



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 10th SEPTEMBER 2017 TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Our first words to God on this day are a frank acknowledgement that He, to Whom we must rightly look for Mercy, can also be nothing but Just in dealing with His wayward creatures; He *cannot* contradict the Truth. It is worrying that, to some, God's Mercy means that He will 'turn a blind eye' to our sins; that we are bound to get to Heaven in the end, whatever happens. This is self-delusion, as God can only be 'true to Himself'; He *cannot* contradict His own essential Goodness and overlook deliberate and *unrepented* transgressions. Unlike us, He can never be anything but objective in His judgement, never confusing love with licence!

Ezekiel underlines one's grave responsibility to correct error when we see it. We may well be met with hostility for our efforts; our love will be misunderstood and our warning may go unheeded, but our intention will not be overlooked by God.

The **Responsorial Psalm** highlights our innate obstinacy, or *hardness of heart*, which can blind us to the gravity of an action; our fallen nature inclines more readily, as we know, to sin than to goodness which often involves self-denial. It is, sometimes, frighteningly easy to *justify* what we know in our heart to be *wrong*.



Saint Paul makes it very clear that God insists on the Commandments and our obedience to them out of Love. That is not, of course, what is so often portrayed by the *media* as love, which is often directly opposed to this Virtue! Promoting Love as God intends can make one very unpopular indeed, even among one's fellow Christians!

Through the **Alleluia verse** we beg that Truth will underpin all that we do in life.

Jesus, in the **Gospel**, echoes Ezekiel's call for the correction of sinfulness among those around us. He also confirms that, in binding us to certain ways of conduct or, indeed in absolving us of any, the Pope and Bishops act with His Authority.

Lord, grant us courage!

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£2004.00** (£1359.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.)

There will be a Second Collection today for the **Catholic Education Service**. This organisation acts on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, supporting Catholic Education, including representing the Church to the State on the important issues surrounding the education of our children. Those of you who Gift Aid their weekly offerings may use a spare blue envelope from the backs of your boxes, as there is no special envelope marked up for this particular collection.

Next Sunday there will be a Second Collection for Home Mission Sunday, which acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, supporting evangelisation within parishes as well as promoting the Gospel nationally. Gift Aid givers may use a spare blue envelope from the backs of their boxes.

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 Blaquiere, Anita Blaquiere, 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, Ajitha Mahatantila, Gerard Mascarenhas, Mary Meyern, Edgar Ming, Maria Parnis, Marion Robertson, Parwar Saib, Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Maggie Sunich, Edythe Thirlwall, Monica Vergara, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, John Windsor, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo, Tony Zammit.

Church Cleaning in the coming week: Group 6:

Ann Marie Charles, Islay Cowlin, Susan D'Souza, Susan Flatts, Linda Johnson, Agatha Kyere-Amoako, Obi Ohen, Gloria Osiobe. More members are will help shoulder the burden, just once every six weeks. Please could you help clean God's house? Kindly contact the parish office.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME FOR 2018.

Please note that applications have now closed.

CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHS

Please collect your order and make payment to John Taylor as soon as possible.

HELP WITH THE REPOSITORY

Help is needed to run the repository on Saturday evenings. Please call Maureen O'Donoghue on 020 8764 1846.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN SUPPORTING HEALTHY MARRIAGES?

Catholic Marriage Care's centre for Croydon and the surrounding area is looking for enthusiastic volunteer **Presenter/Facilitators** to run marriage preparation courses (training is provided), **Qualified Relationship Counsellors** (who hold a recognised couples counselling qualification) and **Chaperone/Receptionists** to meet and greet clients who come for counselling. For more information or to apply, please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk.

POLYPHONY CHOIR

The Polyphony Choir resumes practices on Tuesday 19th September, and then proceeds to prepare for autumn and Christmas, on Tuesday 3rd October. Practices are held at 8pm in the gallery, accessible via the side entrance in Ellison Road. Some new parishioners have recently indicated their interest on their New Parishioner Forms. This would be the ideal time for you to join our well established and very popular choir. The immediate commitment would be to attend weekly Tuesday evening practices, and sung Masses on 5th & 26th November, 3rd December and our Christmas Midnight Mass. Why not come along and find out more, perhaps bringing a friend or two? Please see our own web site, www.polychoir.co.uk, clicking on 'About the Choir'. We look forward to seeing you.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF SCHOOL REFERENCES FOR 2018

Dates for school reference interviews have now been posted in the main porch. **These will not appear in the newsletter or on the web site.** The first set of interviews will be for Secondary schools only. The second set of interviews will be for all other entry, including reception, infant and primary. At least one parent or guardian should attend with the child. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that they make a note of the relevant dates when attending Mass. Indeed, in order to obtain a reference for your child, it is a condition that you attend Mass here regularly together with your child. Please note that you may also need an interview if moving level within the same school, or if your child's place on a waiting list needs to be maintained. You are strongly advised to check with schools if you think that either of these two situations might apply to you. Fr Deo will always need to interview you, so please do not leave it until the last minute. Interviews will be held in the upper hall. Application forms will also be made available. Please note that a family photograph will be requested, which you may send by email or provide a paper copy. Photographs will be destroyed at the end of the process, unless you specifically ask for their return. Interviews outside of the stated times will only take place in exceptional cases.

