



Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

Fathers Deodat Msahala & Innocent Ezeonyeasi and Deacon Ged Perkins

159 Ellison Road, London SW16 5DE

Tel 020 8679 3545

Email: parish.office159@virginmedia.com

Website: stbartsnorbury.co.uk

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 3rd SEPTEMBER 2017 TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Today, in the **Entrance Antiphon**, we call on our Merciful God Who, in His Goodness and great Love, is ever ready to forgive our sins, should we repent and put us, spiritually, *'back on our feet'*. The **Responsorial Psalm** speaks first of our great longing for God's Grace which, alone, can give Life to our souls. A soul fallen from Grace may be compared to drought-stricken land, lifeless without water but in which plants will spring into growth when rain falls and irrigates it. Through the words of the psalm we proclaim our belief that it is only by constantly drawing on the Strength that comes from God, that only by looking to Him, whose *'... love is better than life'*, will we attain the Eternal Life He has created us to live! We recognise that true happiness lies in ever drawing on the Source of Life and Help, staying close to our Father who, unlike the fallible promoters of solely material success, will never let go of us and can and will actually give all He promises!

In the **First Reading** we are reminded that fidelity to God's Call does not promise Heaven on Earth as we hear the Prophet, Jonah's lament over the humiliation he is facing from those who resist his preaching of the Truth. If one really sets one's sights on living God's Way, then one may well experience a 'bumpy ride' or even, as are many of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ in various parts of the world, be called to lay down one's life. In the **Second Reading** Saint Paul underlines the Sacrificial aspect of being *'in the world but not of it'*; our priority must, of necessity, be that of loving and pleasing God, however 'uncool' such a way of life may appear to those for whom the world and material success are the be all and end all of life! Through our example of fidelity to God may we draw lost souls back on track!

In the **Alleluia verse** we call for help to be able see beyond the here and now, with its ups and downs, to the true goal of Eternal Life, often obscured by materialism.

Finally, in the **Gospel** we see, from the words of Our Lord, that there is no cosy alternative to self-denial in this life. As Jesus, very bluntly, reminds a well-meaning Peter, who had expressed horror at the thought of His coming Passion and Death, eternal *unhappiness* is the only destination of a life lived, knowingly and intentionally, apart from God. However self-sufficient our life in this world may appear, it will very definitely come to an end and we will be rewarded, *"... each one according to his behaviour..."*. Our eternity is, very clearly, in our hands (we have Free Will) but, if we are to be eternally happy with God, we are personally charged with working at it! We are crew, not passengers!

On Friday we will celebrate the Birthday of Our Blessed Lady who set us a striking example of Faith, Hope and Love in embracing *God's Way over Man's*! Sinless from conception, therefore unflawed by a fallen nature, Mary was dedicated to God as an infant by her Parents, Joachim and Anne. Her whole life, untainted by personal sin, was a preparation for her mission. As a young woman she took up the challenging assignment offered her by the Father through the Archangel Gabriel and, in her Womb, *'the Word was made Flesh and Dwelt among us!'* Mary, our Mother, is ever watchful over us.

'...Dark night has come down on this...world...and the tempest-tossed Church, all her eyes are on thee....'

May we never cease to implore Mary's protection throughout our life's journey towards Eternal Bliss with her Divine Son!

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1673.68** (£1028.68 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 5:

Elizabeth Ayoola, Lauraine Crawford, Sandra Hodgson, Emma Morrone, Amanda Squires, Maria Verrilli, Kelly Bello, Livia Pappano

More members are will help shoulder the burden, just once every six weeks. Please could you help clean God's house? Kindly contact the parish office.

We welcome into the family of the Church, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Declan Edward Thomas Smith** who was Baptised here last Saturday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME FOR 2018.

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

Please will all parents who seek to enrol their children in next year's First Holy Communion Programme 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.

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.

OUR YOUTH CLUB

We re-commence on Friday, 8th September, running from 6.30 - 9.45pm. All are welcome. The age-range is from 10 to 16 years. Prospective members must be accompanied by an adult on their initial visit. There will be a **BLACK FRIDAY TUCKSHOP** as I am celebrating my 80th Birthday. Eddie: 020 8333 0690

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

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising the **DIVINE MERCY RETREAT:**

Saturday 9 September 2017 , 9:15 am - 5:00 pm at St Boniface RC Church, 185 Mitcham Road, Tooting, London SW17 9PG

Do you believe in supporting healthy marriages?

Catholic Marriage Care's centre for Croydon and the surrounding area is looking for enthusiastic volunteer **Presenter/Facilitators** to run marriage preparation courses (training is provided), **Qualified Relationship Counsellors** (who hold a recognised couples counselling qualification) and **Chaperone/Receptionists** to meet and greet clients who come for counselling. For more information or to apply, please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

!!!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.

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.

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

LEGION OF MARY

Fr Simon Peat has agreed to a recruitment drive at the parish of St Winifrede in South Wimbledon. The drive will take place on Sat 23rd and Sun 24th September. St Winifrede's is on Latimer Road, SW19 1EP. Masses are on Saturday at 6pm and on Sunday at 9am and 11am. <http://winefridechurch.co.uk/>. As always the success of the drive depends on the support of the curia so please do rally the troops in your praesidium and we can ensure that there are plenty of Legionaries on hand to take names and spread the good news of the Legion of Mary. Please do keep the success of the drive in your prayer intentions. Mary. Please do keep the success of the drive in your prayer intentions.

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

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.122	
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 3rd September, 2017		
TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Sat 2nd September)	Ana Fernandes RIP
	8.30am	In Thanksgiving, Kiran and Saaraa Bacchus
	10am	Nicole Davis RIP
	11.30am	Mario Rodrigues RIP
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	For the welfare of Deacon Ged Perkins
<i>Twenty Second Week in Ordinary Time:</i>	7.30am	For the welfare of Geraldine and Ed Kenney
Monday 4th September	10am	Cecilia McCarthy RIP
Tuesday 5th September 2017	7.30am	Lawrence Ndika RIP
	10am	For the welfare of Benjamin Ohen
Wednesday 6th September 2017	7.30am	Clarice Durrant RIP
	10am	Holy Souls
Thursday 7th September 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Christine Clark RIP
Friday 8th September 2017 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Holy Souls
Saturday 9th September 2017		
Our Lady	10am	Roy Daniels RIP
Next Sunday 10th September 2017 Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.15pm (Sat 9th September)	Margaret Towey RIP
	8.30am	Philip Cowie RIP
	10am	Jarlath Azoro RIP
	11.30am	Gerard Kirwan RIP
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish