

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



Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Bowden
Parish Administrator: Alessandro Vaglio
Clergy House, 9 Pekin Street, London E14 6EZ
T: 020 7987 4523 E: Poplar@rcdow.org.uk | Limehouse@rcdow.org.uk
W: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/poplar | https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/limehouse

NEWSLETTER for the Presentation 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 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple by Romanino

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 1st Feb	Presentation (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	The People of the Parish
Sun 2nd Feb	The Presentation of the Lord	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	Janet Wilson *(RIP)* Marcelina Basa & Severo Egoy *(RIP)*
Mon 3rd Feb	Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore			No Mass
Tue 4th Feb	Feria Week 4	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf †	Savitha *(Int.)* Marianne Kilonzi *(RIP)*
Wed 5th Feb	St Agatha	10.00am	Poplar	Michael Collins *(RIP)*
Thu 6th Feb	St Paul Miki & compns	10.00am	Poplar	Faraj *(Int.)*
Fri 7th Feb	Feria Week 4	10.00am	Poplar	Freda & Terry Williams *(Int.)*
Sat 8th Feb	Memorial of BVM 5th Sunday (Vigil)	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar Poplar	Peace Rosaleen Healy *(RIP)*
Sun 9th Feb	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish Billy Boy *(Int.)*

* = 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

Janet Wilson, Marianne Kilonzi, Michael Turner, Geraldine Mc Nutt, 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 11th February** 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 13th February** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

HOLY YEAR - JUBILEE - OPENING THE CHURCH AT POPLAR

This week we will begin opening our church during the week. The 10am mass will take place in the Church each day instead of the Canon Wright Chapel.

Tues – the Church will open before the 10am mass and remain open until 2pm.

Wed, Thur and Fri - the Church will open before the 10am mass and remain open until 12noon.

Saturday – the Church will open before the 10am mass and remain open as usual for adoration and confessions.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to be in the church during these times. If you would like to join in during these times, please do come along. If you would like to volunteer for other times please let the parish office know and then we may be able to extend the opening times.

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 A group of six spent a very fruitful day in Calais on Thursday. All the donations from the Parishes, and beyond, were gratefully received. We were delivering 138 kgs of loose tea to the Kitchens for the vats of tea they take out to Migrants stranded around Calais!! We heard that the Refugee Community Kitchen had cooked and delivered over 4 million meals to Refugees since 2016! And the Catholic Centre in Calais Manager informed us that the previous day they had welcomed 591 Refugees into their Centre where they were able to offer warmth, food, advice and comfort. We asked how do these people keep Hope? He said "only through the Almighty God!". We need to pray that all our Governments have a more humane approach to those seeking shelter and safety, after all most of us are here because our forebears found a home when they needed it.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FUNDING to start a new project? Come to St. Matthias on Friday 14th February between 11am and 2pm when someone from THCVS will be there to help.

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 – 0781347889 – nip65@msn.com

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY			
Envelopes: £131.00	Loose: £349.26	Contactless: £211.00	Total: £691.26
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE October: £743.34 November: £713.34 December: £548.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY			
Envelopes: £25.00	Loose: £101.80	Contactless: £103.24	Total: £230.04
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 Weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Usually this feast falls during the week and so many people do not get to experience its richness unless they can get to mass during the week. Happily, this year, the 2nd February is a Sunday and so we are able to celebrate the Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas (as it is also known) together as parishes.

This celebration commemorates the time when Mary and Joseph were required to take the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem and there make the offering required by the law of Moses to redeem him. The law required this redemption because following the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and the sparing of their first born from the tenth plague, each first born son was considered to belong to God until an offering was made to symbolically buy them back.

Of course what happens with Jesus is very different because he is in reality and forever the Son of God himself. He belongs to God anyway. Therefore he does not need to be redeemed or bought-back. And in fact when this child grows he will give his own life to redeem humanity, to rescue us from slavery, not to the Egyptians, but the slavery of sin and death.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candlemas because the tradition of blessing and lighting candles on this feast grew up and this is because of the words spoken by Simeon in the Gospel reading. When the child Jesus is brought to the Temple, there is there a holy man named Simeon who symbolises all those who were waiting and longing for the promised Messiah. Realising who this child really is, Simeon takes him into his arms and sings his beautiful song which is still used by the Church at night prayer each day: "Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel." This revealing of the infant Jesus to be light of the world also marks the very last part of the larger Christmas cycle and so after today we will remove our cribs.

Today we bless and light candles as a reminder that Christ, the light of the world, has come into this temple and into the temple of our souls. As Jesus reminds us elsewhere in the Gospels, no one brings in a light in order to put it under a tub, rather we must put it on a stand for all to see. This is the challenge of today's feast for us as parishes, how are we going to let the light of Christ shine from our communities and from our churches into the world for all to see?

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 – The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

First reading Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Response to the Psalm The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is this king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant; the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is this king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Second reading Hebrews 2:14-18

Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!
A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:22-32

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons'. Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'