

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



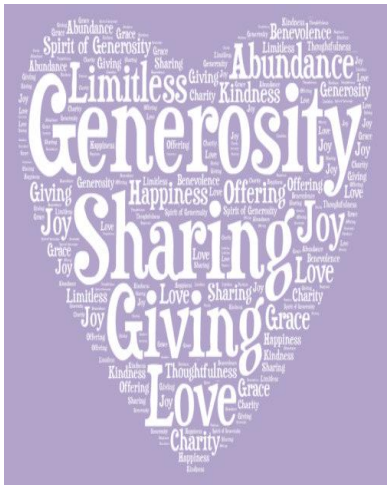

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## NEWSLETTER for the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2025

**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.

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| Sat 22nd Feb | 7th Sunday (Vigil) | 6.00pm | Poplar | Peace |
| Sun 23rd Feb | 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10.00am<br>12noon | Poplar *<br>Limehouse | Ndudi Elumelu *(Ints)*<br>The People of the Parish |
| Mon 24th Feb | Feria Week 7 | | | No Mass |
| Tue 25th Feb | Feria Week 7 | 10.00am<br>12.30pm | Poplar<br>Canary Wharf † | Vladimir & Maria Kruszewska *RIP*<br>Priest's Intention |
| Wed 26th Feb | Feria Week 7 | 10.00am | Poplar | Gillian Wallace *RIP* |
| Thu 27th Feb | Feria Week 7 | 10.00am | Poplar | Rade & Cecilia Koncil *RIP* |
| Fri 28th Feb | Feria Week 7 | 10.00am | Poplar | Natali & Toni Leko *(Ints)* |
| Sat 1st Mar | St David<br>8th Sunday (Vigil) | 10.00am<br>6.00pm | Poplar<br>Poplar | John Fernandes *(Ann.)*<br>The People of the Parish |
| Sun 2nd Mar | 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10.00am<br>12noon | Poplar<br>Limehouse | Mary Balkwill *(Ann.)*<br>Maria Nhan Khong *(Ann.)* |

* = 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.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The next meeting will be at 4.45pm on **Saturday 15th March** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

## RCIA GROUP

The next meeting will be at 7pm on **Tuesday 13th March** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

## CONFIRMATION

The next meeting will be at 7pm on **Thursday 27th February** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

## BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES

Saturday March 8th, April 12th, May 10th and June 7th all at 11am in the Guild Room at Poplar.

## 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.

## OPENING THE CHURCH AT POPLAR

We need more volunteers to be in the church to welcome visitors during the day on weekdays. Can you spare 1 hour one day during the week? All that is required is that you are in the church during that time just to keep an eye on it and to welcome anyone who may visit if they want to speak to someone.

Thank you to all those who are volunteering already. Would one of you like to start a WhatsApp group for volunteers? This would make it easier for people to swap shifts and to get new volunteers on board.

## NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

**CANARY WHARF IT WORKSHOP** Thursday 27th between 1.30 and 3pm. If you are interested in getting a WhatsApp, Community Instagram or Facebook etc. going: see or email Sr. Christine – nip65@msn.com Leaflets on table back of Church.

**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 URGENTLY NEEDED** on Sundays and Wednesday to deliver hot dinners to isolated elders or disabled residents across Tower Hamlets. Come to St/ Matthias Community Centre on Poplar High Street at 11,30am on either of these days, if you can spare an hour. This is such a simple and important way of demonstrating that we CARE! 0781347889 – nip65@msn.com

**SUNDAY 23RD 3pm to 5.30pm,** Celebration of the delivery of 54,000 hot dinners by our Neighbours in Poplar Volunteers. Please come and hear their stories and the hope and practical support they have brought to total strangers. We could do an even better job if we had more volunteers!

**ST MATTHIAS FOOD BANK** is open every Tuesday morning from 10am to 12noon

| RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| POPLAR OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND | | | |
| Envelopes £130.25 | Loose £394.32 | Contactless £160.00 | Total £684.57 |
| STANDING ORDERS AND ONLINE<br>November £713.34 | December £548.34 | January £713.34 | |
| LIMEHOUSE OFFERTORY LAST WEEKEND | | | |
| Envelopes £25.00 | Loose £84.95 | Contactless £303.08 | Total £413.03 |
| STANDING ORDERS AND ONLINE<br>November £1,507.00 | December £1,237.00 | January £1,507.00 | |
| Sincere thanks for your continued generosity! | | | |

## FR ANDREW WRITES

This Saturday we hosted our Justice, Peace and Hope Day for the Jubilee. It was very appropriate that we should begin our programme of Holy Year Events with a day focussed on Justice, Peace and Hope since those themes are at the very heart of the principle of the Jubilee as we find it in the Old Testament.

The readings for this 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time are very appropriate for this theme as they speak about generosity. Jesus tells us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask without an expectation of repayment. Be merciful and forgiving. All of which is summed up in the idea of generosity. It's definitely a hard standard to live by but I think that as hard as we may find it in our own personal life, all of us can see that if such an approach were to take hold on the global stage, then the world would be transformed. In our first reading this weekend we get a glimpse of that as David is given the perfect opportunity to take his revenge on Saul but does not seize it. In fact, that's a perfect example of how the world of politics and global affairs, as complex as it is, is in reality made up of many little choices and that includes even choices that we ourselves are given. And those choices are always opportunities for either generosity and compassion or for insisting that what's mine is mine.

In the Old Testament the Jubilee was a moment when those entrenched rights were suspended so that those who had nothing were given a chance, a fresh start. Just as the seventh day of the week was observed as a way of entering into God's rest after his work of creation, so the Jubilee (which took place every fiftieth year i.e. after the passing of 7 times 7 years) was a return to the way and the state in which God established creation, in freedom and out of generosity. God didn't create the world because he had to but rather out of pure generosity and therefore none of us really have a right to any of it, it is all a generous free gift. The Jubilee was a reminder that this is how we should live, mindful of God's generosity and compassion towards and striving to be equally generous and compassionate with everyone.

A reminder about the other Holy Year events that we will be hosting in Poplar:

Wednesday **26th March**, 7pm – Eastern Area Holy Year **Lenten Reconciliation Service**
Saturday **31st May** from 2pm – Eastern Area **Jubilee for Youth**
Sunday **22nd June**, afternoon – Eastern Area Holy Year **Eucharistic Procession**
Sunday **6th July**, afternoon – Eastern Area **Jubilee for Families and Children**, with BBQ and games
Saturday **13th September** at 4pm – Eastern Area **Jubilee for the sick, mass with anointing**
Saturday **4th October from 2pm** – The Cardinal will talk about the Holy Year and lead a Holy Hour
Saturday **18th October** – Eastern Area Holy Year **Day for Catechists**
Saturday **15th November** at 11am – Eastern Area Holy Year **Mass for deceased loved ones**

*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 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)*

**First reading** 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

In those days: Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.' But David said to Abishai, 'Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?' So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them. Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. David said, 'Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

**Response to the Psalm** The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.*
*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.*

*It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion.*

*The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults.*

*As far as the east is from the west, so far from us does he remove our transgressions.*
*As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord's compassion is on those who fear him.*

**Second reading** 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Brothers and Sisters: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

**Gospel Acclamation** John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 6:27-38

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. 'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.'

*Next Sunday is the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)*