

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



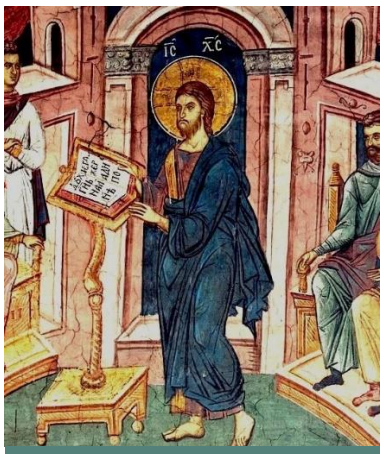
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NEWSLETTER for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 2025

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



Jesus in the Synagogue at Nazareth

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 25th Jan	3rd Sunday (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Gillian Wallace *(RIP)*
Sun 26th Jan	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	The People of the Parish Chelsea Sales *(Int.)*
Mon 27th Jan	Feria Week 3			No Mass
Tue 28th Jan	St Thomas Aquinas	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf †	Carmil Agius *(Sick)* Private Intention
Wed 29th Jan	Feria Week 3	10.00am	Poplar	Priest's Intention
Thu 30th Jan	Feria Week 3	10.00am	Poplar	Joyce Rose Fletcher *(Ann.)*
Fri 31st Jan	St John Bosco	10.00am	Poplar	James Stanley Sullivan *(Ann.)*
Sat 1st Feb	Memorial of BVM Presentation (Vigil)	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar Poplar	Peace The People of the Parish
Sun 2nd Feb	The Presentation of the Lord	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish Marcelina Basa & Severo Egoy *(RIP)*

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Gillian Wallace, Sue Hitchin, Noel Boswell, Ebony Caesar and Janet Jackson who have died recently. Please also pray for Camil Agius, Nita De Fide, Sarah Dodd, Anthony Gafa, Bernadette McSweeney, Doreen Maciejewski, Sylma Simon, Frances Samuels and Lilly Bleach who are all ill.

COMING INTO THE CHURCH OR RETURNING TO CHURCH

The next meeting of the RCIA group will be at 7pm on **Tuesday 28th January** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The next meeting will be at 4.45pm on **Saturday 8th February** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

CONFIRMATION

The next meeting will be at 7pm on **Thursday 30th January** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

The next Baptism Preparation Course for parents hoping to have their children baptised will be on **Saturday 1st February in the Guild Room at Poplar from 11am to 12noon.**

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS

Sue Hitchin – 3pm on **Thursday 30th January** at City of London of Crematorium

HOLY YEAR - JUBILEE

Opening the Church at Poplar

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time. We will start to open up the church from the first week of February. Fr Andrew will contact everyone who volunteered directly.

So far we have a good group for 11am – 12noon on Tuesdays. **We need more people to cover 12noon – 1pm, any takers?** If we had **another one or two to cover 1pm – 2pm on Tuesday** then we could have the Church open from 9am until 2pm on Tuesdays which would be a great start.

We also have some volunteers for **11am until 12noon on Wednesdays, Thursdays** – could we a few more to help them?

Similarly, we have one volunteer for **11am – 12noon on Friday morning and one for 12noon until 1pm**, is there anyone who could help at those times? If we could get just two more people we could open the Church until 1pm on Fridays. Any takers?

Holy Year – Poplar Jubilee Church Planning Group

There will be a meeting to plan some of the events that we will hold in Poplar during this Holy Year. **The meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 6th February 2025 in the Guild Room at Poplar.** Please do come along if you have any ideas at all or if you can offer anything to help to make this a really special year.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

CALAIS Our next day- trip to CALAIS will be on THURSDAY 30th JANUARY. We travel by mini bus to Folkstone where we pick up the Eurostar and are in Calais in 30 minutes! We have been asked by the charities we visit to bring winter jackets, blankets, woolies, men's' shoes sizes 42, 43, 44, Olbas Oil, Strepsils, rice and tea bags! We have room for a few passengers if anyone would like to come and see what it is like for the Migrants. All you need is your Passport!

HEATING OR EATING? Keep an eye on your neighbours. Are they warm enough? Have they got enough food in? Keep an eye out for anyone who may be hungry, cold and lonely in this cold weather.

DRIVERS STILL NEEDED Every Wednesday and Sunday to help deliver meals while still hot! St Matthias 113 Poplar High Street E14 04E

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY			
Envelopes: £130.50	Loose: £317.45	Contactless: £133.50	Total: £581.45
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE October: £743.34 November: £713.34 December: £548.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY			
Envelopes: £35.00	Loose: £93.07	Contactless: £278.00	Total: £406.07
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE October: £1'271.00 November: £1'507.00 December: £1'237.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

This Sunday has been designated by the Holy Father to be the Sunday of the Word of God when we might reflect on the great gift of God's Word for us in Sacred Scripture. In the pages of Sacred Scripture (the bible) we don't simply read theology or history or poetry or law but we truly encounter Jesus Christ, the Word of God. The Word of God is, as St Paul tells us, something alive and active. Speaking of St Paul, this Saturday we celebrated the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul and at the heart of Paul's conversion story we find precisely that realisation that the Christian faith, like Sacred Scripture, is something alive and active which is centred on an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. St Paul (or Saul as he was previously known) was a pious Jew who thought that, in persecuting the early Christian Church, he was dealing with an organisation or movement which promoted certain ideas which he thought to be false. At the heart of his conversion experience on the road to Damascus was an encounter with Jesus Christ himself and a realisation that he was not persecuting an organisation or an idea but a person, the person of Jesus, whose body is the Church (Christians).

We might not be persecuting anyone (please God we are not) but we are all in need of conversion, we are all in need of an encounter with the Lord Jesus that challenges us and changes us, just as St Paul's encounter with Christ challenged and changed him.

This Sunday of the Word of God reminds us that in addition to the crucial encounter with the Lord Jesus in the Mass (where we already encounter him in the Word of God, proclaimed in the readings and, hopefully, explained in the homily) we may also encounter him in our own prayerful reading of the Bible, either on our own or with others.

Often it is helpful for us to read the Bible with others so that we can share ideas and insights and help one another to grow in understanding and love of God's Word.

In our recent parish surveys, one of the things that a number of people said that they would like to see was Bible study groups. I think this is a great idea and I think that the best way for this to happen would be in a small and quite informal level. I would like to propose a way forward. If small groups of parishioners were to meet regularly and perhaps just read through the readings for the coming Sunday and pray over them and discuss them, imagine how that might enrich our encounter with the Lord Jesus during the Mass. As parish priest I would be very happy to support such groups in any way I can. I will shortly be contacting those who expressed an interest in Bible study and suggesting that we begin in this way. Even if we just begin with one small group in each of our two parishes that would be a great start, but if we could grow so that we had several different groups, it would be great. Perhaps the different groups might be for different age groups, or just in different areas, or according to the time of day that is more convenient. How about it?

May God bless you all, especially in this Holy Year of Jubilee
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 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

First reading Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

In those days: Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it, all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Ezra and the Levites read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, 'Go on your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Response to the Psalm Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul. The decrees of the Lord are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear; it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, abiding for ever.
The judgements of the Lord are true;
they are, all of them, just.

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer

Second reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27

Brothers and Sisters: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to the captives. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord