



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)

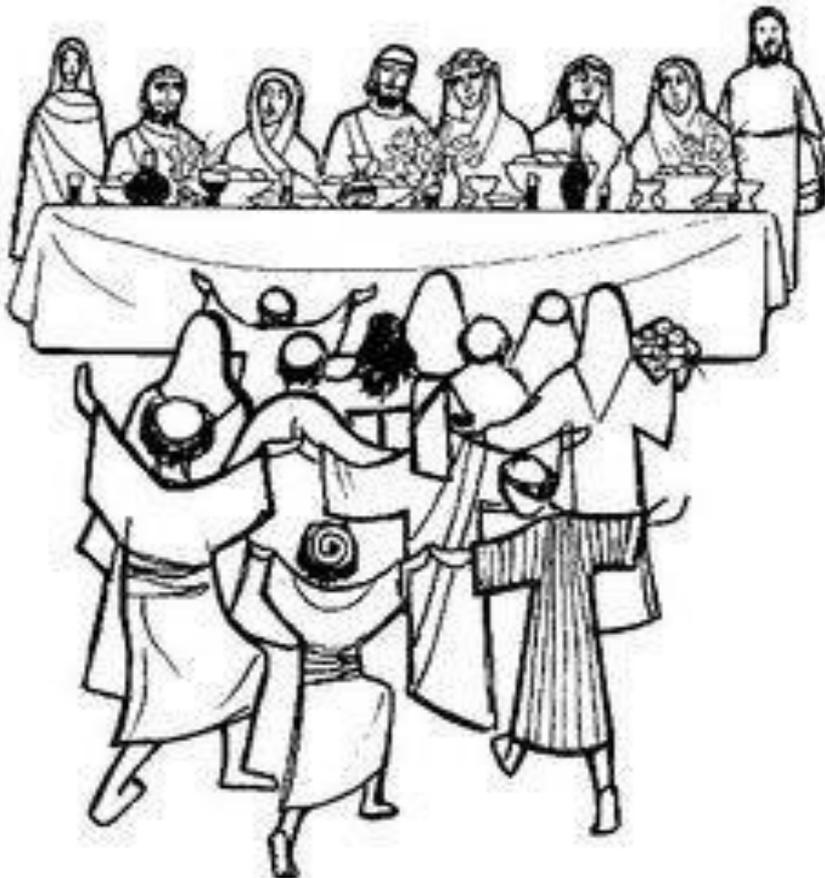
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark – Registered Charity No. 1173050

SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER 2017 TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

In the **Entrance Antiphon**, we acknowledge the enormity of our sins and God's unlimited Forgiveness to those of us who repent. We then, in the **First Reading** (Isaiah 25:6-10), look with Faith and Hope towards the infinite happiness of Heaven which will be ours if we have striven, in this life, to stay close to our Father. All trials and evils, including death, which result from the Fall into Original Sin, (and which sometimes appear to monopolise the daily news) will be no more!

This theme of joyful hope continues in the **Responsorial Psalm**, (Psalm 22) in which, through the refrain to the verses (which we often sing as "*The Lord's my Shepherd*") we proclaim our belief that, "*In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever*".

In the **Second Reading**, Saint Paul (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20), while thanking those who have selflessly supported him in various ways in his mission, underlines that all he has achieved (and will achieve) has been possible only because of the strength given him by God; every good that we do is a positive response to God's Grace just as an evil deed involves a refusal of this Life of the Soul. Through the **Alleluia Verse** we echo this Truth, proclaiming Christ, *the Word made flesh*, to be the Source of the "...power to become children of God".



Finally, in the **Gospel**, (Matthew 22:1-14) Our Lord makes it very clear that Salvation, first offered to (and through) His Chosen People is, of course, offered to all; The Magi at the Nativity stood for all the Gentile (non-Jewish) races, also called to be saved and live the Life of Grace. As the *Parable of the Wedding Feast* makes abundantly clear, those who will, one day, be told, "*Come, Blessed of my Father...*" into everlasting Joy, will be those who truly wished (and made the effort) to get to Heaven.

We may, sadly often, through sin, damage or lose the *Wedding Garment* of God's Grace, but as long as earthly life remains we may, through repentance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), 'repair' or 'restore' this Garment. Unlike those in the Parable who refused the initial invitation through material preoccupations or through wilfully failing to 'come up to the mark', may we ever set God as our priority in life!

