



Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

Fathers Deodat Msahala & Innocent Ezeonyeasi and Deacon Ged Perkins

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The Parish Office is open from 9.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday (except for Bank Holidays)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 235468

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST 2017

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

Today, we Hear Christ Who, having chosen and begun to form His 12 Disciples to be His *Apostles* (those who are sent), living, teaching and working miracles among the Chosen People for some time, asks these men closest to Him who He is thought to be by those they have encountered on their mission. They tell him that some wonder if He is John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or another Prophet, come back to life!

Jesus then challenges them: “*But you....who do you say that I am?*” Simon has no hesitation in declaring his belief that Our Lord is, indeed, the Christ (Anointed One), the Redeemer, promised since Adam and Eve’s fall. Jesus, acknowledging this Act of Faith, a Gift of His Father, renames Simon, ‘*Peter*’ (the Rock), charging him with leading the Apostles who will, from Pentecost, begin to carry out in earnest the Mission to ‘*teach all Nations...*’ restoring our fallen Race to its true purpose, that of journeying to eternal Life in Heaven. He promises that, as His visible representatives to Mankind, they will teach only Truth, and formulate rules of life with his Authority.



Infallibility, per se, covers the formal definition of a Doctrine, which we must believe, by the Pope, in his Office of Supreme Pastor and Teacher of all the Faithful. This gift is extended to the College (or Body) of Bishops who, perhaps in an Ecumenical Council, in union with the Pope, propose, as coming from God, a Doctrine for our belief. For a more detailed explanation of Infallibility, see the **Catechism of the Catholic Church, 890-892**. See also the Vatican Council document, **Lumen Gentium, 25**.

How does this freedom from error in the Teaching of *Catholic Dogma* work? We know, for example, how certain changes have been made to the outward *way* (i.e. the language and actions) that Mass has been offered. The *essence* of the Mass, however, is unchanged. Acting in the person of Our Lord, who commanded, “*Do this in memory of Me*”, Father, our priest, still *re-enacts* the once-and-for-all Saving Sacrifice of Calvary for our participation; he changes bread and Wine into Jesus Himself, offers Him for us all to the Heavenly Father, Who Himself offers Jesus to us in Holy Communion.

We must never forget, however, that Our Lord guaranteed, not that our Shepherds would lead saintly lives (they, as do we, have a fallen Nature and Free Will) but that *Catholic Doctrine* will always be clearly taught, leaving no room for doubt. He stated that, “*Whoever hears you* (the Pope, Bishops and Priests) *hears Me!*” Pope Francis (who is the 266th Successor of Saint Peter) may well be mistaken if, for example, he tells us that ‘*it will rain tomorrow*’ but he *will not* err in matters determining our Eternity! We too have a certain responsibility. Love of Neighbour demands of us that, should Teachings concerning Faith and Morals be challenged or disregarded, we are bound to counter, as best we can, such errors.

The Holy Father (as do our Bishops and Priests) needs our Prayers daily as he strives to be *the Rock*. On the right hand of the main porch, facing the Sanctuary, you will find a monthly list of clergy to pray for, each with a special day allocated to them. Why not take a look at that list and undertake to pray for all clergy?

During the coming week we will recall two other great defenders of the Truth: Monday, Convert and Theologian, Saint Augustine of Hippo; Tuesday, Saint John the Baptist, beheaded for publicly defending God’s Laws regarding Marriage. Then, on Wednesday, comes the memorial of Saints Margaret Mary Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, three of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, all of whom were put to death for hiding, sheltering and protecting Catholic Priests. May their Prayers strengthen all who are called to be our Shepherds!

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1840.00** (£1195.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.)

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 Blaquiére, Anita Blaquiére, 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, Ajitha Mahatantila, Gerard Mascarenhas, Mary Meyern, Edgar Ming, Maria Parnis, Marion Robertson, Parwar Saib, Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Maggie Sunich, Edythe Thirlwall, Monica Vergara, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, John Windsor, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo, Tony Zammit.

Church Cleaning in the coming week: Group 4:

Agnes Campbell, Anna Howard, Juliet Mensah, Renata Serrao, Sophia Smith.

As you can see, this group is very small. More members are urgently needed to help shoulder the burden, just once every six weeks. Please could you help clean God's house? Kindly contact the parish office.

We welcome back Father Deo, refreshed from his holiday in Tanzania.

