

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



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NEWSLETTER for Epiphany Sunday 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



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 4th Jan	Epiphany (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Patrick O'Neil RIP
Sun 5th Jan	Epiphany	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	The People of the Parish Marcia & John Zuzarte (Wed An)
Mon 6th Jan	Christmas Feria			No Mass
Tue 7th Jan	Christmas Feria	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Canary Wharf †	Sharon (ints) Priest's Intention
Wed 8th Jan	Christmas Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Fr David Barnes RIP
Thu 9th Jan	Christmas Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Private Intention
Fri 10th Jan	Christmas Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Fr Joseph Carter RIP
Sat 11th Jan	Christmas Feria	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

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.

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.

CONFIRMATION

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

THANK YOU!

Fr Andrew wants to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make our celebration of Christmas in our two parishes so beautiful. Thank you to those who cleaned and decorated our churches, those who provided the music and those who provided a welcome (which is especially important at Christmas when there are many visitors). Fr Andrew also wants to say thank you for all the kind cards and gifts he received.

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. It would be great if we could have at least one day a month when we open up the church in this way. Perhaps different days could have a different focus, one day for young people, one day for older people, one day for mums etc…

In order to make this possible, we need to open the Church up so that pilgrims can come. Therefore we are looking for volunteers who will be willing to welcome pilgrims to St Mary & St Joseph during the Holy Year. Please would you sign the sign-up sheet at the back of church if you are interested and indicate which days and times are good for you generally. Then we will try to fix some dates which we can advertise around the diocese.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to all the wonderful People from Poplar and Limehouse who supported us throughout 2024. And in particular a very big THANK YOU to all who volunteered on Christmas, Boxing and New Year's Days. Over 550 meals were delivered all over the Borough!

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 cold and lonely at this time.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY			
22nd Dec Total: £686.80	Christmas Total: £1,302.13	29th Dec Total: £839.55	
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £538.34 October: £743.34 November: £713.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY			
22nd Dec Total: £356.25	Christmas Total: £651.83	29th Dec Total: £183.54	
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE September: £1,197.00 October: £1'271.00 November: £1'507.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

According to an ancient custom of the Church (which began long before everyone had calendars and smart phones etc… after the Gospel on the Feast of the Epiphany the priest or deacon would sing the proclamation of the moveable feast of the year. There is a formula for this proclamation which is set out here:

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour. On the fifth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the twentieth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the twenty-ninth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the eighth day of June, the feast of Pentecost. On the twenty-second day of the same month, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the thirtieth day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

As well as taking our minds away from the cold and gloom of winter into the brightness of the coming spring and summer and enabling us to make a note of these important dates, this proclamation emphasises something really important and that is that God became man in Jesus Christ for a reason and that reason was to save us by his passion, death and resurrection. In other words, all of this celebrating that we have been doing is leading us to the even greater celebration of Easter. And today's feast of Epiphany is full of hints of that. One of the gifts that the Magi bring is Myrrh, which is used to anoint the bodies of those who have died. On hearing about this gift our mind is taken immediately to that scene early on Easter morning when the women come to the tomb hoping to anoint the body of Jesus but find to their astonishment that he is not there, he has risen from the dead. In a sense this anointing of Jesus happens when the Magi bring the Myrrh to the infant Jesus so that, on one hand it is clear that the whole focus of his life is his self-offering for our salvation on the cross, and on the other hand, in this gift of Myrrh we see that this child is not just one born to be king but also born to conquer death by his resurrection and to lead us to eternal life.

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 – Epiphany

First reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all round, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Response to the Psalm All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Second reading Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!
We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." ' Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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 Baptism of the Lord