Our prayer might well be, in the words of Blessed John Henry Newman, whose memorial we have recently celebrated, "*Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom...*". How can we err if we keep the 'eyes' of our Soul fixed on the light which can never fail!?

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1,755.00** (£1,110.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.)

As ever, your generosity to **CAFOD** knows no bounds, with a current figure of **£1781.00**, and money still coming in. A final figure will be published next weekend. Thank you on behalf of CAFOD.

TODAY IS PRISONERS' SUNDAY

A day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents. You will see posters for **PACT**, which is an organisation which concentrates on these often forgotten people in society. Perhaps you can help PACT in their work.

NEXT WEEKEND IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

There will be a second collection for **MISSIO**. Special envelopes have been provided by MISSIO for this collection, and these will be available from this weekend. Those wishing to Gift Aid their contribution, whether or not they give by Gift Aid, must make use of one of the special Missio Envelopes. Please note that normal weekly parish envelopes and emergency envelopes may NOT be used for this collection, and any which are used will have to be emptied into the non Gift Aid portion of the collection. If you wish to write a cheque, please make it payable to St Bartholomew's Church, and we shall send off a cheque direct to MISSIO for the entire sum raised.

Bishop Pat will be joining us to say the 10am Mass, in recognition of the enormous contribution our Parish makes to Missio, which raises around £10,000.00 per annum just through the red Missio collection boxes. This would be a good time to sign up to Missio. Anybody interested should provide their details to the parish office, so that our organiser, **Cynthia Jouan**, may contact you and arrange for you to receive a collecting box.

COFFEE MORNING TODAY after the 10am & 11.30am Masses, with the UCM

Please do go along and support them, taking the opportunity to socialise with other parishioners

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

Collectors are asked to kindly count the numbers present at all Masses this week, including Saturday's Vigil Mass, and then do so again once more next weekend. Please write numbers on the chart on the shelf in the porch.

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, Erna Breese, Frances Caulfield, Audrey Draude, Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte, Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, 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.

Recently Deceased: Your prayers are asked for the happy repose of the soul of **Canon Gerald Coates**, a priest of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, who died peacefully on Tuesday 10th October 2017. Canon Coates was one of the two sons of the late Jenny Coates of Briar Avenue, and was known to his friends as Father Gerry. He was ordained on 12th June 1954. He celebrated his first Mass here at St Bartholomew's on 13th June 1954.

If you take a look on the parish web site, under Latest News, you may view a film of that first Mass.

CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK—GROUP 4 PLEASE:

Agnes Campbell, Anna Howard, Juliet Mensah, Renata Serrao, Sophia Smith, Amarachi Soribe. Please could you help clean God's house, just once every six weeks? Kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thanks to all those parishioners, many who are members of various parish groups, who attended this event last Wednesday evening and making it such a great success. We followed the agenda as published in last week's newsletter. There was an opportunity for questions and comments, and these will all be reflected in the minutes which will be published in due course, and which should also be available on our parish web site once they have been finalised. A note for your diaries: - next year's AGM will take place on Wednesday 10th October 2018.

We hope that even more people will come along in support of what is, after all, your parish.

FATHER DEO

This week, Father Deo will be in Merville, which is situated in the Normandy region of France, as part of the required Ongoing Formation of Clergy, which is provided in order to strengthen them and help them in their priestly ministry. We pray that he may have a safe journey, and that he will have a happy and fruitful time there.

SCHOOL REFERENCES FOR 2018 ENTRY

Dates for remaining school reference interviews are clearly posted in all porch areas.

Please note that there is no need to make an appointment to see Fr Deo at these sessions.

Interviews will recommence following Father Deo's return from France. The remaining interview sessions are for reception, infant and primary entry. (Secondary interview sessions are now over.) At least one parent or guardian should attend with the child. 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 your child is moving to a higher level within the same school, or if your child's place on a waiting list needs to be maintained. Please check with schools if you think that either of these situations might apply to you. Also, if you are new to the parish, you may also need to seek a reference from the parish priest of your previous parish. If you have moved out of the parish in the past three years, and you require a reference, please contact the parish office forthwith.