During his time away, Fr Deo has been laying the foundations for next year's Safari in his home country. The number of those hoping to fill the 40 spaces has now risen to 23. Please keep an eye on the newsletter and web site.

We welcome into the family of the Church, through the Sacrament of Baptism, brothers **Nicholas Vinh Curtis** and **Theodore Huy Curtis**, who were Baptised here last Sunday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME FOR 2018.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2017.

Please will all parents who seek to enrol their children in next year's First Holy Communion Programme please collect an application form from the black folder in the porch. The form includes dates for next year. If you take a form, please write your name and your children's names on the list in that folder. Please remember to detach the actual programme, so that you will have a record of the dates and times of all sessions which will be taking place.

DEACON GED PERKINS WRITES ON HIS SURVEY ABOUT CONFIRMATION:

Thanks to those of you who have responded so far. Nevertheless, I am still seeking volunteers to participate in my Confirmation Survey. However, please note that **the closing date for this is Thursday 31st August 2017.**

If you are Confirmed and aged between 18-29 please email me at gerardpdissertation@yahoo.com.

Alternatively, please see the Parish web site for the link to my online survey, or see posters in the porch.

CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHS

All orders have now been completed, and these may be found in the large box on the right hand shelf in the porch. Please remember that John Taylor prints these photos at his own expense, so please make your payment promptly.

MARY'S MEALS

Many of you will have heard about this charity, which has previously been the focus of fundraising by the Knights of St Columba. This charity is holding an awareness day on Sunday 10th September 2017 in Camden, London at the London Irish Centre. Please email: rsvp@marysmeals.org or call 020 7221 5745. Please see the poster.

HELP WITH THE REPOSITORY

Would you be interested in helping to run the repository on Saturday evenings?

If you think that you might be able to help, please call Maureen O'Donoghue on 020 8764 1846.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY

The CTS announces that many titles are now available as ebooks. Those of you with Kindle, Kobo or iBooks Store may avail themselves of CTS books. You can see what is available at: www.ctsbooks.org/ebooks

CLEANER/HOUSEKEEPER

Required by one of our parishioners, one day per week, for 3 to 4 hours. Please apply via the Parish Office.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

Monday, 28th August, is a Bank Holiday. Masses will be at the usual times. The Parish Office will be closed.

DIVINE MERCY

Monday 28th August— Pilgrimage, The Friars, Aylesford; Saturday 9th September—Retreat, St Boniface, Tooting.

!!!CALLING ALL THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME ALTAR SERVERS!!!

Have you made your First Holy Communion? Would you therefore like to become an Altar Server? If you want to serve God in this special way, then why not come to our next Training Sessions? You will need to come to both sessions, which will take place on **Sunday 10th AND Sunday 17th September at 6pm**, right after the 5pm Mass. Sessions last for 1 hour. Please come to the Sacristy **today** and pick up an Application Form. Please return your completed and signed form to us by next Sunday, September 3rd 2017. We need to know as soon as possible how many of you wish to attend. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the training sessions.

BTG EXAMINATION RESULTS 2017

With a massive 100% pass rate at A-Level and BTEC for the third year running, A-level students at Bishop Thomas Grant School in Streatham have yet again achieved the grades that they will need for progression to university. The A*-B pass rate has improved by 8% to 58% and the BTEC Distinction Star achievement rate has improved by 20% to 96%. Headteacher Ms Boyle, was particularly impressed with the 100% pass rate in the new and more demanding linear A-Levels. Congratulations to all, in particular our own parishioners!

ADVANCE NOTICE OF SCHOOL REFERENCES FOR 2018

We shall shortly announce the dates on which Fr Deo will be holding school reference interviews for 2018. **These will not appear in the newsletter or on the web site.** They will only be posted up on one of the notice boards in the main porch. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that they make a note of the relevant dates when attending Mass. Indeed, in order to obtain a reference for your child, it is a condition that you attend Mass here regularly together with your child. Please note that you may also need an interview if moving level within the same school, or if your child's place on a waiting list needs confirmation. You are strongly advised to check with schools if you think that either of these two situations might apply to you. Fr Deo will always need to interview you, so please do not leave it until the last minute. Interviews will be held in the upper hall. Application forms will also be made available. Please note that a family photograph will be requested, which you may send by email or provide a paper copy. Photographs will be destroyed at the end of the process, unless you specifically ask for their return. Interviews outside of the stated times will only take place in exceptional cases.

