

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



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NEWSLETTER for the 6th 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



Ascension
Francisco Camilo

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 9th May	6th Sunday of Easter (Vigil)	6.00pm	Poplar	Sr Christine *Ints*
Sun 10th May	6th Sunday of Easter	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	Tivona Lincy *Ints* Marianna & Stanislaw Mazur, Zofia Radecka *RIP*
Mon 11th May	6th Week of Easter		Poplar	No Mass
Tue 12th May	6th Week of Easter	10.00am 12.30pm	Poplar Canary Wharf †	Vasiliy *Ann* Antony Stephen *Wedding Ann*
Wed 13th May	Our Lady of Fatima The Ascension (Vigil)	10.00am 6.30pm	Poplar Limehouse	Lydie Bolou *Ints* The people of the Parish
Thu 14th May	The Ascension	10.00am	Poplar	Odette Molou *RIP*
Fri 15th May	6th Week of Easter	10.00am	Poplar	Essie Doran *RIP*
Sat 16th May	6th Week of Easter 7th Sunday of Easter (Vigil)	10.00am 6.00pm	Poplar Poplar	Peace The People of the Parish
Sun 17th May	7th Sunday of Easter	10.00am 12noon	Poplar * Limehouse	Stanislaus Stephen *RIP* Okere Family *Ints*

*= 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

John Hall, Joanne O'Neill, Ella Fulgence, Anne O'Connell, Susan Duhig, Ryan Pill, Bernard Harris, Sylvia Poni and Lilly Moran who have died. And for Theo Louison, Pat Johnson, Mary Sauntry, Lucia Calixte, 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 13th June at 11.00am** in the Guild Room at Poplar.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

The last group meeting for parents and children will take place on Saturday 9th May. There will be a rehearsal for all children and parents at **6pm on Friday 5th June in the church at Poplar**. The First Holy Communion Mass itself will take place on **Saturday 6th June at 11.00am at Poplar**.

RCIA

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

BAPTISMS FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

Those children who have not already been baptised and who are due to make their First Holy Communion this year will be baptised on **Saturday 16th May at 12noon at Poplar**.

FUNERAL OF ANNE O'CONNELL

Will take place at **2.30 pm on Thursday 28th May at Our Lady of Compassion, Upton Park.**

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Catholic Communications Network.

MAY DEVOTIONS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Come along to Our Lady's in Limehouse at **4pm on Sunday 17th May** for devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary in this her month of May.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSIONS

On the Feast of Corpus Christi **Sunday 7th June**, we will have a procession with the Blessed Sacrament after both Sunday Masses. The First Holy Communion children are especially encouraged to come to mass and in their special outfits to lead our processions. More details to follow.

LIMEHOUSE FAITH GROUP

Join us on Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm, for episode 3 of "Metanoia": 'Death and Life'. Self-denial, difficulties, crosses and suffering are a constitutive part of the Christian life. In a world of supreme extravagance, choosing less or going without is counter cultural, but being a Christian is always supposed to be counter cultural. 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 12th May**. Contact Michael for more information on ikorabs@gmail.com

THE SANCTUARY LAMP AT POPLAR

The sanctuary lamp at Poplar burns this week in memory of Vasiliy.

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 our Volunteers.

FR ANDREW WRITES

This Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, which is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church requires us to come to Mass if we are able. There will be a Vigil Mass at 6.30pm on Wednesday at Our Lady's in Limehouse and Mass at 10.00am on Thursday at Poplar.

The Ascension is a beautiful feast which is often misunderstood. If we look at it from our perspective, from the perspective of the world, this feast looks like Jesus going away, leaving us, but if we imagine this feast from the perspective of Heaven, from God's perspective, it has more to do with Jesus arriving. Of course, when the eternal Son of God took on our human nature he didn't leave Heaven, he didn't cease to be God. Instead Jesus Christ was God with us. And so when Jesus ascended into Heaven, what was new was not the presence of the Eternal Son of God in Heaven but rather the human nature to which he was united in Jesus Christ. This is the really revolutionary thing – that Jesus ascended into Heaven taking his human nature, even his human body with him. Because of the Ascension of Jesus there is forever something human in God. And it is because of this that God's Holy Spirit is able to interact with our human nature in a new way, to move us and transform us from within. Because Jesus took our human nature into God, the Holy Spirit is able to bring the life of God into us.

And this is why Thursday's feast marks a shift in our celebration of Eastertide. From the Feast of the Ascension until the Feast of Pentecost, the focus is on the coming of the Holy Spirit, and so we are invited to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and in the life of the Church. Here is a prayer that you might like to use between now and the Feast of Pentecost.

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus Christ, who before ascending into Heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me, that He may perfect in my soul the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me: the Spirit of WISDOM, that I may despise the perishable things of this world, and aspire only after the things that are eternal; the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING, to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth; the Spirit of COUNSEL, that I may ever choose the surest ways of pleasing God and gaining heaven; the Spirit of FORTITUDE, that I may bear my cross with You, and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation; the Spirit of KNOWLEDGE, that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints; the Spirit of PIETY, that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable; and the Spirit of FEAR, that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.
Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your spirit. Amen.

May God bless you all,

Fr Andrew

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

POPLAR COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND

Envelopes: £126.50	Loose: £410.31	Contactless: £353.00	Total: £889.81
Standing Orders & Online	February: £478.34	March: £513.34	April: £628.35

LIMEHOUSE COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND

Envelopes: £71.00	Loose: £208.44	Contactless: £190.00	Total: £469.44
Standing Orders & Online	February: £880.00	March: £1,507.00	April: £1,180.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity!

MASS THIS SUNDAY – 6th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

First reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

In those days: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city. Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Response to the Psalm Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise. Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!'

'Before you all the earth shall bow down,
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God: his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam.

He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.
Let our joy, then, be in him; he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God;
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer, nor withhold from me his merciful love.

Second reading 1 Peter 3:15-18

Beloved: In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. Alleluia.

Gospel John 14:15-21

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.'

Next Sunday is the 7th Sunday of Eastertide (Year A)