

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



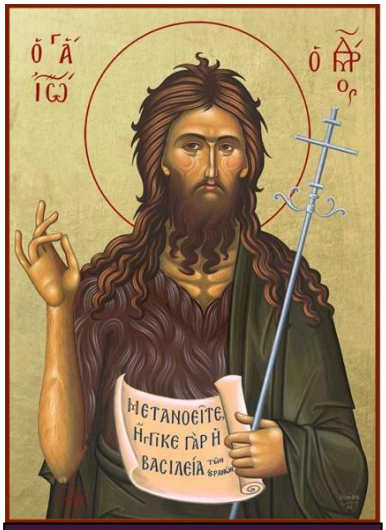
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NEWSLETTER for the Second Sunday of Advent 2024

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



Icon of St John the Baptist

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 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	The People of the Parish
Sun 8th Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	Paulino Saducos *(Ann.)* Faustina Yadao Pascual *(RIP)*
Mon 9th Dec	Immaculate Conception			No Mass
Tue 10th Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf†	Antonio Balicudiong *(Ann.)* Priest's Intention
Wed 11th Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Maria Teresa Espiritu *(Int.)*
Thu 12th Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe	10.00am	Poplar	Private Intention
Fri 13th Dec	St Lucy	10.00am	Poplar	Brendon Griffin *(Ann.)*
Sat 14th Dec	St John of the Cross	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

Next weekend, the 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 HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The next meeting will be at 4.45pm on **Saturday 14th December** 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 10th December** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamp at Poplar this week burns in memory of Rodolfo Espiritu.

The Sanctuary Lamp at Limehouse this week burns in memory of Mary & Fred Stageman.

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.

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 on Saturday 21st December. 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 on these days. Peelers also needed on Tuesday December 24th in St. Matthias as we prepare vegetables etc. for these dinners.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £204.60	Loose: £278.24	Contactless: £253.00	Total: £735.84
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £538.34 October: £743.34 November: £713.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £135.00	Loose: £92.91	Contactless: £102.00	Total: £329.91
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £1,197.00 October: £1'271.00 November: £1'507.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

There is a risk at this time of year that we just become so busy with all the practical preparations for Christmas that we miss this beautiful season of Advent altogether and then we enter into Christmas itself with the wrong mindset.

I would like to suggest two things that we can all do that might prevent this from happening. The first is to ensure that each day we try to reach out to someone who might need our help. This helps us to turn out from ourselves and all the frantic activity and to open our hearts to our neighbour. In this way our hearts become more open to God and how he wants to move us. The second thing is to ensure that we spend a little more time than usual in prayer, whether that be by coming to mass or just praying quietly at home or both. Why not spend some time looking at and praying over the readings for mass during Advent? The scripture that the Church gives us during Advent is incredibly rich.

If you would like a little inspiration for doing that, then please come along the **Advent Talk at 7pm on Thursday 12th December in the Guild Room at Poplar**.

If you want an excuse to reach out to a neighbour during Advent, then pick up a few the **Christmas Service Times Card** which are now available at the back of Church. Pop round to a neighbour with the card and see if you can't persuade them to come along to something over Christmas. In that card you will find the times of all the masses over Christmas and other special events in both our parishes. Let's get that card to as many people as possible!

Some of the key events that are coming up and to which you might invite people are:

Next Weekend – the visit of Bishop Nicholas to our parishes. Bishop Nicholas will preach at the **6pm Vigil Mass at Poplar on Saturday 14th December** and then we will have a bring and share **buffet reception in the Guild Room after Mass**. Bishop Nicholas will preside and preach at the **10am Mass at Poplar on Sunday 15th December** and then join us for refreshments after Mass in the Guild Room. And then also on **Sunday 15th December, Mass at Limehouse will be moved from 12noon to 6pm in the evening and Bishop Nicholas will preside and preach at a special Mass by candlelight with a choir.**

On **Wednesday 18th December at 6pm Our Lady & St Joseph's Primary School will be having their Christmas Carol Concert in the church at Poplar** to which everyone is invited. Then at Christmas itself there will be a Family Christmas Eve Mass at 6pm at Poplar, a Christmas Eve Mass at 10pm at Limehouse and then Mass on Christmas morning at 10am at Poplar and 11am at Limehouse.

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 – Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

First reading Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God: 'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Response to the Psalm What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

Second reading Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	92 Hark! a herald voice	Entrance	94 On Jordan's bank
Offertory	94 On Jordan's bank	Offertory	600 All that I am
Communion	64 Litany of the Word	Communion	88 Wait for the Lord
Recessional	97 Comfort, comfort now my people	Recessional	92 Hark! a herald voice

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