OUR PARISH AGM

This year's Parish AGM, takes place on Wednesday 11th October 2017 in the parish hall at 7.45pm, followed by a short social event. Parish Pastoral Council members will be present, and parishioners are encouraged to attend and review what the parish has achieved in the last twelve months, and indeed to participate in the planning for the coming year. All parish groups are invited to submit a short written report, with a maximum of 500 words, to the Parish Office. These reports will be available for parishioners to read both before and after the AGM. You are strongly encouraged to come along and take part in your parish AGM. Please see the posters in all porch areas.

PARISH WHEELCHAIR

This is kept in the right hand side of the old confessional box. Please ask if you need to use it.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Whenever you come to church, why not familiarise yourself with the various emergency exits? Look around and look up for the green and white fire exit signs, which will guide you towards the quickest way out.

GIFT AID

Please make a special effort to take your boxes and end of year letters, and save us having to post them out. Next year, by popular demand, we shall introduce reduced size sets of envelopes for those who give by Standing Order.

MASS INTENTIONS

A typical offering would be £10.00, but this is not compulsory. If you give to the Church using Gift Aid, you may include Mass Offerings by indicating your Gift Aid number in the special box provided on the envelope.

NB: The Gift Aid number must be that of the person making the request, and not that of their spouse.

CAFOD ESSENTIALS

Saturday 9 September 10am-3:15pm – Romero House, Waterloo SE1 7JB

An inspiring opportunity to hear about the issues people face in Latin America that do not always make the news. The day will include our work in El Salvador, to keep up the work begun in Blessed Oscar Romero's lifetime. This year is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Oscar who was martyred in March 1980, while he was a Prelate of El Salvador, as the Archbishop of San Salvador. The day will also have a number of additional workshops on items such as social media, Living out the message of Pope Francis, Connect2, The Live Simply Award, Campaigning and training on Speaking at Mass by an experienced coach. (Bring & share lunch, refreshments available from 9.30am) For more info and to book email: southwark@cafod.org.uk or tel: 020 8466 9901

LOST PROPERTY

Please check in the porch to see if any of the items there, including clothing and spectacles, belongs to you.



Parish Masses This Week

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| Sunday Masses: | Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm | |
| | Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.120 | |
| 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 (<i>Rosary and Benediction in May & October</i>) <i>On First Fridays - Adoration after 10am Mass, closing with Benediction at 2pm</i> | |
| 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 27th August 2017 | | |
| TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 6.15pm (Sat 26th August) | Mrs Lourdes Mary Joseph RIP |
| | 8.30am | Victims of acts of terrorism |
| | 10am | Dominic Cu Van Tran RIP |
| | 11.30am | People of the parish |
| <i>Benediction</i> | 4pm | |
| | 5pm | Maura Malone RIP |
| <i>Twenty First Week in Ordinary Time:</i> | | |
| Monday 28th August 2017 | 7.30am | Holy Souls |
| St Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Memorial) | 10am | John & Margaret McNamara RIP |
| Tuesday 29th August 2017 | 7.30am | Salus Fernandes RIP |
| The Passion of St John the Baptist (Memorial) | 10am | Thanksgiving & God's blessing, Onwuekwe family and friends |
| Wednesday 30th August 2017 | 7.30am | Holy Souls |
| Saints Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward, Martyrs (Memorial) | 10am | In thanksgiving for the intercession of St Anthony |
| Thursday 31st August 2017 | 7.30am | Holy Souls |
| | 10am | Maura Malone RIP |
| FIRST FRIDAY | | |
| Friday 1st September 2017 | 7.30am | Holy Souls |
| World Day of Prayer for Creation | 10am | Tejumade Onipede RIP |
| ADORATION AFTER MASS UNTIL BENEDICTION AT 2PM . | | |
| Saturday 2nd September 2017 | | |
| Our Lady | 10am | Neily & Nora Linehan RIP |
| Next Sunday 3rd September 2017 | | |
| Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | 6.15pm (Sat 2nd September) | Ana Fernandes RIP |
| | 8.30am | Thanksgiving—Kiran and Saaraa Bacchus |
| | 10am | Nicole Davis RIP |
| | 11.30am | Mario Rodrigues RIP |
| <i>Benediction</i> | 4pm | |
| | 5pm | People of the parish |