

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 Easter 2026

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

Baptisms
By appointment. Usually at 12 noon on Saturdays.

Parish Office Opening
Tue - Fri 10.00am - 2.30pm



St Joseph the Worker
Pietro Annigoni

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 2nd May	5th Sunday of Easter (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	The People of the Parish
Sun 3rd May	5th Sunday of Easter	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	Anushka's Baby *Ints* Telma Stephen *RIP*
Mon 4th May	The English Martyrs		Poplar	No Mass
Tue 5th May	5th Week of Easter	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf †	Juliana Namakula *RIP* Priest's Intention
Wed 6th May	5th Week of Easter	10.00am	Poplar	Anne O'Connell *RIP*
Thu 7th May	5th Week of Easter	10.00am	Poplar	Private Intention
Fri 8th May	5th Week of Easter	10.00am	Poplar	Federica Pascarelli *RIP*
Sat 9th May	5th Week of Easter 6th Sunday of Easter (Vigil)	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar Poplar	M.S.S. Stephen *RIP* Sr Christine *Ints*
Sun 10th May	6th Sunday of Easter	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	Tivona Lincy *Ints* Marianna & Stanislaw Mazur, Zofia Radecka *RIP*

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

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Susan Duhig, Ryan Pill, Bernard Harris, Sylvia Poni, Lilly Moran, Sylvia Richardson, Brenda Terry and Bob Baker who have died. And for Theo Louison, Pat Johnson, 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 9th May at 11.00am** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

The next meeting for children and parents will be on **Saturday 9th May at 5.00pm** in the Guild Room at Poplar. Please let Sr Christine know in advance if you and your child will be unable to attend.

RCIA

The next group meeting will be on **Tuesday 12th May at 7.00pm** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

BAPTISMS FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

Unless you have already made alternative arrangements with Fr Andrew, those children who are due to make their First Holy Communion this year on Saturday 6th June, will be baptised on **Saturday 16th May at 12noon at Poplar**.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The remaining Planned Giving Envelopes are still available for collection at the back of church.

FUNERAL OF ANNE O'CONNELL

Anne's funeral will take place at **10am on Tuesday 5th May at Our Lady of Compassion Church** in Upton Park, 555 Green St, London E13 9BF.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS AND CORPUS CHRISTI

This year it just so happens that our children will make their First Holy Communion on the day before Corpus Christi. You may remember that last year we had a procession with the blessed Sacrament after Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi and our First Holy Communion children led the procession, many of them wearing their special outfits. I think it would be really wonderful if we could do this again. To that end, please make a note in your diary for **Sunday 7th June**. More details to follow.

LIMEHOUSE FAITH GROUP

Join us on **Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm**, for episode 2 of "Metanoia": 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?'. Many people oversimplify their answer to this question and believe that it is enough to simply be a good person, to avoid breaking the commandments, and to go to church. But not enough attention is paid to the importance of following Jesus. Jesus is THE way to heaven and being in a relationship with him is key to inheriting the Kingdom of God. All welcome, no need to have attended previous sessions. For information and to join, please contact Limehousefaithgroup@outlook.com

EAST END YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Meets every Tuesday from 7.00pm in the Canon Wright Room (entrance in Pekin Street), all are welcome. Next meeting **Tuesday 5th May**. Contact Michael for more information on ikorabs@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR

CALAIS Our next visit to the Refugee Charities will be on Wednesday 13th May. We need small tents and sleeping bags. Also long life milk, sugar, tea, coffee and toiletries. Thank you, all contributions welcome.

SUNDAY 31st MAY Volunteer celebration in St. Matthias Community Centre. We will be celebrating our 65,000th dinner delivery, thanks entirely to Volunteers who have cooked, peeled tons of vegetables and delivered love and food to isolated folk across the Borough. What would our Society, our Parish, our Area do without its quiet, unrelenting force of volunteering folk of all ages and cultures?!

FR ANDREW WRITES

As I write this, it is the 1st May and there is not a cloud in the sky, the wind has dropped to a very pleasant gentle breeze and flowers are appearing all around the place. I even took the opportunity to climb the spiral staircase up on to the roof the church and hoist a new flag so that we have two Vatican flags flying again from the tower of the church. May is often such a beautiful month and because of its association with new life it has been long associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the May as the old hymn says.

Both of our parishes are dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, in Poplar she shares the dedication with her husband, St Joseph, whose second feast day we celebrate on 1st May. I think it would be a wonderful thing if both of our parishes could make a real effort to renew that tradition of May devotions to Our Lady. There are many ways in which we can do this and I would like here to propose just a few.

How about deciding to pray the Rosary together at home as families. I know there are families in our parishes who already do this and I know that they find it a great way to come together as a family to seek the prayer and protection of Our Mother Mary.

Perhaps you live alone or share a flat with people who are not Catholic. You might consider just deciding to incorporate praying the rosary into your regular routine. The great thing about the rosary is that you can pray it almost anywhere, on the bus or the underground, on the way to or from work, at home or in a church.

If you come to weekday Mass, how about seeing if there is anyone else there who might like to join you in praying the rosary before or after Mass?

I think it would be a beautiful thing if we could take advantage of this opportunity during May as parishes to come together for an afternoon of prayer and devotion in honour of Our Lady. The diary is already filling up so there aren't very many opportunities but the afternoon of Sunday 17th May is clear. How about gathering from both parishes at **Our Lady's in Limehouse at 4pm on Sunday 17th May**. We could sing some of those lovely hymns to Our Lady, pray the rosary and have a time of reflection. If the weather was good we could even walk from Poplar to Limehouse beforehand, a little like we do on Good Friday. Let me know what you think and if there is interest then we'll put in the diary and I'll circulate more details in due course.

May God bless you all,

Fr Andrew

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

POPLAR COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND

Envelopes: £153.12	Loose: £350.71	Contactless: £344.00	Total: £847.83
Standing Orders & Online	February: £478.34	March: £513.34	April: £628.35

LIMEHOUSE COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND

Envelopes: £20.00	Loose: £65.00	Contactless: £240.00	Total: £325.00
Standing Orders & Online	February: £880.00	March: £1,507.00	April: £1,180.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

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

First reading Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Response to the Psalm May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting from the upright. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the Lord is upright, and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Second reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.
No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia.

Gospel John 14:1-12

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. 'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

Next Sunday is the 6th Sunday of Eastertide (Year A)