



Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

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The Parish Office is open from 9.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday (except for Bank Holidays)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 235468

SUNDAY 13th AUGUST 2017

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

Thought for Today: The Solemnity of the Assumption

This coming Tuesday, we shall celebrate, as a Holy Day of Obligation, (i.e. we are obliged to go to Mass as we are on a Sunday) the Assumption of our Blessed Mother, Mary, body and soul into Heaven, at the end of her life on Earth. This Truth, to be believed by the Faithful Worldwide, was officially proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on 1st November 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution, *Munificentissimus Deus*, although, as research will show, this Privilege of Our Lady had been celebrated by the Faithful in various parts of the world for a long time prior to this.

What are we to understand in talking of this event in Mary's life? As we know, since Original Sin, committed by Adam and Eve, every human soul created has been marked with the consequence of this first decision by man that he 'knew better' than to obey his Creator. The immortal soul of every one of us, from conception, is marked by Original Sin until, through Baptism, we are restored to the State of Grace. However, just as we may be cured from a serious bodily illness but be, ever after, more susceptible to relapses, our Human Nature is now in a fallen state, weakened. And we can choose to sin, thereby lessening or, indeed, driving God's Grace from our Soul. From Baptism onwards, Faith must be nurtured, first and foremost through the efforts of Parents and Godparents, until the young person is personally capable of reason and can take responsibility for their own Salvation.



How does today's Solemnity relate to this? As we know, God did not abandon our First Parents as they clearly deserved. He promised that, in the fullness of time, He would send his Son, in human form, through a Virgin Mother, to live among us, undo the consequences of man's sin and so lead us back onto the 'road' to Heaven, that destiny which Original Sin had denied us. In order that His Son would 'take flesh' the Father chose and prepared a very special Mother. As a member of the Human Race Jesus would, as are all babies, be conceived (in His case through the Power of the Holy Spirit rather than through a human father) and grow in His Mother's Womb for nine months. As Perfect God-made-man, Our Lord would come to us through a Perfect human Mother. Those of us who are familiar with the history of Mary's appearances to Saint Bernadette in Lourdes, in 1858, will recall that Our Lady, when asked by Bernadette for her name, replied, "***I am the Immaculate Conception***". This Teaching had, at the time, only recently been formally proclaimed by Pope Pius IX, on 8th December 1854, in the papal bull, *Ineffabilis Deus*, as an article of Faith, to be believed by us all. Put simply, it means that from the very moment she was conceived through the love of her human Parents, Saints Joachim and Anne, the stain of Original Sin was prevented from touching her soul. God, being Infinite, seeing past, present and future, applied the Saving Merits of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection to Mary's soul at its creation; she was, from the very start of her existence, '***Full of Grace***' as Adam and Eve had been in their state of innocence, before they sinned. What Mary never lost, we regain through Baptism. The Church also holds that, in addition to her perfection of soul and freedom from any inclination to sin from conception, Mary, endowed as we all are, with Free Will, never committed any personal sin throughout her life.

We all live, grow old (please God) and die. Our body, through burial or cremation, returns 'to the dust of the Earth'. Our soul, if we die in the State of Grace, enters Heaven, usually by way of purification in Purgatory (unless we die as Saints!). The Church teaches that, at the end of time, our bodies, then perfect, will be restored to us. As Perfect Mother of God, Mary was not to have to wait for *her* bodily glorification until the end of time; Through today's Solemnity, the Church continues to teach that Mary, at the end of her earthly life, however that end actually came, was *Assumed* (or taken, body and Soul) into Heavenly Glory. This Solemnity of the Church is sometimes referred to as the '*Dormition*' (or 'falling asleep') of Mary.

Mary watches over us, her children, ever calling us to, "*Do whatever He tells you*".

"O Mary, Conceived without sin, Pray for us who have recourse to thee!"

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1640.00** (£995.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.)

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, Tony Zammit.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Of your charity, please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Maura Malone**, of Warminster Way, who died on Thursday 3rd August 2017. Her funeral will take place at St Boniface, Tooting on Thursday 17th August 2017 at 12.30pm.

A Thankyou

The family of Margaret Mary Jones wish to thank all those who attended Margaret's funeral the week before last. Thanks for all the prayers and Mass cards received and kindness shown by the many people who knew Margaret.

Church Cleaning in the coming week: Group 2:

Barbara Baichu, Jackie Byrne, Mary Duah, Doris Fosua, Helen Igbedion, Mary Odusanya, Victoria Okonko. Many of our cleaning groups have shrunk, with some no longer able to attend. More members are urgently needed to help shoulder the burden, just once every six weeks. Please could you help clean God's house? Kindly contact the parish office. If you are listed as a cleaner, but you can no longer help, please let us know.

