

St Bartholomew's Catholic Church

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Sunday 29th January 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A)

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 29th January –

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.15pm (Saturday 28th January)

Martin Wise RIP

8.30am Jim & Christine Clark RIP

10.00am Rev James Carolin RIP, former

Parish Priest of St Bartholomew's
and family (Foundation Mass)

11.30am Fr Andrew Fernandes RIP

4.00pm Benediction

5.00pm People of the parish

Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 30th January

7.30am James & Margaret Kearney RIP

10.00am Holy Souls

Tuesday 31st January

St John Bosco, Priest (Memorial)

7.30am John Nolan RIP

10.00am Julie Hockham RIP

Wednesday 1st February –

7.30am Holy Souls

10.00am Peter Chapman RIP

Thursday 2nd February -

The Presentation of the Lord -

Candlemas (Feast)

7.30am Holy Souls

10.00am Fr Andrew Fernandes RIP

Friday 3rd February

St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr (Memorial)

Blessing of throats during Masses today

FIRST FRIDAY

7.30am Holy Souls

10.00am Holy Souls

Then, Adoration until Benediction at 2pm

Saturday 4th February

Our Lady

10.00am Jerry & Norah Moynihan RIP

Next Sunday 5th February –

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

6.15pm (Saturday 28th January)

Thanksgiving Carla Abreu

8.30am People of the parish

10.00am Ellis Foundation Mass

11.30am Gamaliel Olu Peters RIP

(Polyphony Choir Singing)

4.00pm Benediction

5.00pm Holy Souls

Daily Mass & Prayer:

*Mass: Mon – Fri: 7.30am

*Morning Prayer of the Church

Mon - Sat 9.15am

*Adoration & Benediction.

Mon – Sat 9.30am

*Mass: Mon – Sat 10.00am

*Rosary: Mon – Sat 10.30am

*Confessions:

Saturday, after 10.00am Mass, until

11.00am; then in the afternoon from

5.00pm to 6.00pm, & at call, when a priest is
available.

Parish Mass Book: This Sunday Page 130

Thank you for your continuous generosity:

Last weekend's collection came to £1902.00
(£1304.00-Baskets; £598.00-Standing Orders).

LIFE thanks those who helped them to raise
£126.00 at last week's Coffee Morning. This
amount has been sent to LIFE HQ.

Coffee Morning Today:

With the Polyphony Choir, after the
8.30am, 10.00am and 11.30am Masses.

Come and enjoy a hearty breakfast &
some of that delicious chocolate cake!

We welcome Canon Joseph Collins to
say the 10am & 11.30am Masses. We
thank him for his tireless support.

We welcome back Father Deo from his
trip to Tanzania. We sincerely thank
Fathers Bartholomew Zubeviel CSSp
and Emmanuel Ahua CSSp, from St
Chad's, South Norwood parish, for
covering Fr Deo during his absence.

In the coming week:

Saturday 4th – First Holy Communion
Sessions for Parents and Children
4: "God Helps Me Get It Right"
(children) in the Upper Hall – 10am to
11.30am. "Reconciliation" (parents &
guardians) in the Lower Hall – also
from 10am to 11.30am.

Would parents kindly deliver and
collect their children in good time.

Uncollected First Holy Communion Certificates from 2016.

Would those parents who have yet to collect
their children's certificates kindly see Fr Deo
as soon as possible. Father would like to
present the certificates in person.

Our New Assistant Priest:

As soon as Father Deo receives any
information from Archbishop's House,
you will be advised.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The next rota will run from 18th & 19th
February to 25th & 26th March 2017.
Please do your best to advise us as to
your availability and indeed to your non
availability via the parish office. Please
respond no later than 6th February 2017.
The new rota will then be distributed.

The Confirmation Group had a
wonderful "Awayday" at the British
Home, at Crown Point last Saturday.
They looked at a number of Justice
and Peace issues as well as learning
more about the work of the Home and
the variety of volunteering
opportunities they offer for young
people and others in the community
who would be interested in helping.

The next Confirmation
preparation session will be held in
the Church hall on Wednesday,
8th February at 7.30 pm, and is for
both Candidates and their
Parents/Guardians.

ANNUAL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

We should like to establish a calendar
of main events which occur during the
year, making this available on our
Web Site and in print. With this in
mind, we would ask ALL PARISH
GROUP LEADERS to send in dates of
all their meetings and events planned
from now until January 2018, at least
insofar as this is possible. Please
email the Parish Office, or submit in
writing if you have no internet access.

INTERNET ISSUES

Please note that we lost our internet
connection just before the weekend.
At the time of writing, it was still
down. Please bear this in mind if you
have been trying to make email contact
with the parish office.

Sick and Housebound

If you know of anybody who is sick or housebound, or in a care home, who is unable to come to Mass, and who would like to receive Holy Communion, Reconciliation or Anointing or a Blessing, please contact the parish office.

Please pray for our Sick and Housebound parishioners:

Jessica Anane, Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiere, Anita Blaquiere, Barry Breese, Frances Caulfield, Fr Gerald Coates, Raffaella Forte, Dennis Franklin, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Millicent Green; Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, Felix Isichei, Mary Kenny, Gladys Laskey, Elsie McCleave, James McDonald, Breda McDonagh, Michael Madigan, Ajitha Mahatantila, George Meyern, Mary Meyern, Edgar Ming, Maria Parnis, Peter Ranawake, Marion Robertson, Joe Ryan, Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Maggie Sunich, Edythe Thirlwall, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo.

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of: Maria Sgarbini, of Norbury Avenue, who died on Monday 23rd January 2017. Also for Fr Andrew Fernandes, formerly of St Mary's West Croydon, who died on Tuesday 24th January 2017 after a long illness. We extend our prayers and condolences as a parish to the families.

Church Cleaning: Group 4 this week coming:

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

Please could you help clean the church?

Rota for Coffee Mornings 2017

Please contact the parish office to book a date. You may wish to raise money as an individual, a family or a group, perhaps for a charity. There are a number of slots still available.

Gift Aid givers: *With the recent changes in taxation, several of our gift aiders have had to leave the scheme. We would advise those who leave the scheme, in addition to informing the Parish office/Gift Aid organiser, that they should also inform the government tax office (tel: 0300 200 3300). This is to ensure that the tax office records are up to date when assessing their tax liabilities.*

Please note that if you miss a collection, there is no need to put in more than one envelope, and no need to write anything on it. You need only use the next one in your box. All that the tax man is concerned about is how much you put in on the actual date that you give your offering. This is very different to the old system of covenanting a fixed sum per tax year.

Would the following Gift Aid Envelope holders kindly contact the Gift Aid team via the Parish Office. Thank you:

136; 155; 373; 379.

THE REPOSITORY:

Easter is not far off! Stock has arrived to help you celebrate this great Feast of the Church. Don't forget your cards and gifts for St Patrick's Day and Mothers' Day, which are just weeks away! We have St Bartholomew's Diaries & Southwark Directories too.

NATIVITY TABLEAU PHOTOGRAPHS:

Photographs taken by John Taylor are on display in the porch on the window sill nearest to the Repository. If you would like to order copies, please use the form provided to make your order. Some orders have now been completed and are ready for collection from the same place. Please return your payment promptly to the Parish Office.

DIVINE MERCY RETREAT:

This takes place on Saturday 11th February 2017 at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

Please see the poster in the porch for full details of this devotional event.



A THOUGHT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR:

Today's Readings could provide a framework for an Examination of Conscience, that necessary check-up on our Souls which should be made daily. Zephaniah recommends, among others, humility, a particularly well-recommended virtue as it causes us perceive our 'littleness' and our total dependence on the Grace of God if we are to achieve the Eternity He created us to enjoy.

Saint Paul speaks of the true Wisdom and Freedom which come from our Faith in God rather than any self-important notions of ourselves we may have.

The Responsorial Psalm and Gospel highlight the Beatitudes, Christ's 'list' of the qualities essential in those who wish to be counted among the Blessed and attain Heaven.

The Alleluia verse underlines that child-like (not to be confused with 'childish') trust which opens our minds and hearts to God.

Our Holy Father, in **Evangelii Gaudium**, reminds us that *"...God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy..."* Like the Father of the Prodigal Son, He waits for us who sin, calling to us until the day when Free Will is no more - when we die and our life's 'direction towards or away from God cannot be changed.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, in **Lumen Gentium**, reminded us that sin is not simply a private affair as, through our Baptism, we are members of a world-wide Family: In going to Confession we *"... obtain pardon from the mercy of God for the offence committed against Him and are at the same time reconciled with the Church, which (we) have wounded by (our) sins..."* The **Catechism of the Catholic Church**, in *Celebrating the Christian Mystery*, (Article 4: 1422-1498) enlarges upon this wonderful Sacrament of Penance (or Confession or Reconciliation) through which our sins are forgiven.

Of course, it may be a physical impossibility to find a Priest and confess our sins; maybe we have been involved in a serious accident or natural disaster and are close to death. Even then, even for Mortal Sin, all is not lost, although it would be exceedingly foolish to risk persisting in such Sin until death as we cannot guarantee that such a chance will be ours. In our last seconds of life, should we be conscious, a perfect Act of Contrition (Sorrow) will draw God's Forgiveness on us.

We can never be parted from God - unless we choose to be separated from Him and refuse His Forgiveness. The best preparation for Eternity is, of course, daily and life-long.