



Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

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A parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO – Registered Incorporated Charity No. 1173050

SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

A THOUGHT AS LENT APPROACHES AND BEGINS

We often remark at how quickly time passes. On 8th January the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marked the end of the Christmas season and, already, on Ash Wednesday, 14th February we will begin the Penitential season of Lent. And not so long after Easter, we shall be looking towards Advent 2018! Our Blessed Lord was very precise in His use of language. Looking beyond our comparatively brief lifespan on earth, towards Eternity, He underlined the urgent need for constant preparation, speaking of the unexpectedness of our coming before God's Judgement Seat, death coming, perhaps, **"...like a thief in the night..."** (1 Thess. 5.2)...**you know not the day nor the hour...** (Mt. 25:13)...**tonight thy soul is required of thee...** (Lk. 12:20)"

The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday recalls sobering facts. As we are marked on our foreheads with a Cross of ash (prepared by burning last year's palms) the priest or other person applying the ashes may say either, **"Repent and believe in the Gospel..."** (Mk. 1:15)" or the more sobering, **"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."** (Gen. 3:19) The second formula may cause one to feel 'uncomfortable' but is, obviously, so very necessary in this world which, sadly, often lauds wealth, celebrity and power as criteria for a fulfilled life, whilst ignoring their power to distance or even separate us from God. A loving earthly parent will, although positively encouraging their children to be careful crossing the road, also point out the unpleasant, even fatal consequences of carelessness in doing so. Similarly God, out of Love for us, wishes us to recall that much of what is regarded as 'gain' in this world has the power to deny us eternal happiness. Unlike the world, which can be very unforgiving, Christ, knowing our fallen nature, gives us through His Church this period of the year dedicated especially to deeper examination of conscience and to trying to see ourselves as God sees us. Of course, this 40 day period should, quite definitely, *not* be our sole spiritual 'MOT' for the year.

The Good Shepherd ever calls us to Himself. Whatever our sins, He will welcome us back if we repent and return. He has given us the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) as the normal means of making this return from Mortal and what are deemed 'lesser' sins. Through this wonderful Sacrament, available daily, if needed, in addition to the scheduled times, a Soul, dead in sin, may be restored to the Life of Grace. *We must*, however *not* fall into the error of thinking that Confession is reserved solely for Grave sin. Even one who has faithfully persevered in God's Grace throughout life has need of the strengthening Grace of this Sacrament to maintain their Godward orientation.

It may take great courage and humility to go to Confession, overcoming Human Respect (i.e. 'What will people think of me when they see me go into the Reconciliation Room?'). Sadly we can 'transfer' our own sometimes unforgiving nature to Christ. Yet the Scriptures are full of accounts of Jesus forgiving people, for example the woman taken in adultery and the penitent thief on Calvary. His many visible healings point towards His ability, as God Incarnate, to heal our invisible spiritual ills, i.e. sins. We never hear Him turn penitents away. Of course, to be forgiven, sorrow and determination not to sin again must go together. How often do we hear Christ saying, **"Go and sin no more"** (Jn. 8:11)?

Why not, especially if it does not come easily, resolve to make a good Lenten Confession, as the first of many regular Confessions in the coming year, rather like having one's car regularly serviced, rather than waiting for a major, more costly or dangerous defect to occur. The priest can answer any questions, however 'silly' we might regard them; nothing will shock him; as an *Alter Christus*, he is only too glad to continue Christ's work of Reconciliation. Look out for details of our Lenten day of Penitence.

There is plenty of faithful Catholic literature on the subject. One publication, **"Confession, A little Book for the Reluctant"** by Monsignor Louis Gaston de Ségur, published by TAN, answers many of the fears that many, sadly, have of this Sacrament. Booklets about Reconciliation are available from our Repository. If you try this link (<http://www.ctsbooks.org/search?searchTerm=confession>) you will find a wealth of helpful materials published by the CTS. Please God, the following line from Saint Alphonsus' Stations of the Cross, will be our motive for repentance: **"It is thy love, more than the fear of Hell, which causes me to weep for my sins."** (from the 8th Station: The Women of Jerusalem Mourn for Our Lord).

Thank you for your generosity

Collection for 4th February 2018: £2051.00 (£1406.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders).