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CATHOLIC SPHERE

There are a number of these, too numerous to mention separately in this newsletter. This applies particularly to school open days. Please take a look through the yellow folder in the porch to see what might interest you. Due to the enormous response to the recent Open Day at St James the Great, arrangements have been modified in order to facilitate visits from prospective families. This means that in November and December, guided tours of the school will be available at **10am & 11am on the first and second Tuesdays of the month.** The Admissions Secretary,

Helen Stock, will be on hand to answer any questions you may have concerning the admissions process.

If you are unable to make the times given, by all means contact Helen at the school on 020 8771 3424.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

A reminder that the next course takes place this coming Wednesday 18th October 2017 at 8pm. Those seeking Baptism for their child should take a form from the porch, complete it fully and return it to the parish office.

Parents will need to attend both sessions. Where possible, Godparents should also be present.

CATECHISTS AND HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We are very short of catechists to help with the First Holy Communion Programme. If you are a parent or guardian of a child who is on the 2018 programme, and you would like to offer your help, please contact the parish office as soon as you are able. Fr Deo and Teresa Furtado would be happy to hear from you. DBS checks may be required, so we need to get things moving in good time for January 2018 to avoid the burden falling on just a few people.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

Help is needed with the Children's Liturgy Group. Children are welcome to join from School Nursery age through to Year 3. Anybody who is willing to become a catechist or helper in this most important aspect of parish life would be welcome, subject to the usual DBS check. Training will be provided. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Linda Harries on 07770 623230 or by email: l.harries@gmail.com

ST BARTHOLMEW'S TODDLER AND BABY GROUP

We meet in the lower hall every Thursday during term time from 9.30am to 11.30am. We are looking for more parents and babies and toddlers to join, and in particular those from the parish along with those newly Baptised.

We provide free play, crafts, reading and rhyme time for the young ones. There are refreshments available, including biscuits and home made cakes for parents and carers. Do come along and make friends with other parents, and perhaps your children will become friends with one another too! We do make minimal Charges:

£2 for the first adult and child, then 50p for extras. Please contact Betania on 07876 785746.

CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS

John Taylor provides copies of photographs at his own expense. If you have placed an order, please ensure that you collect yours and make payment without delay. John should not be left out of pocket for his efforts on your behalf.

RUBBISH BIN IN THE PORCH

Please avoid putting any organic material in the bin. It should only be for paper etc.

THE SVP CAN GET VALUE FROM YOUR CURRENCY AND OLD MONEY

Please continue to help the work of the SVP by putting into the special basket in the porch any old currency, notes and coins, even if they no longer exist, including old UK currency. If you have anything left over from your holidays, perhaps a few Euros, they would be gratefully received. The SVP can get value for them all.



Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses: Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm

Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.140

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 and Benediction in May & October*)
On First Fridays - Adoration after 10am Mass, closing with Benediction at 2pm

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 15th October 2017 TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Sat 14th October)	Len Phillips RIP
	8.30am	Jim Clark RIP
UCM Coffee Morning after this Mass	10am	People of the Parish
UCM Coffee Morning after this Mass	11.30am (With Plainchant Choir)	Sick and Elderly Parishioners
<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	Welfare of Christine Lucas

Twenty Eighth Week in Ordinary Time:

Monday 16th October 2017 St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin (Memorial)	7.30am 10am	God's blessing on our priests and their families Joseph Patrick Abreo RIP
Tuesday 17th October 2017 St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr (Memorial)	7.30am 10am	Clarice Durrant RIP Gerry Sweeney RIP
Wednesday 18th October 2017 St Luke, Evangelist (Feast)	7.30am 10am	Sheila Godspeed RIP Hervé Yoo Foo RIP
Thursday 19th October 2017	7.30am 10am	Holy Souls Bridget, Michael & Padraig Mc Cormack RIP
Friday 20th October 2017	7.30am 10am	Holy Souls Welfare of Erna Breese
Saturday 21st October 2017 Our Lady	10am	Pietro Mobile RIP

Next Sunday 22nd October 2017

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time WORLD MISSION SUNDAY	6.15pm (Sat 21st October)	Sauveur & Carmen Vella RIP
	8.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	MISSIO and all their supporters and beneficiaries
	11.30am	Valencio Dourado RIP
<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish