

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



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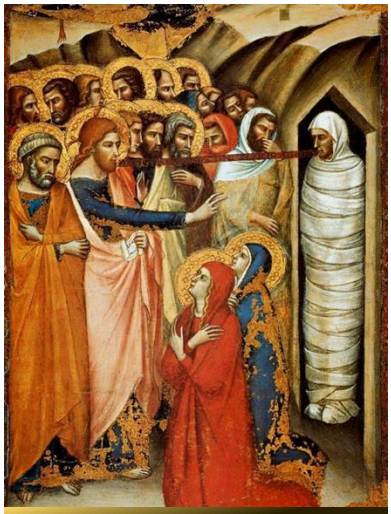
NEWSLETTER for the 5th Sunday of Lent 2026

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Sat 10:30am - 11:30am at Poplar
1st Fridays - 6pm - 7pm at Poplar

Stations of the Cross
During Lent 2nd, 3rd & 4th Fridays – 6.30pm at Limehouse

Baptisms
By appointment. Usually at 12 noon on Saturdays.

Parish Office Opening
Tue - Fri 10.00am - 2.30pm



The Raising of Lazarus, *Luca di Tomme*

Confessions:
Sat 10:30am - 11:15am at Poplar
Sat 5.15pm - 5.45pm at Poplar
1st Fridays 6.00pm - 6.45pm at Poplar or by appointment

Marriages
Couples **must** meet with Fr Andrew **6 months** before the intended wedding, even when the wedding is taking place elsewhere.

Sat 21st Mar	5th Sunday of Lent (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	John Attard *RIP*
Sun 22nd Mar	5th Sunday of Lent	10.00am 12noon	Poplar* Limehouse	Janet Wilson *RIP* The People of the Parish
Mon 23rd Mar	Lenten Feria		No Mass	No Mass
Tue 24th Mar	Lenten Feria	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf †	Mariusz *Ann.* Priest's Intention
Wed 25th Mar	The Annunciation	10.00am	Poplar	Agnieszka Boruch & Family *Ints.*
Thu 26th Mar	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	George Groves *Ann.*
Fri 27th Mar	Lenten Feria	10.00am	Poplar	Private Intention
Sat 28th Mar	Lenten Feria Palm Sunday (Vigil)	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar Poplar	Peace The People of the Parish
Sun 29th Mar	Palm Sunday	**9.45am** 12noon	Poplar* Limehouse	The People of the Parish Mary & Fred Stageman *Ann.*

*= Teas and Coffees in the Guild Room after the 10am Mass

†= Mass in the Multi-Faith Prayer Room in the Churchill Place Shopping Mall between Joe the Juice and Barclays

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Bernard Harris, Sylvia Poni, Lilly Moran, Sylvia Richardson, Brenda Terry, Bob Baker, Sr Teresa White, Mahmuda, Annie McKie, Doreen Maciejewski and Lily Bleach who have died. And for Mary Sauntry, Lucia Calixte, Anne O'Connell, Jacqui Newson, Herbert Parillon, Emilio Campanella, Joan Russell, Robert Hageman, Camil Agius, Nita da Fide, Sarah Dodd, Anthony Gafa, Bernadette McSweeney and Sylma Simon who are ill.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES

The next course will be on **Saturday 18th April at 11.00am** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

The next meeting for children and parents will be at 5.00pm on Saturday 18th April in the Guild Room. Please let Sr Christine know in advance if you and your child will be unable to attend.

RCIA

The next group meeting will be this **Thursday 26th March at 7.00pm** in the Guild Room.

FRIDAYS IN LENT

During Lent, we will have **Stations of the Cross at Limehouse at 6.30pm each second, third and fourth Friday of the month.** On first Fridays, we will have Adoration and Confessions at 6pm at Poplar.

THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL

Each Lent, every parish in the diocese is asked to help to raise funds for the Diocesan Lenten Appeal which supports many people in need. To donate, please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal or use the envelopes available in Church. This Weekend we will have a special collection for the Lenten Appeal.

PRAYING THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Sr Anouska FCJ will be leading an afternoon of input, prayer and reflection to help us to prepare for Holy Week and to engage prayerfully and fruitfully with the liturgy and the spirit of Holy Week. **3.00pm til 5.30pm Saturday 28th March in the Canon Wright Room at Poplar**, entrance in Pekin Street. Note the change of venue.

LIMEHOUSE FAITH GROUP

Join us on Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm, for the final episode of our Lent series, "No Greater Love": 'The Seven Last Words: Jesus the Teacher at Calvary'. We turn to Christ's Seven Last Words, the seven brief sayings Jesus uttered from the Cross before he died. These were not merely words spoken to the world in general, but personal words spoken to each one of us. All welcome, no need to have attended previous sessions. For information and to join, please contact Flo on Florence.preux@hotmail.co.uk

EAST END YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Meets every Tuesday from 7pm in the Canon Wright Room (entrance in Pekin Street), all are welcome. Contact Michael for more information on ikorabs@gmail.com

THE SANCTUARY LAMP AT POPLAR

The sanctuary lamp at Poplar burns this week for the intentions of Agnieszka Boruch & Family.

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

WOMEN'S WELLBEING AND HEALTH DAY in St. Matthias on **Tuesday March 24th 10am to 2pm**. Full programme of activities and workshops. All welcome.

POPLAR HISTORY DAY in St. Matthias on **Saturday March 28th 12noon to 2pm.** Exhibitions, Refreshments and Talk (Danny Wells @ 12noon). Should be a great eye opener for anyone who thinks Poplar is unimportant!!!

COMMUNITY EID CELEBRATION in St Matthias on **Sunday March 29th 3pm to 5pm.** Enjoy food, laughter and community spirit to mark the occasion. All welcome!

FR ANDREW WRITES

This Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Lent, is also called Passion Sunday and it really marks the beginning of the next phase of Lent which leads us into Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. So far our focus has been on our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, but now the focus shifts to the imminent suffering of Christ. We veil our statues in church as if to bring the focus in to Christ and coming events of Holy Week. And our Gospel this weekend is a beautiful prelude to Holy Week which will begin next Sunday, which is Palm Sunday.

By raising Lazarus from the dead, by calling into the darkness of the tomb for his friend to come forth into the light of life, Jesus shows not only his divine power but God's will to save us all from death. Jesus weeps, not only out of grief and love for his friend but more importantly because he knows that he has come precisely to rescue humanity from death by his own suffering and death. So the raising of Lazarus provides us with a kind of overture to Holy Week and Easter, a hint at what Jesus will do for us all.

So this is a really good point for us all to start to make a plan for how we will enter into the drama of Holy Week. Please note down the times of the various liturgies in your diaries and discuss in your families or among friends how you can come to the liturgies and really take an active part. We have produced a card with the times of all of the services in it, please do take one for yourself and copies for anyone else you think might be interested. I have also set everything out here.

Palm Sunday – We remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and read the account of his Passion and death for the first time. On Palm Sunday morning, the Mass at Poplar will begin at the earlier time of 9.45am and we will gather in Church Green for the blessing of Palms and we will then walk in procession to the church. The 12noon Mass at Limehouse will begin at the normal time but we will also have a procession and blessing of Palms which will begin under the railway arches in Mill Place.

Holy Thursday – at 7.30pm in both churches we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper during which we recall the Last Supper where Jesus foretold his death, instituted the Holy Eucharist and washed his disciples' feet. After mass we take the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose in Solemn Procession and there watch and pray as the disciples were invited to do in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday – at 3pm in both churches we will commemorate the Passion of the Lord. We read the account of the suffering and death of Jesus again and venerate the cross.

Holy Saturday – at 7.30pm in both churches we being our Solemn Easter Vigil, beginning with the blessing of the fire and the Paschal Candle, followed by reading the history of our salvation and culminating in the proclamation of the resurrection as light fills the church for the celebration of the first Mass of Easter.

Easter Sunday – at 10am at Poplar and 12noon at Limehouse we celebrate the resurrection with rejoicing.

There are other events too all set out in the Holy Week and Easter Card. Please do take one home.

May God bless you all,

Fr Andrew

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

POPLAR COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND

Envelopes: £113.75	Loose: £537.00	Contactless: £358.00	Total: £1,008.75
Standing Orders & Online	December: £568.34	January: £513.34	February: £478.34

LIMEHOUSE COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND

Envelopes: £31.00	Loose: £217.71	Contactless: £155.00	Total: £403.71
Standing Orders & Online	December: £1,060.00	January: £1,507.00	February: £880.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

MASS THIS SUNDAY – 5th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

First reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.

Response to the Psalm With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings.

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

I long for you, O Lord,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul awaits the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak.

More than watchmen for daybreak,
let Israel hope for the Lord.
For with the Lord there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Second reading Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Gospel Acclamation John 11:25a, 26

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel John 9:1-41

At that time: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.' Jesus was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.