This weekend, there is a Second Collection for **Poor Parishes**. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to poorer parishes in the diocese. We are most fortunate here at St Bartholomew's, so we ask you to be as generous as you can, given the many calls upon your finances in these difficult times. Gift Aid givers will find a specially marked blue envelope in their boxes. ***However, due to a printing error, that particular envelope has been incorrectly dated 25th February. Please do use that envelope, and just change the date if you remember.***

Today is also World Day for the Sick and Day for the Unemployed. Please pray for all their intentions.

WELCOME

We welcome once again Canon Joseph Collins to say the 10am & 11.30am Masses this weekend.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER

This letter, which is traditionally read before the start of Lent, will be read at all Masses this weekend. You may also read it on the Parish Web Site. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the Parish Office.

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, Charmaine Meli, Mary Meyern, Janina Miller, 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

Of your charity, please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Yvonne Marlene Florence Cordell**, formerly of Highbury Avenue in this parish, late of Leicestershire, and Mother of Brenda Phillips. Yvonne died on Thursday 1st February 2018. Yvonne's funeral takes place here on Monday 5th March at 10am. Our thoughts and prayers as a parish go out to the family.

The funeral of **Fr John Ehichioya** will take place On Wednesday 21st February 2018 at 12 Noon at St Andrew's Church, Thornton Heath, conducted by Archbishop Peter Smith. Fr John's body will be received into the church on Tuesday 20th February at 6pm, followed by Mass for the parish. Burial will take place in Nigeria, attended by diocesan clergy.

WELCOME

We welcome into the Parish Community, **Olivia Hanna Piekarska - Barrett**, who was Baptised here last Sunday.

A DAY WITH MARY - NEXT SATURDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 2018

Posters are up and flyers are available in the porch. Father Innocent will be celebrating Mass and preaching. Please mark your diaries so that you may attend if you are able to do so. These events are always very popular.

CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK - GROUP 3 please: Jeannette Da Silva, Brigid Griffin, Joyce Ippoliti, Berni Knight, Christiana Muoghalu, Antoinette Nwanoneze, Blessing Otite. If you can spare an hour or two every six weeks or so, or perhaps more often, to help clean the House of God, please get in touch with the parish office, so that you may be allocated to a group. Please help to share the burden of this important task.

IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING GLENCAIRN ROAD AND HEPWORTH ROAD

We have only just been advised that both of these roads are to become ONE WAY as from this coming Monday 12th February 2018. Hepworth Road will be One Way DOWNWARDS from Streatham High Road to Ellison Road, whilst Glencairn Road will be One Way UPWARDS from Ellison Road to Streatham High Road. The small section of Glencairn Road between Ellison Road and Sherwood Avenue (where the railway bridge crosses) is not affected. You will notice that signage has already been installed in readiness for Monday. Please be prepared for this change, which may well cause some congestion around the Church as people get used to it. There is also a danger that some motorists will drive at speed. Please look out for any children, senior citizens and other vulnerable people and non motorists who will be unprepared for this. Remember also that pedal cycles may still travel in each direction on both roads.

This **Ash Wednesday**, Masses are at 7.30am, 10am and 8pm. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence,

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday evening, at 7.30pm, during the season of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place in the Church, led by a various parish groups. This Friday, 16th February, members of the Legion of Mary will be leading us.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018 AND ARRANGING BAPTISM

If you seek Baptism for your child, you must attend a Baptism Preparation Course, unless you have done so in the three years prior to this Baptism. In every case, please complete a Baptism Details Form, which you will find in the main porch. Please read it carefully, complete it in full and hand it to the parish office or to one of our clergy. The next course takes place across two consecutive evenings, which are Tuesdays 17th & 24th April 2018 at 8pm.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

The Children's Liturgy group need some adult supporters willing to come to our sessions about once a month to help supervise the children at the 10am Mass on Sundays. We have to adhere to a strict adult/child ratio and have plenty of group leaders but simply require another adult present. Anyone wishing to sit in on a session and see what is involved should speak to Linda Harries (07770 623 230) or just come to a session and introduce yourself to the Catechist. A DBS check will be required to be carried out on every adult, so please be prepared to complete forms and provide documentation. As a reminder, all children from school nursery age up to year 2 are welcome to attend - Year 3's are expected to remain in the church to support their First Holy Communion learning.

