Frances Samuels, Polly-Blossom Veitch-Beackon, Gillian Wallace and Mary Jeffries who are all ill.

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS

Eddie Cashman – Wednesday 11th September at 2pm at East London Crematorium
Zane Sullivan – Friday 20th September at 10am at Poplar
Joan Aiken – Monday 30th September at 10.30am at Limehouse

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The programme for children who are in Year 3 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

The Confirmation course is 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 demonstrate their commitment in two ways. 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. Forms are available at the back of church for you to register you interest but only children meeting the above criteria will be admitted. There will be a meeting for parents and young people who are interested at 7pm on Thursday 26th September in the Guild Room at Poplar.

COMING INTO THE CHURCH OR RETURNING TO CHURCH

This 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 last week's Newsletter and pending the appointment of a Buildings 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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Saturday 21st September. Walsingham, in Norfolk, is the premier shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Britain. The day pilgrimage will be led by our Archbishop, Cardinal Nichols. A coach will leave St Patrick's, Wapping (Green Bank, E1W 2PH) at 8am, returning to Wapping at 6pm. Bring a packed lunch. Adults £20, Children & OAPs £15. Book online (http://rcwappingwalsingham2024.eventbrite.co.uk), or for more information contact Joann Condon (joanncondon@rcdow.org.uk, 020 7481 2202)

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £170.90	Loose: £525.68	Contactless: £77.50	Total: £774.08
STANDING ORDERS May: £543.34	June: £543.34		
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £35.00	Loose: £95.91	Contactless: £118.00	Total: £248.91
STANDING ORDERS May: £1,507.00	June: £1,507.00		
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

There's a wonderful buzz of chatter and excitement in our streets in the morning and the afternoons now that our schools have returned after the summer break. New shoes and pencil cases have been bought and some children have started new schools. So many children will be looking forward to meeting up with their friends after what might have seemed like an eternal summer holiday. Some perhaps feel a bit nervous about new teachers, new subjects, or new schools. For parents it's often a mixture of feelings, a little relief perhaps that the burden of entertaining kids all week has been lifted but perhaps home feels a little quiet, perhaps you even miss the little ones.

The new term has even brought some changes to Clergy House, or at least the flats above Clergy House. One of the flats has now been given over to newly qualified teachers at our wonderful primary school of Our Lady & St Joseph. So we welcome Megan, Clodagh and Michael and wish them well as they begin their teaching careers.

All of this talk of schools, students and teachers reminds us that life, and in particular our Christian life, is really all about learning and growing – no matter what age we may be. When we see those excited gaggles of children pouring in and out of our schools we should be reminded that Jesus himself told us that in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven we must become like little children. And part of that childlike quality, that is essential for Christians, is an openness to learn and to grow, to begin again and even to try new things. Children seem to take to this quite naturally on the whole but as we get older we tend to get more set in our ways, more convinced that we've seen it all before and that there is nothing new worth learning about. Jesus seems to suggest that this is not the right attitude for Christians.

It would be nice to think that the reason that school children seem so excited on their way in to school in the morning is because they are so eager to learn more about quadratic equations or something (well maybe some are – I sure wasn't). However, I suspect the real reason for the excitement is more likely a delight in one another. What children are most open to in fact is making new friends, sharing their news and thoughts and ideas. It is this openness to others that Jesus is telling us is necessary for Christians. The new and exciting thing that we must be open to learning about is other people.

Here's a little challenge then. In the coming weeks while this 'start of term' vibe continues, lets all try to have that excited openness to one another in the parish. Why not try to talk to someone at church you've never spoken to. Come along to the teas and coffees after mass at Poplar or just hang back and chat a bit at Limehouse and discover the gift of other people.

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 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First reading Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Response to the Psalm My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second reading James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation Is 3:9, Jn 6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	713 Sing of the Lord's goodness	Entrance	432 Lay your hands
Offertory	432 Lay your hands	Offertory	603 Blest are you Lord
Communion	623 Now in this banquet	Communion	938 Soul of my Saviour
Recessional	972 Do not be afraid	Recessional	406 O Praise ye the Lord

Next Sunday is the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)