

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



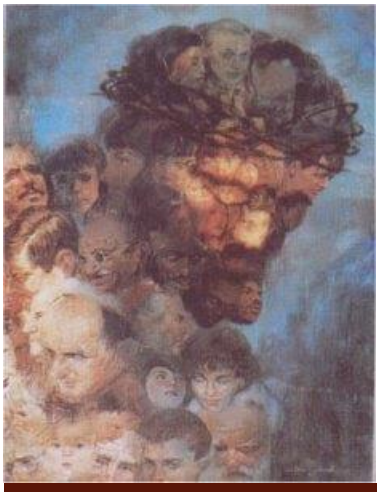

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## NEWSLETTER for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time 2024

**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



Love God with all your heart and love your neighbour as yourself

**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.

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| Sat 2nd Nov | All Souls | 6.00pm | Poplar | All the faithful departed |
| Sun 3rd Nov | 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10.00am<br>12noon | Poplar *<br>Limehouse | Hubert Fernandes (Int)<br>Anna Hanh Do (Int) |
| Mon 4th Nov | St Charles Borromeo | | | No Mass |
| Tue 5th Nov | Feria Week 31 | 10.00am<br>12.30pm | Poplar<br>Canary Wharf† | Holy Souls<br>Service of the Word |
| Wed 6th Nov | Feria Week 31 | 10.00am | Poplar | Holy Souls |
| Thu 7th Nov | Feria Week 31 | 7.00pm | Limehouse | Holy Souls |
| Fri 8th Nov | Feria Week 31 | 10.00am | Poplar | Holy Souls |
| Sat 9th Nov | Dedication of the Lateran | 10.00am | Poplar | Holy Souls |

† = 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 Jerffries, Francis Charles, Zane Sullivan and Joan Aiken who have died recently. Please also pray for Sarah Dodd, Anthony Gafa, Rita Lovelace, Bernadette McSweeney, Doreen Maciejewski, Susan Mansfield, Sylma Simon, Frances Samuels, and Gillian Wallace who are all ill.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The next meeting will be at 4.30pm on **Saturday 16th November** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

## COMING INTO THE CHURCH OR RETURNING TO CHURCH

The next meeting of the RCIA group will be at 7pm on **Tuesday 12th November** when we will be joining the local interfaith gathering for peace at the Emery Hall at the QVSR and then on **Tuesday 19th November** at 7pm in the Guild Room.

## NOVEMBER – THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

**Envelopes for the November Dead List are available at the back of church.** Please take an envelope and return it with the names of the deceased loved ones who you would like to be remembered in our November masses for the Holy Souls together with your donation for masses to be offered. All the names of our November Dead will be placed in a box in front of the altar throughout the month of November.

## TUESDAY 10AM MASS AT POPLAR

Beginning on **Tuesday 12th November**, each Tuesday during school term time, the 10am Mass at Poplar will be in the main church rather than the Canon Wright Chapel. This is because we will be joined for mass each week by one class from Our Lady & St Joseph's school together with their parents so we will need more room.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TEAS AND COFFEES** Given that we will be a slightly larger congregation which will involve some parents of children in the school it is intended that we should have teas and coffees in the Guild Room straight after mass. We are therefore looking for a few volunteers to have the refreshments ready and serve them. Please let Fr Andrew know if you are interested in helping.

## NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

**The LOCAL PLAN**. Meeting in St. Matthias Community Centre on Thursday7th @5pm with one of the Council's Senior Planning Officers. What does the Local Plan mean for Poplar... Housing,,, Employment etc.etc.? Come and find out.

**INTERFAITH WEEK** November 10th -17th Come and join us along with people of other Faiths on Tuesday 12th at 6.30pm as we pray together for Peace. Emery Theatre, Queen Victoria Seafarers Rest. All welcome.

**CALAIS**: Qualified minibus driver who is comfortable driving in France wanted! We need you for our next visit which will be on a Monday in November. Mondays are good for one of the Centres we visit as on that day they care for a large number of refugees. If you are interested contact Sr. Christine **nip65@msn.com**

**OVER 50s HUBS** Neighbours in Poplar run several Hubs each week for over 50s: Tuesday's is in St. John's Centre on the Isle of Dogs while there are smaller gatherings on Wednesdays and Thursdays in Saltwell Street. Friday's takes place in St. Matthias Community Centre in Poplar High Street. All between 11am and 3pm. For further details ring 0207 531 0190 or email nip65'msn.com We have also just launched a special gathering for residents suffering from dementia. This offers support for Carers also.

**DRIVERS and WALKERS** needed to help get the dinners out quickly to our residents, many of whom see very few friendly faces at their doors. See Sr. Christine or email nip65@msn.com or ring 07813478891 if you can help.

| RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY | | | |
| Envelopes: £118.10 | Loose: £388.49 | Contactless: £0 | Total: £506.59 |
| STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE<br>September: £538.34 | | | |
| LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY | | | |
| Envelopes: £40.00 | Loose: £228.88 | Contactless: £0 | Total: £268.88 |
| STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE<br>September: £1,197.00 | | | |
| Sincere thanks for your continued generosity! | | | |

## FR ANDREW WRITES

November is the month when we traditionally pray for the faithful departed or the Holy Souls. A few people have asked me recently what exactly this means so I thought I would try to explain it here. Now, we can be absolutely certain that God is all love and mercy and forgiveness. What he wants for all of us is that we should be happy with him for all eternity in Heaven. God wants this because he loves us. But an invitation of love can only be responded to freely. You can't make someone love you. So too, God cannot make us love him and so he can't make us reach Heaven. That is why Jesus says that what really matters about the way that we live is that we love God with all our heart and love our neighbour as ourselves. Love is the key. When Adam and Eve were first created they used their freedom to respond in love to God's invitation of love. But then they rejected God and his love and separated themselves from him. And this meant that all their descendants were separated from God, until God sent his Son Jesus Christ to reconcile humanity with God. What Jesus did was to remove the obstacle so that it became possible for us so to love God and neighbour in this life that we are united in love with him for ever in the next. But here's the thing; we are still free and if we're honest, we still sometimes choose ourselves over God and ourselves over one another. In other words, we turn in on ourselves and thereby prevent ourselves from enjoying that loving union with God. It's not that God is angry or lacks forgiveness but rather that we reject him.

But God still doesn't abandon us and he doesn't give up on us. He finds ways of bringing us round without taking away our freedom so that in the end we freely return love for love. He does this through the sacraments (especially Mass and Confession) where we are given little shares of his life and love that help us to turn outwards once again, to open our hearts. Sometimes he also gives us experiences in life that help to do this and this is often in the form of suffering, things that break our hearts, but in the process open them up. For some people all of this ensures that when they die they are ready for God, hearts utterly open to his love. But even if, despite all of this, at the moment of our death, there is still part of us that is closed up, God still doesn't give up on us. He gives us a time of longing for that happiness to come and this longing opens up our hearts. They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder and sometimes a sense of separation from the one that we love reveals to us the true depth of our love. It is those who have died but who are still longing for God for whom we pray (the Holy Souls). And just as the Mass opens our hearts so too we offer masses for them that their hearts may finally be opened to God. And this why we offer masses for the Holy Souls especially in November.

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 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)*

**First reading** Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

**Response to the Psalm** What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

**Second reading** Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

**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 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

| **Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar** | | **Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Entrance | 906 If we are living | Entrance | 803 Love is his word |
| Offertory | 609 In bread we bring you | Offertory | 644 Alleluia, sing to Jesus |
| Communion | 920 A new commandment | Communion | 920 A new commandment |
| Recessional | 967 O the love of my Lord | Recessional | 794 God is Love |

*Next Sunday is the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) – Remembrance Sunday*