

St Bartholomew's Catholic Church

Frs Deodat Mshala, Innocent Ezeonyeasi & Deacon Ged Perkins

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Sunday 12th February 2017 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Racial Justice Sunday (Year A)

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 12th February –

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.15pm (Saturday 11th February)

Elisabeth Davies RIP

8.30am Ellis Foundation Mass

10.00am Margaret Simone RIP

11.30am Thanksgiving – Esmerelda Almeida on her 90th birthday.

4.00pm Benediction

5.00pm People of the parish

Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 13th February –

7.30am Florence Abraham RIP

10.00am Alice Darmody RIP

Tuesday 14th February

Saints Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe (Feast)

7.30am Hannah Perera RIP

10.00am Christopher Nwabueze RIP

Wednesday 15th February –

7.30am Rev George Helsdon (RIP)

Former Parish Priest of St Bartholomew's (Foundation Mass)

10.00am Welfare of Ruth Kamalagharan

Thursday 16th February -

7.30am Benedito & Doretina Viegas RIP

10.00am Thanksgiving and special intention of the Muoghalu family

Friday 17th February

7.30am Rev Alexander Trew RIP

Former Parish Priest of St Bartholomew's (Foundation Mass)

10.00am Christopher Nwabueze RIP

Saturday 18th February

Our Lady

10.00am Hervé Yoo Foo RIP

Next Sunday 19th February –

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.15pm (Saturday 18th February)

Sauveur & Carmen Vella RIP

8.30am People of the parish

10.00am Martin Wise RIP

11.30am Dessie McArdle RIP

(Plainchant Choir singing)

4.00pm Benediction

5.00pm Jim Doyle RIP

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 the 10am Mass, until 11am; then in the afternoon from 5pm to 6pm, and at call whenever a priest is available.

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Thank you for your continuous generosity: Last weekend's collection came to £2059.00 (£1461.00-Baskets; £598.00-Standing Orders).

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. There will be a **second collection** taken to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in society as a whole. **Gift Aiders are kindly requested to use one of the white envelopes from the backs of their boxes, clearly marking it with the date and "Racial Justice Sunday".**

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND CAMPAIGN

All those of you who kindly completed cards should by now have received their invitation to a presentation. Please return your card ASAP. If you have NOT received one, please kindly email to the following: Mikeyp37@hotmail.com. We still have spare registration cards if you wish to participate.

First Holy Communion

Going Forth Party, 28th May 2017

This event is, by tradition, organised by the parents and guardians of those who received their First Holy Communion in the previous year. Therefore, parents from the 2016 group are asked to contact Teresa Furtado on 07742 911152 as soon as possible so that plans can be made for this year's celebration.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The next rota will run from

1st & 2nd April to 20th & 21st May 2017.

However, please note that there will be a Special Rota to cover Palm Sunday (8th & 9th April) and Holy Week through to the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday (15th & 16th April). Please kindly provide your availability or non availability, taking into account the period from Palm Sunday to Easter Day.

OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST

We extend a very warm welcome to **Father Innocent Ezeonyeasi**

Fr Innocent was ordained on 24th August 2002.

He is a priest of the Diocese of Orlu, which is situated in Imo State, Nigeria. He was appointed Assistant Chaplain to the Nigerian Catholic Chaplaincy in the UK in April 2009, and then Principal Chaplain in January 2016, which post he relinquished in December that year, in preparation for his ministry in our Archdiocese. We wish him every blessing as he joins us here at St Bartholomew's.

In the coming week:

Monday 13th – UCM meet in the upper hall from 2pm to 4pm.

(NB: UCM Day of Recollection is on 24th February (Please see poster).

Parish Playgroup

Every Thursday during term time in the lower hall from 10am – 11.30am. All children under school age welcome along with a parent or guardian. £1.50 is requested per adult to cover the cost of refreshments. Helpers are much needed. Please contact Betania Behane on 07876 785746, or just come along on a Thursday.



We welcome into the Church, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Scarlett Abrielle Kurowski**, who was Baptised here last Sunday.

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. Please be advised that dedicated hospital chaplains meet the pastoral needs of Catholic patients who are in hospital.

Please pray for our Sick and Housebound parishioners:

Jessica Anane, Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiére, Anita Blaquiére, 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, Monica Vergara, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo.

Recently Deceased: Funeral details have now been released for the late **Fr Andrew (Antonio) Fernandes** of West Croydon parish. Fr Andrew's mortal remains will be received into St Mary's, West Croydon at 4.30pm on Wednesday 15th February. Requiem Mass will follow at 6pm. His funeral Mass will take place the following day, Thursday 16th February at 12.30pm at St Mary's. Details may also be seen at: <http://saint-mary.org.uk>

Church Cleaning: Group 6: Ann Marie Charles, Islay Cowlín, Susan D'Souza, Susan Flatts, Linda Johnson, Agatha Kyere-Amoako, Obi Ohen, Gloria Osiobe. *Please could you help clean the church?*

Gift Aid givers: 136; 155; 373; 379; 388.
Would the above Gift Aid Envelope holders kindly contact the Gift Aid team urgently via the Parish Office. Thank you all.

THE REPOSITORY: Easter stock has arrived. Don't forget your cards and gifts for St Patrick's Day and Mothers' Day.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Would all those parish groups wishing to lead Stations of the Cross during Lent on Friday nights at 7.30pm, kindly contact the parish office as soon as possible.

CTS: LARGE PRINT versions of the Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary books are now available.

NATIVITY TABLEAU PHOTOGRAPHS:

Orders are ready for collection on the windowsill in the porch. Please return your payment promptly to the Parish Office.

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. Would ALL PARISH GROUP LEADERS please 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.

St Bart's Football Club Reunion:

Did you play for the parish seniors' team during the late 1970s or early 1980s? A reunion is planned for Saturday June 3rd 2017. Please contact Dave Lea for information on 07986 076367.

A THOUGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Today, first of all, the *Book of Ecclesiasticus* reminds us that we have free will and so can, should we choose, keep the Commandments of our Creator who, "...*never commanded anyone to be Godless...*". The *Psalm* response reminds us that true happiness consists in following God's Laws. *Saint Paul*, writes to the Corinthians of true Godly Wisdom which did not, sadly, inform the conduct of those who crucified Jesus, and is still rejected by so many who treat their fellow-humans with indifference, contempt and hatred in our world. In the *Alleluia* we declare our willingness to follow our Creator and so get to Heaven. In the *Gospel* Christ points out that it is in our hearts and minds that evil first takes root – to be either resisted or acted upon.

We recall, on Racial Justice Sunday, that Godless behaviour is far from rare, and respect for those who differ from one by ethnic origin is still far from being universal; *the equality of everyone before God* is, by some, ignored or even denied as if to say that man knows better than his Creator. Today we are reminded that it is our role to be the instruments of God, rejecting all thoughts of evil and, through our unconditional love, spreading peace. Every human being has the choice, therefore, to live Christ's Way or Satan's way.

The examples of evil are many; perhaps the most vivid in living memory is that of the Holocaust, the massacre of six million Jews, to say nothing of so many others who died opposing Nazi tyranny. The racial segregation policies in the USA, which persisted for so long, even after the Civil War; Apartheid, only comparatively recently done away with in South Africa; genocide in Rwanda and in Bosnia and Serbia, and the daily murder of unborn humans; the danger the old and infirm can face, of being denied their right to live until natural death. In today's world, sadly, persecution has been extended to target those who do not share particular religious convictions, some of which bear no relation to a loving God. Closer to home, how many families were touched by the troubles in Northern Ireland? The list goes on and on.

All is not, thank God, doom and gloom. As Christ encourages us, we may be beset by trials, but we must take heart as He has "...*overcome the world...*". The situation is far from hopeless; our own Parish is a rich testimony to that! Please God our children will grow up in an increasingly united world where, one day, the fearful news reports of religious and ethnic persecution, euthanasia and abortion will be just chapters in history books.

In the meantime it is up to us, in our daily lives, to sow the seeds which will flower in Faith, Love and Peace. So how do we tackle this? For starters, there is our immediate family. Are we building it up, sustained by our Faith and the Truths of our Religion? How are we helping our children to form their attitudes to our multicultural world? Is God an integral part of Family Life? Do we make time to pray with them, to form them in Prayer, particularly the Rosary, which will sustain them throughout their lives? How often, when many highly unsuitable role models are presented by the media, do we read to them the lives of the Saints? Does our treatment of one another speak of the Love of God? How important to us is the Mass? Is it something we 'do because we are commanded to' on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation? For working Parents, it may not always be an easy option but, come the school holidays, how many children are offered the chance of going to Mass and Adoration during the week, including the opportunity for altar servers to serve at Mass, other than on a Sunday? We need to reflect on the pricelessness of the Faith. It is through the family that love is received and nurtured; through family life are formed our future husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, single persons, priests, religious, missionaries, peacemakersthe list of God's calls is endless!

Perhaps what it all boils down to is to humble ourselves before God and to try to see ourselves as He does, knowing us "...*through and through...*". "*Love one another as I have loved you*", said Our Lord. Love has no room for prejudices; these only serve to hurt and to drive people apart. "*Love Conquers All!*"