

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



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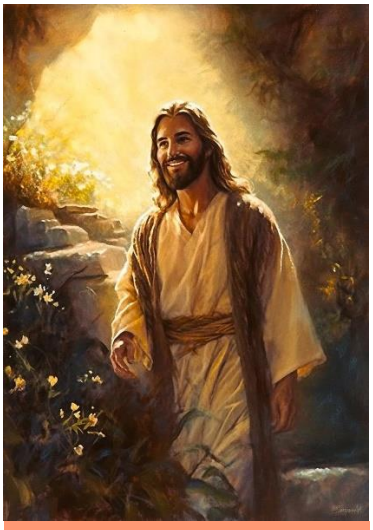
NEWSLETTER for the Third Sunday of Advent 2024

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



Rejoice!

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 14th Dec	3rd Sunday of Advent (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Private Intention
Sun 15th Dec	3rd Sunday of Advent	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar * Limehouse	The People of the Parish Francis Xavier Tuyen Tran *(Ann.)*
Mon 16th Dec	Advent Feria			No Mass
Tue 17th Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf†	Mary Dooley *(Ann.)* Priest's Intention
Wed 18th Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Therese Doris Turner *(Ann.)*
Thu 19th Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Patrick Donovan *(Ann.)*
Fri 20th Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Elizabeth & John Mahoney *RIP*
Sat 21st Dec	Advent Feria	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

Janet Jackson, 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

This weekend, Saturday 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. The Bishop is very keen to meet as many of you as possible and hear what you may have to say.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

This year we will be collecting presents to be given to sick and disadvantaged children at Christmas. Please wrap the present and write on the label the sex and age of the intended recipient and bring the present to Church before Christmas.

SPECIAL MASS BY CANDLELIGHT AT LIMEHOUSE

This 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The last meeting before Christmas 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 date for the RCIA group meeting will be announced in due course.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamp at Limehouse this week burns in memory of Mary Layzell.

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.

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS

Elizabeth Noel – Wednesday **15th January at 10am at Poplar.**

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.

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 and Tuesday December 31st at 9am as we prepare vegetables etc. for these dinners. Please come St. Matthias Community Centre, 113 Poplar High Street, everyone is welcome!

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £114.50	Loose: £298.40	Contactless: £238.00	Total: £650.90
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £538.34 October: £743.34 November: £713.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £42.00	Loose: £75.73	Contactless: £102.00	Total: £219.73
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £1,197.00 October: £1'271.00 November: £1'507.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

This weekend is Gaudete Sunday when the liturgy invites us to rejoice. Once upon a time, Advent was a more penitential season like Lent and so, just as in Lent when there is a brief pause for joy (on Laetare Sunday), so there is in Advent on this Gaudete Sunday. The joy that we are invited to enter into is not a mere feeling or a passing thing but rather a sharing in the joy that Jesus shares with his Heavenly Father at the salvation that he brings to us. It is the Holy Spirit, who also shares in that joy, who gives that joy to us as a gift. Because that joy is a gift, rather like the presents that we will exchange at Christmas, it tends to fade if it is not shared. It is by sharing that joy in the Good News of Salvation that that joy increases in us and in the world.

This weekend we have a further reason to rejoice and that is in the visit of Bishop Nicholas to our two parishes. The visit of a Bishop to a parish is a source of joy because he comes to encourage us in our work of sharing the joy of the Gospel here in the East End and because he represents that special bond of communion that we as individual parishes share with the diocese and with the whole Church throughout the world. Bishop Nicholas is keen to meet you all so please do stay behind after mass if you can to say hello.

Many of you took home a **Christmas Service Times Card** and so more 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:

Saturday 14th December and Sunday 15th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent (normal mass times)

Wednesday 18th December - Our Lady & St Joseph's Primary School Christmas Carol Concert, 6pm at Poplar

Tuesday 24th December - Family Christmas Eve Mass (with children dressed as angels and shepherds), 6pm at Poplar

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve Mass in the Holy Night, 10pm at Limehouse

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day Mass with Christmas Carols, 10am at Poplar and 11am at Limehouse

Remember, Christian joy must be shared to be experienced, so bring someone along to mass this Christmas.

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 – Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

First reading Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

Response to the Psalm Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second reading Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	794 God is love, his the care	Entrance	See Booklet
Offertory	851 Awake, awake	Offertory	"
Communion	106 The King shall come	Communion	"
Recessional	+ Rejoice in the Lord always	Recessional	"

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