



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 (not Bank Holidays)

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark – Registered Charity No. 235468

SUNDAY 30th JULY 2017

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

Thought for Today:

A Summer Thought

Once again we are into Summer time! Thoughts, naturally, turn with thankful hope to extended leisure – a brief respite from the continual ‘grind’ of everyday life such as commuting, school runs and other ‘everyday’ pursuits. Teachers, Parents and Students look forward to ‘recharging their batteries’ before September rolls round again!

While, of course, a break from routine work is indeed good and necessary for physical and mental wellbeing (none of us is indestructible) let us not forget the Source of Life and wellbeing, God who ‘... *slumbers not, nor sleeps...*’. Fortunately for us, He has no need to rest from His eternal labours; everything and everyone will, through His Will, continue uninterruptedly in existence and will do so until the end of time when, please God, life will continue eternally in Heaven. God, in His infinite Love, watches over and calls us to share in His Life 24/7, 365 days a year! Our debt of thanks to God is immeasurable.

How, then, might we capitalise on holiday time to draw closer to our Creator? Hopefully daily prayer is already an integral part of Family life (*‘The Family that Prays together, stays together’*) but do we consider that, time permitting, we could ‘dig deeper’ into the immense Treasury of Grace, so vital to our Heavenward journey? Unlike some parishes which, due to shortages of Priests and Laity, have been forced to either close down or greatly curtail their spiritual services, Saint Bartholomew's is, through the generosity of retired Priests and of those able and willing to come and say Mass and lead other liturgies in addition to responsibilities in their own parishes, able to offer this great treasure throughout the year.

While, of course, parents cannot simply ‘down tools’ and relax with their children for six weeks or so because of ongoing financial and/or work commitments, to say nothing of day to day issues involved in raising a Family, hopefully opportunities will arise when you can bring your children to weekday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass in addition to Sundays and Holy-Days. Even if this is not possible, how about suggesting to those of the children who are Altar Servers and, of course, able to go out and about independently, that they might like to take up the great privilege of serving at an extra Mass during the week. Children may well take more notice of peers than they do adults; please God some of these young people, in making daily Mass a priority on even just one extra day during the week, will encourage others of their circle of friends to see that it has an important role in their free time.

When arranging your holidays away, is it a priority to ensure that Sunday and Holy-Day Masses, at least, are factored into your plans? So many of the foundations of future Catholic Practice among our Young People are laid at a very early age. The world is increasingly a place where religion is not regarded as ‘cool’ and may well be actively opposed as ‘irrelevant’. Our Parish Deacon is currently studying the worrying claim that the Sacrament of Confirmation, for example, can mark, for some, not a more mature and personal commitment to and practice of one's Faith but rather its abandonment! Faith must be presented and lived as integral to Life rather than as an appendage ‘tacked on’, a ‘passing phase’ in life.

We are blessed, at Saint Bartholomew's, with a diverse and active Community, encompassing a wide age range. May we ever centre the life of our Catholic Parish Family on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In striving to take an ever greater part in the Liturgy, let us also not forget that, even today, in these apparently ‘enlightened’ times, many of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ still risk persecution and even death for their fidelity to the Mass and Sacraments which, perhaps, we may take for granted. May God grant us the Grace to be ‘...*light and salt...*’, a constant sign in a darkened world of His Saving Presence!

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1837.00** (£1192.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.)

LIFE thank you for raising **£118.00** at their Coffee Morning last Sunday for Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.

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 Blaquiére, Anita Blaquiére, Barry Breese, Frances Caulfield, Philip Chapman, Fr Gerald Coates, Audrey Draude, Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte, Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, Felix Isichei, Mary Kenny, Elsie McCleave, James McDonald, Breda McDonagh, Michael Madigan, Gerard Mascarenhas, Ajitha Mahatantila, Mary Meyern, Edgar Ming, Maria Parnis, Marion Robertson, Parwar Saib, Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Christine Shaughnessy, Maggie Sunich, Edythe Thirlwall, Monica Vergara, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, John Windsor, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo.

Recently Deceased

Of your charity, please pray for the happy repose of the souls of: **Margaret Mary Jones**, wife of Richard Jones, of Brockenhurst Way, who died on Saturday 15th July 2017. Her funeral will take place here at 10am on Tuesday 1st August; **Anne Timmins (née Jones)**, a member of one of our most active parish families in years past, who died on Wednesday 19th July 2017; **Michael Galloway**, of Lymington Close, who also died on Wednesday 19th July 2017. Our thoughts and prayers as a parish go out to all the families concerned.

We welcome into the Church, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Margaret Ann Blackmore & Joel Samuel Parrott**, who were Baptised here last Sunday.

Church Cleaning: Group 6:

Ann Marie Charles, Islay Cowlin, Susan D'Souza, Susan Flatts, Linda Johnson, Agatha Kyere-Amoako, Obi Ohen, Gloria Osiobe. Many of our cleaning groups have shrunk, with some having ceased attending. More members are urgently needed to help shoulder the burden once every six weeks. Please could you help clean God's house? Kindly contact the parish office. If your name is on the list, and you are no longer able to come, please let us know.

We welcome Fr Wilfred Obina, from St Boniface, Tooting, to hear Confessions and say our 6.15pm Mass.

We welcome Canon Joseph Collins once again to say our 10am and 11.30am Masses.

The Hall

For insurance purposes, only pre-arranged use of the hall should take place. Please call at the Parish Office on both entering and leaving the premises, as we need to know when the hall is being used and by whom.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME FOR 2018.

Please will all parents who seek to enrol their children in next year's First Holy Communion Programme please collect an application form from the black folder in the porch. The form includes dates for next year. If you take a form, please write your name and your children's names on the list in that folder. Please remember to detach the actual programme, so that you will know the dates of all the sessions which will be taking place.

DEACON GED PERKINS WRITES: I am still seeking volunteers to participate in my Confirmation Survey. If you are Confirmed and aged between 18-29 please email me at gerardpdissertation@yahoo.com. Alternatively, look at the page on the Parish website for the link to my online survey, or see posters in the porch.

TANZANIA-ON SAFARI WITH FR DEO-2018

Fr Deo "Attenborough" H Msahala will be leading a parish trip to his home country next summer. If you are interested in joining Fr Deo, then please check your diaries for the period 25th July to 8th or 11th August 2018. Names are already flooding in! So please kindly declare your interest via the parish office as soon as possible! Exact dates, costs and all arrangements have yet to be finalised. Fr Deo will announce these in due course.

Father Deo is on holiday in Tanzania, and he will be returning towards the end of August. Cover has been arranged for all 10am & 11.30am Sunday Masses in his absence, with Canon Joseph Collins joining us this Sunday. And this Saturday evening, **Fr Wilfred Obina** will hear afternoon confessions from 5pm, and say the 6.15pm Mass.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING LOCAL ROAD WORKS

Special speed humps are to be placed in Ellison Road, Danbrook Road and Arragon Gardens. This will take place between Thursday 3rd August and Friday 11th August 2017, depending on the weather. These traffic calming works may involve road closures and diversions, and will undoubtedly make it more difficult than usual to find parking spaces near the church. Please drive and park with care and with thought for others during this period.

OUR PARISH AGM

Advance notice is hereby given of this year's Parish AGM, to be held on Wednesday 11th October 2017 in the parish hall at 7.45pm. This will be followed by a short social event. Parish Pastoral Council members will be present, and parishioners are encouraged to attend and review what the parish has achieved in the last twelve months, and indeed to participate in the planning for the coming year. All parish groups are now invited to submit a short written report, with a maximum of 500 words, to be received by the parish. These reports will be available for parishioners to read both before and after the AGM. You are strongly encouraged to come along and take part in your parish AGM. Please see the posters in all porch areas advertising this important event.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The minutes of the PPC Meeting held on Wednesday 14th June are now available at the back of the church. An archive of Agendas and Minutes may be found on the Web site at www.stbartsnorbury.co.uk/agenda--minutes.html

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND OPEN DAYS IN CATHOLIC LIFE

You will find these in the yellow folder in the porch.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The National statue of Our Lady of Fatima, together with relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, will be present at St Mary's West Croydon from Friday 4th August to Sunday 6th August. See: <http://saint-mary.org.uk/>

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS TO THE CHURCH

Street level access is available to the side of the church, that is via the gallery entrance on Ellison Road. Anybody who cannot manage stairs may find this easier than using the front door. There are large buttons both inside and outside the door. Please note that the doors open OUTWARDS, so please ensure you do not move beyond the button on the post outside until the doors have fully opened. They will remain open whilst you pass through them.

