

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



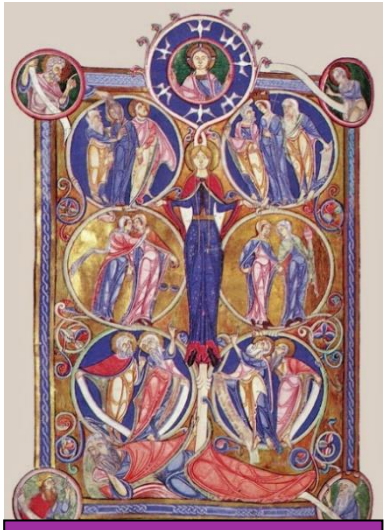
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NEWSLETTER for the First Sunday of Advent 2024

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 12 noon on Saturdays.

Parish Office
Tue - Fri 10.00am - 2.30pm



Tree of Jesse,
unknown miniaturist c.1140

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 30th Nov	1st Sunday of Advent (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Mary Stone *(Ann.)*
Sun 1st Dec	1st Sunday of Advent	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	The People of the Parish Joan Aiken *RIP*
Mon 2nd Dec	Advent Feria			No Mass
Tue 3rd Dec	St Francis Xavier	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf†	Eddie Frost *(Ann.)* Priest's Intention
Wed 4th Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Margaret Smith *RIP*
Thu 5th Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Private Intention
Fri 6th Dec	St Nicholas	10.00am	Poplar	Mavis Robinson *(Int.)*
Sat 7th Dec	St Ambrose	10.00am	Poplar	Peace

† = In the multi-faith prayer room in the Churchill Place Shopping Centre between Joe the Juice and Barclays.
*= Teas and coffees in the Guild Room after Mass, all are very welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Pam Mason, Mary Jeffries, Francis Charles, Zane Sullivan and Joan Aiken who have died recently. Please also pray for Sarah Dodd, Anthony Gafa, Bernadette McSweeney, Doreen Maciejewski, Susan Mansfield, Sylma Simon, Frances Samuels, Gillian Wallace and Lilly Bleach who are all ill.

VISITATION BY BISHOP NICHOLAS

On Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December, Bishop Nicholas Hudson, the area Bishop for East London, is coming to visit both our parishes. There will be an opportunity to meet the Bishop after the 6pm Vigil Mass and after the 10am mass in Poplar and the 6pm Mass in Limehouse. Please put the date in your diaries as the Bishop is very keen to meet as many of you as possible and hear what you may have to say.

SPECIAL MASS BY CANDLELIGHT AT LIMEHOUSE

On Sunday 15th December the Mass at Limehouse will be moved from 12noon to 6pm. This will be a special mass by candlelight with a special choir and music and the celebrant will be Bishop Nicholas. There will be a reception after mass with mulled wine, mince pies and other food and drink.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Why not start the season of Advent with some quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for confession from 6pm this Friday 6th December at Poplar.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The next meeting will be at 4.30pm on **Saturday 14th December** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

COMING INTO THE CHURCH OR RETURNING TO CHURCH

The next meetings of the RCIA group will be at 7pm on **Tuesday 3rd and Tuesday 10th December** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ETC…

The repository shops in both our parishes are stocked with Christmas cards etc… do have a look especially if you're looking for something showing the true meaning of Christmas.

TUESDAY 10AM MASS AT POPLAR

Volunteers needed to set up, serve and clear away teas and coffees after the 10am Mass each Tuesday. Mass on Tuesdays is now in the main church rather than the Canon Wright Chapel and we are joined each week by a class from Our Lady & St Joseph's school.

CRIB BUILDING AT POPLAR

Volunteers needed on the morning of Saturday 14th December to help with the construction of the crib.

ADVENT TALK

Thursday 12th December at 7pm in the Guild Room at Poplar. An exploration of the readings and themes of the liturgy throughout Advent. This will be especially helpful for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers from both our parishes.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

WORKHOUSE SPORTS CENTRE Community Day – lots of bargains 12noon until 4pm. All welcome.
CARE WATCH! Keep an eye on your elderly and disabled neighbours. Are they warm enough? Have they got enough food in? Keep an eye out for anyone who may be facing a cold and lonely Christmas, when no one is around and everything is closed.
QUEEN VICTORIA SEAMEN'S REST Carol Service Monday 9th December at 7.30pm in the Emery Hall.
CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES Neighbours In Poplar will be delivering festive meals to isolated resident of this Borough on CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY and NEW YEAR'S DAY... DELIVEROO ANGELS needed.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £87.00	Loose: £271.59	Contactless: £280.00	Total: £638.59
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £538.34 October: £743.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £30.00	Loose: £124.05	Contactless: £94.00	Total: £248.05
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £1,197.00 October: £1'271.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

We are now beginning the holy season of Advent which is a time of hope when we prepare for the coming of Jesus. There are three different ways that Jesus comes and for which Advent prepares us. There is the first coming of Jesus when the eternal Word of God was made flesh, took on our human nature and was born of the Virgin Mary in a stable in Bethlehem. This is, of course, what Christmas focusses on. And then there is the second coming of Jesus at the end of time when Christ will come in majesty to judge the world. Our readings in the first part of Advent speak of this, as indeed they have been doing for a few weeks now. And then there is the third coming of Jesus. This is the way or rather the different ways in which Jesus comes to us each and every day. By encouraging us to open our hearts to God and neighbour, Advent helps us to recognise Jesus who often comes to us in unexpected ways. Jesus told us that whenever we help those in need we are helping him which means that Jesus comes to us especially in the poor, the sick, the lonely, the rejected. In this season of Advent, when we can be busy with preparations for Christmas it is so important, especially while the weather is cold, that we keep an eye out for those who may need our help and our love. By doing this we open our hearts to Jesus himself.

Another way that Jesus comes to us is when we gather as a Christian community for Mass and when we pray and work together to build up his Kingdom. Jesus told us that wherever two or more gather in his name then he will be present. This is why coming to Mass and the other opportunities for prayer and sacraments and getting involved in the life of the parish is so important. In this way Jesus comes to us as we are formed into his Body the Church.

We had a great Parish Meeting in Poplar last week when we discussed the results of our recent survey. We will have something similar soon in Limehouse. We will shortly be pulling together some working groups to build up various aspects of parish life and get more people more involved. For now, we have created some word clouds, displayed in both churches which show the various interests, priorities and skills and talents revealed in our surveys. Do have a look at them and watch out for more information about those working groups.

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 – First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

First reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Response to the Psalm To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 85(84):8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. 'But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	81 Come to set us free	Entrance	84 Like a sea without a shore
Offertory	88 Wait for the Lord	Offertory	603 Blest are you, Lord
Communion	78 Bread of Life	Communion	88 Wait for the Lord
Recessional	84 Like a sea without a shore	Recessional	100 Come thou long expected Jesus

Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)