COFFEE MORNINGS

There are still many spaces available for those individuals or groups wishing to hold a Coffee Morning after Sunday Masses, with the exception of August. If you or your parish group wish to have a coffee morning to raise funds for your group or else a particular good cause, please enquire of the Parish Office for available dates.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please now consider the March Rota, which will go up to Palm Sunday, 25th March 2018. Please advise your availability ASAP. Please also consider Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night and Easter Sunday itself. Remember that there will be no 5pm Mass on Easter Sunday. If you wish to be considered as a Reader, or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please see Father Deo or Father Innocent.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS)

Stations of the Cross books are now available in both normal and larger print in readiness for Lent.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME- PREPARING TO GO FORTH

As is traditional in this parish, the parents of last year's First Holy Communicants help to organise the Going Forth Lunch, which this year will take place on Sunday 1st July 2018 at 1pm. Would those parents able to assist Teresa Furtado with this event are kindly asked to contact her by email: trizfurtado@aol.com. Help will be required for preparation, shopping, setting up the hall and the preparation and serving of food.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Family Fast Day is set for Friday 23rd February 2018. As usual, we are asked to make a sacrifice for our brethren in poorer countries, remembering that God's Love is for everybody on this earth, regardless of their status in life. We are called to help those less fortunate than ourselves, many of whose lives are full of deprivation, hunger and disease. Lent Fast Day envelopes are now available in the porch, so please take one home for your family and perhaps discuss what you might like to do as a family in order to mark Family Fast Day. You are encouraged to use these special CAFOD envelopes, particularly if you wish to Gift Aid your offering. The British Government has pledged to double all your donations, and of course Gift Aid will further enhance what you are able to give.

GIFT AID BOXES

As the financial year is almost at an end, we have now disposed of the 85 boxes of uncollected envelopes and end of year letters. These largely belong to those who make their offering by Standing Order. In the new financial year, and by popular demand, all those who give by Standing Order will be given a reduced pack of envelopes, which contains envelopes only for second collections. As a result, we shall be allocating new Gift Aid numbers to all those who use Standing Orders. This will make no difference to your payments, as they are manually checked. However, you might wish to advise your bank to change the reference number they give for your own records.

PEACEFUL VIGILS OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINICS

Lambeth Council is among many seeking to prevent these peaceful and prayerful gatherings. As a direct result of these vigils, many women have chosen not to go ahead with abortion. Please visit the attached link to give your opinion and help to ensure that the pro life voice is heard: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/consultations/have-your-say-on-a-public-space-protection-order-pspo-for-sexual-health-and;>

REPOSITORY

Don't forget your requirements for St Patrick's Day and Mother's Day. Easter is not far off now, and there is a full stock of items for all these special days and more. Parish Diaries are also still available at only 30p each!

The UCM meets on Monday 12th February 2018 from 2pm to 4pm in the Upper Hall.



Parish Masses This Week

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

Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.137; Ash Wednesday - p.148

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 & 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
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Sunday 11th February 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

6.15pm (Saturday 10th Feb)	Margaret Nawrat - 90th Birthday
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8.30am

Rev Francis De Sa RIP

10am

Patrick Egan RIP

11.30am

Rose Rego - 60th Wedding Anniversary

Benediction

4pm

5pm

People of the parish

Monday 12th February 2018

7.30am

John Joseph Murphy RIP

10am

Jim Rice RIP

Tuesday 13th February 2018

7.30am

Margaret Simone RIP

10am

Patrick Keogh RIP

Wednesday 14th February 2018

ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30am

Leslie & Florence Bickers RIP

10am

People of the parish

8pm

People of the parish

Thursday 15th February 2018

7.30am

Rev George Helsdon RIP (Former Parish Priest)
(Foundation Mass)

10am

Welfare of Chukwudi Akunna

Friday 16th February 2018

7.30am

Holy Souls

10am

Welfare and thanksgiving - Anna & Carolyne

Stations of the Cross - (Legion of Mary)

7.30pm

Saturday 17th February 2018

A DAY WITH MARY

10am

Rev Alexander Trew RIP (Former Parish Priest)
(Foundation Mass)

Next Sunday 18th February 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

6.15pm (Saturday 17th Feb)

Elisabeth Davies RIP

8.30am

People of the parish

10am

Hervé Yoo Foo RIP

11.30am (Plainchant Choir)

Welfare of Ayobami Adeyoyin

Benediction

4pm

5pm

Christy & Rani Rajaratnam RIP