



## 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)

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

**SUNDAY 18th MARCH 2018**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**YEAR B**

Continuing the tour around St Bartholomew's:

To the right of the side door is Saint Francis of Assisi, ('il Poverello' or 'the Little Poor Man'), another Saint marked with the Stigmata, who renounced wealth and privilege for a simple life totally centred on and reliant upon God, thereby founding the Franciscan Order, in Italy. At the back of the church, to the left, is Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, a French Carmelite Nun, often called 'The Little Flower' (Although not a timid Soul!!) Through her 'Little Way' she shows us how every life, however 'insignificant' anyone may consider it, can be lived for and offered to God; not one of us, unless we choose, can fail to get to Heaven; each of us, as Saint Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, also taught, is called by God to be holy, doing what we can whenever and wherever God calls us to be. This Universal Call to Holiness was later, again, proclaimed by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council.

Across the church, near to the Confessional, is Saint Anthony of Padua, a monk born in Portugal who died in Italy, often referred to as 'the Wonder-worker' and often prayed to when things go missing.

When you go to Confession you will see, in the Reconciliation Room, statues of **Saint Anne** with her little Daughter, **Our Lady** and **The Infant Jesus of Prague** (from the Czech Republic). Prior to the re-ordering of our church, this area was, as some may remember, the site of the Baptistry, hence the stained glass window, seen to one's right as one enters the room, depicting the **Baptism of the Lord by Saint John the Baptist**, a very appropriate image when we consider that, through Confession, Grace first received in Baptism is increased or even restored. Why not research a Saint or a particular devotion to Our Lord or Our Lady originating in the Country in which you may have Roots! Our Parish is truly blessed through the many Races and Cultures which contribute to our thriving Community! "**Catholic**", **after all, means "Universal"**, i.e. for all People / Races / Nations!

Before arriving at the Blessed Sacrament Altar we may light a 'candle' at the Sacred Heart Shrine (a candle was first lit for us at our Baptism), a sign of the Light of Christ in our Souls); this statue, revealed by Our Lord to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, shows His Heart pierced by the spear and Crowned with Thorns, recalling the intense Love for us which drove Him to Suffer and Die on the Cross. He asked Saint Margaret Mary to spread devotion to His Heart, so saving the souls of many who had once doubted or even rejected his Love. At Christmas we see displayed here, for our veneration, the Nativity scene while, over the side door opposite, the Three Kings journey towards Bethlehem for the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, when Christ was revealed as Saviour of the World's Peoples.

The pair of doors with a Cross and light above them next to the Sacred Heart Shrine are entrances to another small private room where, if there are several priests available, confessions may also be heard.

Near to the Blessed Sacrament Altar is **Saint Patrick**, Missionary to and Patron Saint of Ireland, ever listening for prayers for that Land where so many of us have our Roots. Also, spaced round the wall of the church you will see **12 candles** and **12 crosses**. These signify the Twelve Apostles who Jesus called to be the first Priests and Bishops of the Catholic Church. These crosses mark the places anointed by the Archbishop with **Chrism** (Holy oil) when he consecrated (specially dedicated or gave) our church to God's Service. We, too, were anointed with this Holy Oil at our Baptism and, later, at our Confirmation. These candles will be lighted on certain occasions such as the Anniversary of the dedication (naming) of the Church by our Archbishop, at the Easter Vigil, representing the Risen Christ, and at Midnight and Christmas Day Masses, representing Christ, the Light of the World who helps us 'see' the way to Heaven. Looking away from the High Altar, up towards the choir-gallery, we see the circular (rose) window, depicting Christ the King (part of this image is also on our Parish Website), Whose Feast brings to a close each Liturgical Year.

### **Thank you for your generosity**

Collection for 11th March 2018: £2005.00 (£1360.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders).

The final amount raised for **CAFOD** Lenten Fast Day was £1550.00.

A red **MISSIO** box was left here last weekend. Unfortunately we cannot identify its owner. Please would that person kindly contact the parish office to collect a fresh box and in order that we may thank you personally.

### **GIFT AID SCHEME**

A brief talk will be given at all Masses this weekend by our Gift Aid organiser John Byrne, with an invitation to all who might like to join the scheme to do so or make enquiries. If you would like to join the Gift Aid scheme for your weekly offerings, at no extra cost to yourself, please come and pick up some information and forms to complete. The Gift Aid Organiser will be able to answer any questions you may have.

From this weekend, new Gift Aid envelopes for the coming tax year (which commences 6th April 2018) will be available for you to collect from the room behind Our Lady's Altar. Some boxes have been re-numbered, and indeed envelopes for all those who give by Standing Order have been re-numbered. You may wish to change the bank reference on your standing orders, though this is not obligatory. Those who give by standing order have also been allocated a reduced size set of envelopes, which are for second collections (except those where the charity concerned issues its own envelopes), and which are cheaper to produce. This is because your standing orders do not cover second collections, and if you wish to contribute to them, then you will still need these extra envelopes. If you are in a position to review your regular standing order, this might be a good time to do so. We appeal to you all to collect your envelopes, rather than leave them here, as posting them out is a costly exercise. It takes just a minute or so to come and pick them up. Please note that, since the majority of End of Year letters produced are generally never collected, and postage costs are so high, it has been decided to issue letters upon request.

Please simply contact the parish office, and a letter will be issued.

### **Please pray for our Sick and Housebound parishioners:**

Jessica Anane, Lilian Armstrong, Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiere, Anita Blaquiere, Barry Breese, Erna Breese, Frances Caulfield, Jean Cowie, Audrey Draude, Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte, Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, David Lacey, 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, Tony Tambirasa, Edythe Thirlwall, Monica Vergara, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, John Windsor, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo, Tony Zammit.

*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.*

**CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK - GROUP 2 please:** Barbara Baichu, Jackie Byrne, Mary Duah, Doris Fosua, Helen Igbedion, Mary Odusanya, Victoria Okonko. Could you help clean the church?

### **AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALTAR SERVERS - PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER PLEASE CHECK THE DATES BELOW CAREFULLY DUE TO A RECENT MISPRINT!**

On **Palm Sunday**, 25th March, the 11:30 Mass **ONLY** starts with a procession from the hall to the Church. There will be a **practice this evening at 6pm**, lasting about 30 minutes. Please sign up on the sheet in the Sacristy.

**Maundy Thursday**, 29th March - Mass at 8pm. **Practice: Wednesday 28th March at 7.30pm;**

**Good Friday**, 30th March - Service at 3pm. **Practice: Good Friday Morning at 10.30am;**

**Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday** 31st March - Mass at 8.30pm. **Practice: Holy Saturday Morning at 10.30am.**

Please sign up for each of the above on the notice you will find in the Sacristy.

**Easter Sunday**, 1st April - No practices. Please sign up for Masses, but please note, there will be **NO** 5pm Mass.

### **PARISH EASTER CARD**

Please take one of these away with you. These cards convey to you Easter greetings from all our clergy. Each contains details of every Mass and service which will be taking place between Palm Sunday and Easter Monday inclusive. Please read it carefully, as there are some exceptions to the normal weekly programme of events. Do keep it as a reference for what will be taking place in our Parish in the period leading from Christ's entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through Holy Week, with His Passion and Death on the Cross, until His glorious Resurrection, first celebrated at the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night. By tradition, as at Christmas, your Easter Offering goes to your priests, and as usual, special Easter envelopes will be provided. Kindly note that those who give by Gift Aid may use the nominated envelope contained in their new boxes. However, should you choose to use a special Easter envelope, please remember to write your Gift Aid number clearly on the front.

### **SPUC MEETING**

Sadly, this event was attended by very few parishioners, with mostly people from elsewhere present. Without the support of our own parishioners, setting up a SPUC group here at St Bartholomew's seems a remote possibility.

## **CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME**

Session 5 for candidates takes place in the upper hall this coming Wednesday 21st March from 7.30pm - 9pm. Candidates are asked to bring their folders and any outstanding payments for the programme. Please also bring your sponsorship forms and the work you have done on your saint's name. Please arrive in good time.

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME**

**The Reconciliation service**, will now take place this coming **Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 7pm**, followed by First Confession. Would all parents and guardians kindly ensure that candidates arrive in good time. Parents and guardians are asked to wait silently and prayerfully in the retro chapel unless otherwise directed.

## **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.

## **READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The rota for April 7th/8th through to April 28th/29th is being prepared. Please kindly advise the parish office urgently, and in any event no later than this coming Wednesday with your availability.

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

On Sundays during the Season of Lent, there are Stations of the Cross at 4pm, followed by Benediction. Also, each Friday evening, at 7.30pm during Lent, Stations of the Cross have been led by various parish groups. This Friday, 23rd March 2018, members of the St Anne's Group will be leading us.

## **PALM SUNDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

The Polyphony Choir will be joining us at 4pm on Palm Sunday for Stations of the Cross. Do come along, particularly if you have not been able to make it to Stations at other times during Lent. Pray the Stations of the Cross by St Alphonsus Ligouri, and sing the beautiful verses of the Stabat Mater. Immerse yourself in the journey Christ made from his condemnation to death by Pilate, to his crucifixion, death and entombment. Imagine yourself in the crowd that watched Jesus, and wonder what it must have been like to witness his journey to Calvary.

## **CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

On Good Friday, 30th March 2018, at 12 Noon, some of our young people will take part in a special Stations of the Cross. If you would like your child (Nursery to Secondary age) to take part, please contact Linda Harries at: [l.harries@gmail.com](mailto:l.harries@gmail.com) or call her on 07770 623230 by this coming Tuesday 20th March 2018 at the latest. There will be a rehearsal for this event in the church on Maundy Thursday 29th March 2018 at 3pm.

## **HOLY WEEK/EASTER POSTERS**

The Knights of St Columba will be distributing their traditional posters on Palm Sunday. These may displayed in your window. A voluntary donation to the Diocesan Seminary fund would be gratefully received.

## **PALM SUNDAY**

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, and as a change this year, we shall be distributing Palm Crosses, coincidentally made by poor workers in Fr Deo's native Tanzania. Many people ask for crosses to be made, and this means that everybody will get one. Please remember that these palm crosses are intended for all Masses on Palm Sunday, and you are kindly asked not to take more than you need. NB: The 11.30am Mass on Palm Sunday will commence in the lower hall, processing from there to the Church, commemorating the entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem.

## **YOUTH CLUB ANNUAL GRAND NATIONAL SWEEPSTAKE**

Saturday 14th April 2018 from 2pm until 6pm, with the race itself scheduled for 5.15pm. Please take a flyer, and get your bookings in to Eddie Sanders directly or via the parish office. Eddie may be contacted on 020 8333 0690.

## **COFFEE MORNING TODAY WITH LIFE**

To be held after the 10am & 11.30am Masses. Money is being raised for Zoe's Place Baby Hospice, which provides palliative, respite and end-of-life care to babies and infants up to 5 years of age, who are facing life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. The support you provide is immeasurable! Please come along and enjoy our delicious home made cakes and our beverages. Knitted goods on sale. See: [www.zoes-place.org.uk/](http://www.zoes-place.org.uk/)

## **COFFEE MORNING NEXT SUNDAY WITH THE CONFIRMATION GROUP**

This will be after the 10am and 11.30am Masses, bearing in mind that the 11.30am Mass starts in the hall, so time may be a little tight. Please support our Confirmandi to raise money for their charities, which are the St Vincent de Paul (SVP) in our parish and the British Home in Upper Norwood.

## **LEGION OF MARY - TO ALL ACTIVE AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

The Southwark Comitium ACIES takes place on Palm Sunday at 2.30pm at St Mary Magdalen RC Church, 96, North Side, Wandsworth Common, SW18 2QU. Come and rededicate yourselves to the service of Our Lady.



## Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	<b>Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.173</b>	
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 &amp; Benediction in May &amp; 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 18th March 2018		
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	6.15pm (Saturday 17th March)	Hugh & Agnes Maguire RIP
	8.30am	Jan Oleski RIP
Coffee Morning with LIFE after this Mass	10am	Hervé Yoo Foo RIP
Coffee Morning with LIFE after this Mass	11.30am (Plainchant Choir)	Thanksgiving - Romano Ippoliti (birthday)
<b>Stations of the Cross &amp; Benediction</b>	<b>4pm</b>	
	5pm	People of the parish
Monday 19th March 2018	7.30am	Welfare of Roy Durrant
St Joseph, spouse of the BVM (Solemnity)	10am	John Joe Murphy RIP
Tuesday 20th March 2018	7.30am	Welfare of Jasmine Durrant
	10am	Welfare of Mateusz Kozlowski
Wednesday 21st March 2018	7.30am	Mario Rodrigues RIP
	10am	Pietro Mobile RIP
Thursday 22nd March 2018	7.30am	Jack Hexum RIP
	10am	Stephen Cowie RIP (7th anniversary)
Friday 23rd March 2018	7.30am	Elizabeth Scarpa RIP (Foundation Mass)
	10am	Funeral of Ermando Spinozzi RIP
<b>Stations of the Cross - (St Anne's Group)</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	
Saturday 24th March 2018	10am	Patrick D'Souza RIP
Next Sunday 25th March 2018		
PALM SUNDAY	6.15pm (Saturday 24th March)	Carmen & Sauveur Vella RIP
	8.30am	Anthony Agius RIP
Confirmation Coffee Morning after Mass	10am	George Meyern RIP
NB THIS MASS STARTS IN THE HALL	11.30am	People of the parish
Confirmation Coffee Morning after Mass	(Hymn & Plainchant Choirs)	
<b>Stations of the Cross and Benediction</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>(Polyphony Choir)</b>
	5pm	The Holy Souls in Purgatory