



Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

Fathers Deodat Msahala & Innocent Ezeonyeasi and Deacon Ged Perkin

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The Parish Office is open from 9.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays)

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark – Registered Charity No. 235468

SUNDAY 2nd JULY 2017

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

Thought for Today - *The Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul*

On 29th June we celebrated the ***Solemnity of Saint Peter***, the first Pope (his role presently shouldered by Pope Francis) and ***Saint Paul***, Apostle to the Gentiles (non-Jews). Should this date fall on a day other than Saturday or Monday, the Church declares it to be a ***Holy Day of Obligation***; we are bound to go to Mass as we are on Sundays. The secular word 'holiday', (i.e. rest from work) is derived from this word. Centuries ago, Holy Days were the only days off, apart from Sundays, for the poor.

Both men came from relatively ordinary backgrounds. Neither of them would probably have been regarded as a candidate for Sainthood. Saint Peter was originally called Simon, a fisherman whom Jesus, in recognition of the Pope's fundamental role of leading the Church and confirming us in the Faith, renamed Peter (*the Rock*). In his initial fear of the enemies of Our Lord, Peter denied, on the eve of the Passion, even Knowing Jesus. Yet, on Pentecost Sunday, that same man would counter a potentially hostile crowd's mockery, converting three thousand with the Truth!

Saint Paul, previously Saul, a tent-maker and Pharisee, was initially convinced that his mission was to stamp out the Christian Faith which was regarded by the Jews as a heresy. His spectacular and sudden conversion, while on the road to Damascus to arrest yet more Christians, led to his Baptism and re-emergence as Paul, the fearless Apostle of the Lord! We do well to seek his intercession that those who, in present times, are convinced that it is their mission to kill 'in God's Name', are brought to discover and accept God's Truth and turn their zeal to spreading the Gospel of Love.

Both these men, in working to spread the Faith, wrote follow-up letters (in latin, '*epistola*') to various members of the growing Church over the years, confirming and strengthening them in their Faith and resolving queries or disputes which arose. Saint Peter is credited with two Epistles, while Saint Paul's output, as with his missionary travelling, is far more extensive, with extracts from his letters featuring regularly during the Mass. In those times, much was passed on by word of mouth as widespread literacy and the advent of printing were yet to come.

Both Peter and Paul were to die Martyrs' deaths. Peter was crucified; humility moved him to request that he be crucified upside-down, as he felt unworthy to die in exactly the same manner as his Lord and God. Paul, claiming the privileges of Roman citizenship, requested that he be taken to Rome for trial.

Throughout his subsequent travels, he continued to seize every opportunity to evangelise, including the time he was shipwrecked on Malta. He finally reached Rome, where he continued to teach, suffering two terms of imprisonment, until he was beheaded under Nero.

Both men returned that '***Love unto death***' shown them by Jesus and, in the following centuries, many other men and women, drawing courage from their example, would (and, indeed, still do!) relinquish their freedom and their lives on this earth, rather than deny the Truth that comes from God. Generally speaking, we are probably very unlikely to be asked to make this ultimate Profession of Faith. We may well, however, need to be prepared to face disbelief and even scorn, for living as faithful Christians. Are we willing to make the sacrifice, not necessarily of our life, but of our reputation?

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1750.00** (comprising £1105.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.)
LIFE thank you for the total of **£135.00** raised at their Coffee Morning last Sunday.

There is a Special Collection this weekend for the SVP, which you will be hopefully aware of following newsletter announcements over the past two weekends. Please support the SVP today as generously as you can.

Next weekend, designated as Sea Sunday, there will be a Second Collection for the **Apostleship of the Sea (APS)**, which ministers to seafarers from who spend long periods away from their loved ones. They receive pastoral and financial support as required. APS will be supplying their own envelopes for those who wish to Gift Aid their contribution. It will NOT be possible to use Parish Gift Aid Envelopes for this purpose.

Sick and Housebound *If you know of anybody who is sick or housebound, or in a local care home, who is unable to come to Mass, and who would like to receive Holy Communion, Reconciliation, an Anointing or a Blessing, please contact the parish office. Dedicated chaplains meet the pastoral needs of Catholic patients in hospitals.*

Please pray for our Sick and Housebound parishioners:

Jessica Anane, Lilian Armstrong, Mrs Austin, Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiere, Anita Blaquiere,
Barry Breese, Frances Caulfield, Philip Chapman, Fr Gerald Coates, Audrey Draude,
Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte, Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Elaine Gunther,
Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, Felix Isichei, Mary Kenny, Elsie McCleave,
James McDonald, Breda McDonagh, Michael Madigan, Gerard Mascarenhas, Ajitha Mahatantila,
Mary Meyern, Edgar Ming, Maria Parnis, Marion Robertson, Parwar Saib, Frederic Saint-Rose,
Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Christine Shaughnessy, Maggie Sunich, Edythe Thirlwall, Monica Vergara,
Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo.

Recently Deceased

Of your charity, please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Paul George Papa**, of Sherwood Avenue, who died on Monday 26th June 2017. Our thoughts and prayers as a parish go out to the family.

Church Cleaning: Group 2:

Jackie Byrne, Barbara Baichu, Helen Igbedion, Mary Duah, Victoria Okonko, Mary Odusanya.
Please could you help clean God's house? Kindly contact the parish office?

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

The next course commences next Saturday 8th & concludes on Saturday 15th July 2017 at 3pm.

This course is now full. Please keep a look out for details of further courses later on in the year. You should attend a course where you wish to have your first child Baptised, or if it is three years or more since you attended a course.

MISSIO

Promoters and Box Holders are kindly reminded that collection is now due for July 2017.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHS

Please collect & pay for photos promptly, remembering that John Taylor produces them from his own resources.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THOSE WHO GIFT AID THEIR WEEKLY OFFERING

Please will ALL Gift Aid givers, REGARDLESS of how you make your offering, kindly collect their **End Of Year Letters** from the Gift Aid Office behind Our Lady's Chapel. You may require it in the event of being asked by HMRC to complete a Tax Return. We appeal to all those who Gift Aid by Standing Order to take their boxes of envelopes away. Please help keep our postage costs down by collecting yours!

PARISH WEB SITE UPDATE

After much consideration it has been decided that to avoid potential spam issues (for individuals running Parish Groups in particular) a Contact Page will shortly be introduced to the Parish Web site. This will allow Web site readers who may wish to contact us to do so without using any personal email addresses, which will be removed and replaced with a link to the Contact Form. Emails sent by way of the new Contact Form will arrive with the Parish Office and be forwarded onto the appropriate person. If, for any reason, you wish to maintain your current email address on the Web site, then please let the Parish Office know. Telephone numbers will remain unchanged

St James the Great School Summer Fete—Today from 11am—3pm. Full details on poster.

St Andrew's Catholic Primary School Parents' Association Fete—Saturday 8th July from 12pm—4pm.

THE PILGRIM - Please take your **FREE** copy of our Diocesan Newspaper for July.

LOST PROPERTY— Please claim yours from the shelf in the porch before it is disposed of.

PARISH AGM

Advance notice is hereby given of this year's Parish AGM, to be held on Wednesday 11th October 2017 in the parish hall at 8pm. The Parish Pastoral Council will be in session, and all parishioners are welcome to attend. All parish groups are now invited to submit a short written report, with a maximum of 500 words, to be received by the parish. Please see the posters in all porch areas advertising this important event in our parish.

A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM DEACON GED

Are you Confirmed and aged between 18 and 29? If so, I need your help?

As part of my formation for the Permanent Diaconate, I am studying for an MA in Pastoral Theology. For my dissertation I am looking into why some authors and theologians have remarked that the sacrament of confirmation is seen as the 'exit door' from the Church.

The focus of my research will concentrate on confirmed people aged between 18 and 29. In recent studies this age group were seen as the least likely to practice their faith. Therefore I am looking for your help to answer a short questionnaire about your faith practice following your Confirmation. You can answer this questionnaire anonymously and all information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence. The questionnaire will only take 15 mins to complete.

As well as being part of studies I am hoping that my research will help me in my pastoral ministry as a deacon to get better understanding of the concerns, barriers and blockages that prevents a proportion of this age group from practicing their faith.

If you wish to participate in this research then please email at gerardpdissertation@yahoo.com and I will arrange to send you the link to the questionnaire. If you do not wish to complete this online then I have some hard copies of the questionnaire should you wish to use this method instead.

Additionally, if you know somebody who may be able to help then please pass on the message to them. All completed questionnaires will be entered into a draw to win either a £20 Amazon voucher or to have £20 donated to the person's chosen charity.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to **Mr Louis Desa**, former head of Bishop Thomas Grant School, who has been awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

We also congratulate one of our former parishioners and UCM members, **Mrs Lilian McManus**, who has reached the grand age of 100, and will of course be receiving birthday greetings from Buckingham Palace.

FATHER PAUL WRITES

I was overwhelmed at the large attendance both at the 6.15pm Mass and afterwards in the hall last weekend.

I extend my profound gratitude to Fr Deo and the Parish for the generosity shown to me. I received a cheque in the sum of **£1,260.00** from Fr Deo on behalf of the parish, and we all enjoyed some refreshments over in the hall.

Jesus said in last Monday's Gospel,

"the amount you measure out will be the amount you will be given"

but you have given over and above that to me!

From the Parish of Our Lady of Grace, in Charlton, which is now my home, I send my love to you all, and promise that I shall keep you ever in my prayers.

With Best wishes,

Fr Paul Antwi-Boasiako CSSp



In Our Parish This Week

Sunday Masses: Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm
 Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.96

Weekday Masses: Mon - Fri: 7.30am; Mon – Sat 10am

Morning Prayer of the Church: Monday - Saturday 9.15am

Adoration and Benediction: Monday - Saturday 9.30am; Sunday 4pm

Rosary: Monday - Saturday after the 10am Mass

Confessions: Saturday, after the 10am Mass, until 11am; then in the afternoon from 5pm to 6pm

Date	Time	Intention
Sunday 2nd July 2017 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2ND COLLECTION FOR SVP	6.15pm (Sat 1st July)	Mrs Kamie Beer RIP
	8.30am	People of the parish
	10am	Nora, Tommy & John Glancy RIP
	11.30am (Polyphony Choir)	Anne Mitra RIP
	4pm—Benediction	
	5pm	Cedric & Bernice Ribeiro, 30th Wedding Anniversary
Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time: Monday 3rd July 2017 St Thomas the Apostle (Feast)	7.30am	Sam Peyton RIP
	10am	Welfare of Karim Bacchus (21st Birthday)
Tuesday 4th July 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Connie Counihan RIP
Wednesday 5th July 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Welfare of Kathleen Walsh
Thursday 6th July 2017	7.30am	Clarice Durrant RIP
	10am	Holy Souls
Friday 7th July 2017 <i>FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH</i>	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Holy Souls
	Adoration after this Mass, with Benediction at 2pm	
Saturday 8th July 2017—Our Lady Next Sunday 9th July 2017 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time SEA SUNDAY 2ND COLLECTION FOR APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA	10am	Welfare of all our newly Confirmed parishioners
	6.15pm (Sat 8th July)	Welfare of Sister Kathleen Jones FMA
	8.30am	Giovanni Francesco Franco RIP
	10am	People of the parish
	11.30am	Alexander Paul RIP
	4pm	Benediction
	5pm	Celine Lobo RIP