We welcome the Vicar General of our Archdiocese, **Monsignor Matthew Dickens**, to say our 10am and 11.30am Masses today.

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 have a record of the dates and times of all 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 SAFARI WITH FR DEO

We have already had 20 people expressing an interest in Fr Deo's trip. The maximum number will be 40. Will Fr Deo be driving one of the Jeeps??? Please register your interest with the Parish Office by email or via the web site contact form. Further details of the safari, such as costs and dates will be provided in the coming months.

Father Deo is still on holiday in Tanzania, returning towards the end of August. Cover has been arranged for all 10am & 11.30am Sunday Masses in his absence, with Monsignor Matthew Dickens joining us this Sunday. Next weekend, we welcome Fr Charles Corrigan CSsR, of St Mary's Clapham, to say the 10am & 11.30am Masses.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING LOCAL ROAD WORKS

New speed humps are currently being placed in Ellison Road, Danbrook Road and Arragon Gardens. The time this will take depends entirely upon the weather, which has already delayed it by a week. These traffic calming measures 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 consideration for others during this period.

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR BLESSED LADY—TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST 2017

The Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation, and there will be Masses at 7.30am, 10am & 8pm.

MARY'S MEALS

Many of you will have heard about this charity, which has previously been the focus of fundraising by the Knights of St Columba. This charity is holding an awareness day on Sunday 10th September 2017 in Camden, London at the London Irish Centre. Please email: rsvp@marysmeals.org or call 020 7221 5745. Please see the poster.

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SCHOOL OPEN DAYS IN THE CATHOLIC SPHERE

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

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS TO THE CHURCH

Street level access is available to the side of the church, via the gallery entrance on Ellison Road. There are large buttons both inside and outside the door. NB: 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. Please seek help if required.

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 these photos at his own expense, so please make payment promptly.

GIFT AID

Please kindly collect your end-of-year letters and envelopes as soon as possible. The cost of sending these out to you would be very high. The letters may be required for tax returns. 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. We shall also discontinue the automatic issuing of end of year letters. From next year, these will be available only upon request from whoever should need them.

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, and complete as many details as you can, enclosing 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. If you give to the Church using Gift Aid, you may include Mass Offerings by indicating your Gift Aid number in the special box provided on the envelope.

Offered free—London Oratory School 6th Form blazer.

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

OUR LADY'S ALTAR

The electric votive lights to the left hand side of Our Lady's altar are currently out of action, awaiting mending. In the meantime, kindly make use of the lights to the right of the altar. It may take some time to get this fixed.

FORTHCOMING DIVINE MERCY EVENTS (PLEASE SEE POSTERS)

Saturday 19th August—Retreat, Ponders End; Saturday 26th August—Retreat, Kilburn;

Monday 28th August—Pilgrimage, The Friars, Aylesford; Saturday 9th September—Retreat, St Boniface, Tooting.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF BLESSED CYPRIAN IWENE TANSI

Those interested in this event at Mount St Bernard Abbey, in Leicestershire on Saturday 26th August 2017, should contact Melvin Carty on 07930 366721. Please see the poster in the porch. Born in 1903, Fr Cyprian, originally from the diocese of Onitsha in Nigeria, became a Cistercian monk at Mount St Bernard Abbey. He died in 1964, aged 61. He was beatified by Pope St John Paul 2nd in 1998. Devoted to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady and the Holy Rosary, he would often say: "if you are going to be a Christian at all, you might as well live entirely for God".



Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.114; Thursday—p.178	
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 13th August 2017		
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Sat 12th August)	Holy Souls
	8.30am	Tom Houlihan RIP
	10am	Welfare of Riccardo D’Souza-Garabello
	11.30am	Ellis Foundation Mass
Benediction	4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish
<i>Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time:</i>		
Monday 14th August 2017	7.30am	John Joseph Murphy RIP
St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr	10am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 15th August 2017	7.30am	People of the parish
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	10am	Amelia Yoo Foo RIP
	8pm	Thanksgiving—Martha Emeagha
Wednesday 16th August 2017	7.30am	Welfare of Bro Thomas CSsR
	10am	Welfare of Saaraa Bacchus (Birthday)
Thursday 17th August 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Thanksgiving - Helen Browne
Friday 18th August 2017	7.30am	Rosy Fernandes RIP
	10am	UCM intention
Saturday 19th August 2017		
Our Lady	10am	Hervé Yoo Foo RIP
Next Sunday 20th August 2017		
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.15pm (Sat 19th August)	Sauveur & Carmen Vella RIP
	8.30am	People of the parish
	10am	Rita Chapman RIP
	11.30am	For all those awaiting examination results
Benediction	4pm	
	5pm	For World Peace