!!!CALLING ALL THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME ALTAR SERVERS!!!

Have you made your First Holy Communion? Would you therefore like to become an Altar Server? If you want to serve God in this special way, then why not come to our next Training Sessions? You will need to come to both sessions, which will take place **TODAY AND next Sunday 17th September at 6pm**, right after the 5pm Mass. Sessions last for 1 hour. If you have not yet done so, please come to the Sacristy **today** and pick up an Application Form. Parental permission will be required. We hope to see as many of you as possible for the training.

AUTOMATIC SIDE DOORS TO THE GALLERY ENTRANCE.

When operating these doors, please ensure that they are both unbolted, so that they can open together.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Whenever you come to church, why not familiarise yourself with the various emergency exits? Look around and look up for the green and white fire exit signs, which will guide you towards the quickest way out.

LEGION OF MARY

A recruitment drive will take place at the parish of St Winifrede, Latimer Road, South Wimbledon, London SW19 1EP on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th September 2017. Please keep the success of the drive in your prayers.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check in the porch to see if any of the items there, including clothing and spectacles, belongs to you. These will have to be disposed of if not collected by the end of this month.

DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS

This takes place at the Centre for Catholic Formation in Tooting, on Saturday 23rd September 2017. It is open to all catechists, including those involved in Children's Liturgy and RCIA. The day opens at 11am and ends with Mass at 4pm, with Bishop Patrick Lynch presiding. Please advise the Parish Office if you are a catechist and would like to attend this event.

ROSARY CRUSADE OF REPARATION

The 33rd annual national event takes place on Saturday 14th October 2017 at Westminster Cathedral, and continues the celebrations surrounding the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. Please see posters in the porch for details of this event, which also include contact details. There are also some flyers available.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

You are invited to join those who pray outside a local abortion clinic, in support of the unborn and their mothers. Details of this event, which runs from September 27th to November 5th 2017, are on a poster in the porch.

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CATHOLIC SPHERE

There are a number of these, too numerous to mention separately in this newsletter. This applies particularly to school open days. Please take a look through the yellow folder in the porch to see what interests you.

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

This takes place at Westminster Cathedral on Sunday 17th September 2017. It will be led by the Right Reverend Robert Byrne CO, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham. Please see the poster in the porch for details.

FOREIGN CURRENCY LEFT OVER FROM YOUR HOLIDAYS

If you have any unwanted currency, including former European currencies which no longer exist, and even old English money, please donate what you have to the SVP, who can change it up and use the funds raised to help in their work with disadvantaged people in the parish. You will find a collection basket in the porch for this purpose.

DISPLAYING ITEMS IN THE PORCH

If you wish to place any posters or leaflets or other items in the porch, please ask one of the priests first.



Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.125; Thursday—p 181	
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 9th September, 2017		
TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Sat 8th September)	Margaret Towey RIP
	8.30am	Philip Cowie RIP
	10am	Jarlath Azoro RIP
	11.30am	Gerard Kirwan RIP
	Benediction 4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish
<i>Twenty Third Week in Ordinary Time:</i>		
Monday 11th September 2017	7.30am	Matthew Hue Van Nguyen RIP
	10am	Welfare of Sue Cullan
Tuesday 12th September 2017	7.30am	Fr James Carolin RIP (18th anniversary)
The Most Holy Name of Mary (Memorial)	10am	Jack Chapman RIP
Wednesday 13th September 2017		
St John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)	7.30am	Maura Malone RIP
	10am	For those who have suffered due to natural disasters
Thursday 14th September 2017		
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast)	7.30am	Juozapas Tarencius RIP
	10am	Thanksgiving & special intention—Muoghalu family
Friday 15th September 2017		
Our Lady of Sorrows (Memorial)	7.30am	Clarice Durrant RIP
	10am	Patrick D'Souza RIP
Saturday 16th September 2017		
Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs (Memorial)	10am	Anne Tallis RIP
Next Sunday 17th September 2017		
Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.15pm (Sat 16th September)	Michael McCready RIP
	8.30am	Teresa Forkan RIP
	10am	People of the parish
<i>Plainchant Choir Singing at this Mass</i>	11.30am	Laval Lafine RIP
	Benediction 4pm	
	5pm	Maura Malone RIP