

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



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NEWSLETTER for the Baptism of the Lord 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



The Baptism of Christ
by Andrea del Verrocchio

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 11th Jan	The Baptism of the Lord (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	The People of the Parish
Sun 12th Jan	The Baptism of the Lord	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	Hilary Ramkeesoon *(Int.)* Victor & Philomena Sebastian *(Int.)*
Mon 13th Jan	Feria Week 1			No Mass
Tue 14th Jan	Feria Week 1	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf †	Jack Carroll *(Ann.)* Private Intention
Wed 15th Jan	Funeral of Elizabeth Noel	10.00am	Poplar	Funeral of Elizabeth Noel
Thu 16th Jan	Feria Week 1	10.00am	Poplar	Bill Stone *(B'day Ann.)*
Fri 17th Jan	St Anthony, Abbot	10.00am	Poplar	Priest's Intention
Sat 18th Jan	Memoria BVM	10.00am	Poplar	Peace

* = 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

Sue Hitchin, Noel Boswell, Ebony Caesar, Janet Jackson, Pam Mason, Mary Jeffries, Francis Charles, Zane Sullivan and Joan Aiken who have died recently. Please also pray for Nita De Fide, Sarah Dodd, Anthony Gafa, Bernadette McSweeney, Doreen Maciejewski, Sylma Simon, Frances Samuels, Gillian Wallace 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 14th January** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

After the meeting this Saturday 11th January, the next meeting will be at 4.45pm on **Saturday 8th February** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

CONFIRMATION

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

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS

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

Domenico Callegari – Tuesday **21st January at 12pm at St Patrick's Cemetery Chapel.**

HOLY YEAR - JUBILEE

As was announced towards the end of last year, as well as this year being a Holy Year for the universal Church, Cardinal Vincent has nominated St Mary & St Joseph, Poplar, as a Jubilee Church, which means that our church in Poplar will be a special focus of activity for Catholics in the Eastern part of the Diocese during the Holy Year. It is envisaged that people may travel to the Jubilee Churches during the Holy Year where they may receive a special indulgence. But this is also an opportunity for us to open up our church and welcome visitors while telling them all about our parish and community.

Volunteers are needed to welcome pilgrim groups to our Church in Poplar. We need two kinds of volunteers: Weekday Volunteers who are willing to be at the church during the week at regular times; and Weekend Volunteers who would be part of a team who between them would arrange to meet weekend groups who book in advance. There is now a sign-up sheet at the back of church for both.

Weekday Volunteers. Can you spare an hour (or even more) during the week to welcome people to our Church in Poplar? No one would have to do it alone and the role is really just being there to say hello, perhaps making a cup of tea in the Guildroom or telling people a little bit about our parish. If you have some time and are willing, please use the sign-up sheet to give us your contact details and let us know what days and times you might be available.

Weekend Volunteers. We may receive requests for parish groups to come at the weekends, probably Saturday or Sunday afternoons. Would you be willing to be part of a group of volunteers who would arrange between them for a few of the group to come and meet visitors on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon? These visits would be made by appointment. You wouldn't have to do it every weekend.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

WANTED We are looking for a few people interested in getting stories from our senior parishioners. These are often priceless glimpses into social history, which we do not want to lose. Anyone interested, please email nip65@msn.com or call 07813478891.

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: £162.00	Loose: £334.06	Contactless: £165.00	Total: £661.06
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE October: £743.34 November: £713.34 December: £548.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY			
Envelopes: £25.00	Loose: £103.05	Contactless: £95.00	Total: £223.05
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE October: £1'271.00 November: £1'507.00 December: £1'237.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

At the beginning of this Holy Year or Jubilee I thought that I would reflect a little about the theme of this Holy Year which is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. In a world scarred with tragedy, conflict and cruelty, the need of hope is clear. For many people life is simply endured and does not give much ground for hope. So often the pilgrimage of life is harsh and unrelenting. Yet, in the midst of these realities we, as Christians, are given an unshakable gift of hope. On Christmas Eve, when he opened this Holy Year, Pope Francis declared that we find this hope in the person of Jesus. He said: 'Sisters and brothers, this is our hope. God is Emmanuel, God-with-us. The infinitely great has made himself tiny; divine light has shone amid the darkness of our world; the glory of heaven has appeared on earth. And how? As a little child. If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever. Hope does not disappoint!'

The aim of this Holy Year for our parishes is that we should rekindle that hope for and share it with those around us as we journey through life with them, as fellow pilgrims. To be pilgrims of Hope means to live by the promise of heaven. This is what is meant by the virtue of hope. The Catechism defines it for us: 'The theological virtue of hope is the power by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the grace of the Holy Spirit.'

This is the hope we are to seek during the Holy Year. In speaking of this Jubilee, Pope Francis uses the image of the door. He invites us all to enter that door and receive again the gift of true hope. He says: 'The door of hope has opened wide to the world. God speaks to each of us and says: there is hope also for you! There is hope for each of us. And do not forget, sisters and brothers, that God forgives everything, God always forgives. Do not forget this, which is a way of understanding hope in the Lord.'

Entering this door of hope, we will see with greater clarity not only the gifts Jesus gives us but also the opportunities for us to serve him in others, deepening our bond with him day by day. Working for the good of those around us is to serve the Lord with gladness. We can offer this vision of hope and compassion to those whose lives are broken, for whom promises have been betrayed or dreams shattered, who are weary and have little strength to carry on. This is our calling and our privilege. As Pope Francis said: 'I hope that during this Jubilee we can practice kindness as a form of love, to connect with others. May this year bring us peace, fellowship and gratitude.'

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 – The Baptism of the Lord

First reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go on up to a high mountain, O Sion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!' Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Response to the Psalm Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

Second reading Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation Cf. Luke 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
He who is mightier than I is coming, said John. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

At that time: 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.' Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

Hymns for Sunday 10am at Poplar		**Hymns for Sunday 12noon at Limehouse**	
Entrance	102 Hail to the Lord's anointed	Entrance	747 The light of Christ
Offertory	171 When Jesus comes	Offertory	603 Blest are you Lord
Communion	747 The light of Christ	Communion	306 Spirit of the living God
Recessional	511 Springs of water	Recessional	652 Go the Mass is ended

Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of the Year (Year C)