Please NEVER force the doors, as you could damage them in so doing. They are electrically controlled and managed by a computer chip. If you need help, kindly inform the clergy.

PARISH WHEELCHAIR

This is kept in the right hand side of the old confessional box. Please ask if you need to use it.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Whenever you come to church, why not familiarise yourself with the various emergency exits? It's always good to know where to go in the unlikely event that you need to leave quickly. Look around and look up for the green and white fire exit signs, which will guide you towards the quickest way out.

CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHS

All orders have now been completed, and these may be found in the large box on the right hand shelf in the porch. Please remember that John Taylor prints photos at his own expense, so please do not delay in making payment.

GIFT AID

Please kindly collect your end-of-year letters and envelopes as soon as possible. The letters are essential for tax purposes. They are in the room at the front of the Church, behind Our Lady's altar. Next year, by popular demand, we shall introduce reduced size sets of envelopes for those who give by Standing Order. It seems rather pointless and expensive to maintain sets of boxes which are never collected. The smaller sets will contain envelopes for second collections, with some spares as required, mindful that Standing Orders do not include second collections.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you wish Mass to be said for a particular intention, please use one of our **new** Mass Intentions Envelopes from the porch. We hope that you will find them easy to use. Please complete as many details as you can, and enclose your offering. Please note that what you give is an offering towards the work of the Church, and not a payment for the Mass. There is no set amount, though as a guide, most people tend to give £10.00. Please do not feel embarrassed if you are unable to make such an offering. Please hand your envelope to one of the clergy, the collectors or else at the repository. Please be aware that Mass intentions will be moved whenever a funeral takes place. We shall endeavour to contact you, should that be the case. *If it is not possible for Mass to be said on the particular date and at the time you request, we shall not contact you unless you specifically ask to be informed.*

GIFT AID GIVERS MAY GIFT AID THEIR MASS OFFERINGS. PLEASE SEE THE ENVELOPES.

Offered free—London Oratory School 6th Form blazer.

Size: 44" chest; 22" length. Please call Bernie Knight on 020 8679 1209, preferably in the evening.

CONFIRMATION GROUP CHARITY FUNDRAISING

During their preparation, the Confirmandi raised a total of £1048.00: Their two Coffee Mornings raised £530.00 between them; the collection taken from the congregation on the night of the Confirmation itself came to £518.00.

They have chosen to split the total between the British Home (where they spent a day volunteering) and St Bartholomew's SVP, each of which will be sent a cheque for £524.00. Thanks to all who contributed.



In Our Parish This Week

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.108	
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 and Benediction in May & 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 30th July 2017		
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Sat 29th July)	Zofia Franzman RIP
	8.30am	Veronica D'Silva RIP
	10am	Margaret Mary Jones RIP
	11.30am	Anne Timmins (Jones) RIP
Benediction	4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish
Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time:		
Monday 31st July 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest (Memorial)	10am	Peter Chapman RIP
Tuesday 1st August 2017	7.30am	Philip Cowie RIP & the wellbeing of Jean Cowie
St Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)	10am	Funeral of Margaret Mary Jones
Wednesday 2nd August 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Flora Togbe RIP
Thursday 3rd August 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Holy Souls
Friday 4th August 2017		
St John Vianney, Priest, Patron of parochial clergy (Memorial)	7.30am	Holy Souls
FIRST FRIDAY.		
ADORATION AFTER 10am MASS	10am	Holy Souls
UNTIL BENEDICTION AT 2pm.		
Saturday 5th August 2017		
	10am	Holy Souls
Next Sunday 6th August 2017		
THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	6.15pm (Sat 5th August)	Holy Souls
	8.30am	Marianna & Lucian Sass RIP
	10am	People of the parish
	11.30am	Holy Souls
Benediction	4pm	
	5pm	Holy Souls