

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



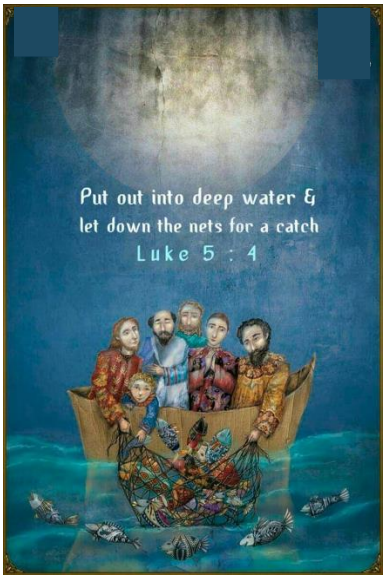
Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Bowden
Parish Administrator: Alessandro Vaglio
Clergy House, 9 Pekin Street, London E14 6EZ
T: 020 7987 4523 E: Poplar@rcdow.org.uk | Limehouse@rcdow.org.uk
W: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/poplar | https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/limehouse

NEWSLETTER for the 5th 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



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 8th Feb	5th Sunday (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Rosaleen Healy *(RIP)*
Sun 9th Feb	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	The People of the Parish Billy Boy *(Int.)*
Mon 10th Feb	St Scholastica			No Mass
Tue 11th Feb	Our Lady of Lourdes	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf †	Mary & Senan McNamara *(Int.)* Anthony Stephen *(Int.)*
Wed 12th Feb	Feria Week 5	10.00am	Poplar	Toni Ficovic *(RIP)*
Thu 13th Feb	Feria Week 5	10.00am	Poplar	Bernie McGuinness *(Int.)*
Fri 14th Feb	Ss Cyril & Methodius	10.00am	Poplar	Cyril Powell *(RIP)*
Sat 15th Feb	Memorial of BVM 6th Sunday (Vigil)	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar Poplar	Peace Noel Boswell *(RIP)*
Sun 16th Feb	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am 12noon	Poplar Limehouse	The People of the Parish The People of the Parish

* = 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 Ryan Balkwell, Camil Agius, Nita De Fide, Sarah Dodd, Anthony Gafa, Bernadette McSweeney, Doreen Maciejewski, Sylma Simon, Frances Samuels and Lilly Bleach who are all ill.

RCIA GROUP

The next meeting will be at 7pm on **Tuesday 11th February** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

After this Saturday's meeting (8th February at 4.45pm), the next meeting will be at 4.45pm on **Saturday 15th March** 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

Our first week of opening up the church at Poplar has gone really well. The church is now open to visitors from just before the 10am mass until 2pm on Tuesdays and until 12noon on Wed, Thu and Fri. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and showed up for their times. We have already welcomed many new faces. Word will get out and more people will realise that the church is reliably open. However, we need to keep going and it would be great if a few more people could help**. In particular we need more volunteers to cover the 12noon til 1pm slots Tues to Fri. Please contact the office or speak to Fr Andrew if you can do this time on any of those days.**

TEAS AND COFFEES AFTER MASS AT POPLAR

Very many thanks to Temi who has been keeping our refreshments after mass in the Guild Room going over several months now. It would be wonderful if a few people could volunteer to help Temi with this really valuable initiative and perhaps form a rota.

HOLY YEAR - JUBILEE – JUSTICE, PEACE & HOPE DAY

Throughout this Holy Year there will be series of events at St Mary & St Joseph, Poplar (a Jubilee Church). The first such event takes place on Saturday 22nd Feb. The day will begin in the Guild Room at 3pm. Come and find out about Caritas Westminster, CAFOD, Justice & Peace, the Jesuit Refugee Community, SPARK and others work to bring Justice, Peace and Hope to others. There will be Mass at 6pm in the church and then refreshments after Mass in the Guild Room.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

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

OUR FOOD BANK is open every Tuesday morning from 10am to 12noon

A DEVELOPER'S APPLICATION to build a massive hotel on the junction of East India Dock Rd and Westferry has recently been submitted. There is already a new Premier Inn just around the corner! It's Social Housing we need, not more Hotels!

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS			
POPLAR OFFERTORY			
Envelopes: £145.30	Loose: £262.40	Contactless: £456.00	Total: £863.70
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE November: £713.34 December: £548.34 January: £713.34			
LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY			
Envelopes: £40.00	Loose: £44.50	Contactless: £95.40	Total: £179.90
STANDING ORDERS & ONLINE November: £1'507.00 December: £1'237.00 January: £1'507.00			
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!			

FR ANDREW WRITES

As we continue as pilgrims into hope in this Holy Year I would like to suggest a few ways of entering into the spirit of the Holy Year.

You will find a Jubilee Companion Booklet at the back of church which is free of charge. Do take a copy of this booklet which contains all sorts of information and reflection about the Holy Year.

On Saturday 22nd February beginning at 3pm in the Guild Room at Poplar there will be an opportunity to discover more about ways of working for Justice, Peace and Hope. This is the first of a series of Jubilee events that will be held at Poplar this year since St Mary & St Joseph is a special Jubilee Church for the Holy Year. The roots of the idea of a Holy Year lie in the Old Testament principle of the Jubilee in the book of Leviticus which speaks of a Sabbath of Sabbaths, the year of Jubilee. This year is set by counting off "seven Sabbaths of years," or seven times seven years. The 50th year, then, is to be the year of Jubilee. It is proclaimed with the blowing of the ram's horn on the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month. The Jubilee is a time of Sabbath rest, a time of homecoming, and a time of liberation. The land is to lie fallow. Each Israelite is to return to his ancestral land and to his clan. Debts are to be forgiven, Israelite slaves are to be set free, and land is to be returned to its original owners or their descendants. In other words, if a person falls on hard times and is forced to sell his land or himself to pay off debts, the sale is not permanent. Both land and people are set free in the Jubilee. The Justice, Peace and Hope day on 22nd Feb will a great way to reflect on how these principles might inform the way we look at the world today.

You can visit St Mary & St Joseph's either for one of those special events or for regular masses or other services or just for a time of private prayer. Thanks to our volunteers the church is now open after mass on Tuesdays until 2pm and on Wednesday to Friday until 12noon. Please consider volunteering some time, if you can spare it, during the week to help to keep the church open and to provide a welcome for any visitors. Even if you can't commit to the same time every week then please do come along if you can during these hours to help out or call in at the parish office to arrange a different time. Already this last week we have had a larger congregation at the weekday mass and there have been people coming in to pray and to look around.

Another thing that you might consider doing is to visit some of the other Jubilee Churches either on your own or even as part of a little group from our parishes. The other Jubilee Churches are: Westminster Cathedral, St Gregory the Great in South Ruislip, Corpus Christi in Covent Garden, Our Lady of Willesden in Willesden and Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Welwyn Garden City. Whilst you are there you might see what they are doing as Jubilee Churches and see if we can steal any good ideas.

How about a young adults group that might meet up now and then to go to these churches, have a chat along the way and mass at the Jubilee church? I'm happy to come along if there's a pub lunch on the way!

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 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

First reading Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!' And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.' And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me.'

Response to the Psalm In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.

I give thanks to your name for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
For you have exalted over all your name and your promise. On the day I called, you answered me; you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth's kings shall thank you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
'How great is the glory of the Lord!'

With your right hand you save me;
the Lord will accomplish this for me.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8, 11

Brothers and sisters: I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:19

Alleluia, alleluia! Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 5:1-11

At that time: The crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.' And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.' And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.