

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



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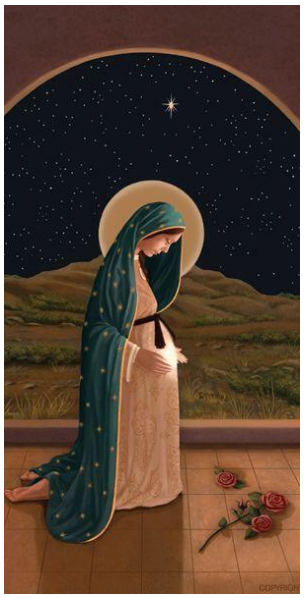
NEWSLETTER for the Fourth Sunday of Advent 2024

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



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 21st Dec	4th Sunday of Advent (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Catherine Stoakes *(B'Day Ann.)*
Sun 22nd Dec	4th Sunday of Advent	10.00am **12noon**	Poplar Limehouse	SheilaOrwell *(B'Day Ann.)* William Henry & William Edward Phillips *(Ann.)*
Mon 23rd Dec	Advent Feria			No Mass
Tue 24th Dec	Christmas Eve	6.00pm 10.00pm	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish The People of the Parish
Wed 25th Dec	Christmas Day	10.00am **11.00am**	Poplar Limehouse	Marta Saducos *(Ann.)* The People of the Parish
Thu 26th Dec	St Stephen	10.00am	Poplar	Altar Servers
Fri 27th Dec	St John the Apostle	10.00am	Poplar	Patrick O'Neil *RIP*
Sat 28th Dec	Holy Family (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	The People of the Parish
Sun 29th Dec	Holy Family	10.00am **12noon**	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish Napsy & Eza Bolano *(Ann.)*
Wed 1st Jan	Mary Mother of God – New Year's Day	12noon	Poplar	The People of the Parish

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Ebony Caesar, 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, Sylma Simon, Frances Samuels, Gillian Wallace and Lilly Bleach who are all ill.

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.

CRIB OFFERING

Please consider making a donation at the Crib to help the Catholic Children's Society provide support for vulnerable children in our Diocese. Donations can be made by using the envelopes at the back of Church as well as our contactless card readers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The next meeting will be at 4.30pm on **Saturday 11th January** 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 14th January** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamp at Poplar this week burns in memory of Noemy Quattrotempore.

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

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 We will welcome volunteers on foot, roller skates, scooters and cars on Christmas, Boxing and New Year's Days from 11.15am in St. Matthias Community Centre, 113 Poplar High St. E14 OAE. Some of the deliveries are to E1, E2, E3 and also all over Poplar and the Isle of Dogs.

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to all the wonderful People from Poplar and Limehouse who have supported us this last year. What would we have done without you? There would have been no dinner deliveries, no Older Peoples socials and a great number of elders would not have received the help they needed to claim their benefits.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £136.55	Loose: £303.65	Contactless: £188.00	Total: £628.20
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £538.34 October: £743.34 November: £713.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST SUNDAY			
Envelopes: £20.00	Loose: £195.67	Contactless: £160.00	Total: £375.67
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £1,197.00 October: £1'271.00 November: £1'507.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who helped to make Bishop Nicholas so welcome on his visitation of our two parishes last weekend. He has asked me to pass on his thanks to you all and to let you know how much he enjoyed the visit. Thank you to everyone who brought food for our reception in Poplar on Saturday evening and for everyone who helped to make the evening Candlelit Mass at Limehouse on Sunday such a beautiful occasion (those who prepared the church, provided food and drink and a particular thanks to Joe Monteiro and his group of singers.)

Christmas is nearly here and our Gospel this Sunday features two expectant mothers, Our Lady and her cousin Elizabeth. This seems to echo the sense of expectancy at this point and it reminds us that at the heart of everything that we will celebrate at Christmas is a young family. God entered into our world in an entirely new way to be, not just close to us, but actually one with us, and he began this by being conceived in the womb of a young woman and born, a small and vulnerable baby, depending on the love and protection of Mary and Joseph.

Those with small children may find that this aspect of Christmas speaks to them powerfully. Those who are past that stage of family life may remember the miracle of child birth but also the worry of pregnancy and birth and the almost overwhelming sense of responsibility for that new vulnerable life. Wherever we are on life's journey, the most important thing for us all to keep hold of as Christmas approaches is that God is with us and that if we really want to find God we need to look with open hearts to those who are most vulnerable in our world.

A quick reminder of our Christmas Mass times:

Tue 24th December – 6pm at Poplar - Family Christmas Eve Mass
Tue 24th December – 10pm at Limehouse - Christmas Eve Mass in the Holy Night
Wed 25th December – 10am at Poplar - Christmas Day Mass with Christmas Carols
Wed 25th December – 11am at Limehouse – Christmas Day Mass with Christmas Carols
Thu 26th December – 10am at Poplar
Fri 27th December – 10am Poplar
Sat 28th December – 6pm at Poplar (no 10am mass)
Sun 29th December - 10am Poplar and 12noon Limehouse.
No mass on Mon 30th or Tue 31st December.
Wed 1st January – 12noon at Poplar – Mary the Mother of God - New Year's Day Mass
No Mass on Thu 2nd January

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 – Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

First reading Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the Lord: You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Response to the Psalm Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Second reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." ' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	93 Christmas is coming	Entrance	366 Holy Virgin, by God's decree
Offertory	112 O Come, O Come Emmanuel	Offertory	114 When the angel came to Mary
Communion	113 The Angel Gabriel	Communion	88 Wait for the Lord
Recessional	366 Holy Virgin, by God's decree	Recessional	116 Long ago, prophets knew

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family