



## 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 17th SEPTEMBER 2017

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A



Previously we have recalled our duty to correct error. Today we look at a basic condition for being, ourselves, forgiven by God, which is that we forgive, ‘...*those who trespass against us*’. Straight away, not mincing his words, the writer of *Ecclesiasticus* condemns emotions which so often set up barriers to our forgiving those who hurt or offend us:

“*Resentment and anger...foul things...found with the sinner.*” Whilst we must certainly ‘hate the sin’ we know that we must ‘love the sinner’. If we set ourselves up to judge and condemn any person, we become, in a way, like them. We are presented with the undeniable logic that we cannot reasonably expect God to approve plans to ‘get our own back’ for wrongs done to us, or to be able to show us Compassion if we deny this to our Neighbour. The extract finishes with what is (or should be) a chilling reminder that, as we deal with offences from our fellow humans, so will the same, in justice, be meted out to us at our Judgement!

The **Responsorial Psalm** highlights the attributes of our Creator, “...*compassion...love...slow to anger...rich in mercy*”, which, in spite of our fallen nature can, should we wish, sustain us in the ups and downs of life.

**Saint Paul**, writing to the **Romans**, simply reminds us that both here on earth and in the hereafter, we are all God’s creatures and, however much we may think that we live in ‘our own little bubble’, each life lived has an effect on others. How often do we think of this? Do we attract others to God, or do we undermine their search for the Truth? Do those around us, seeking meaning and purpose in life, perceive that we look, as the **Alleluia verse** proclaims, to God Who, alone, can bring us to Eternal Happiness?

In the **Gospel** our Lord, very emphatically, removes any limits to forgiveness. In a dramatic Parable, He delivers a stern warning that, just as the servant who refused to forgive a comparatively ‘trivial’ debt owed by a fellow servant was, as a result, severely punished for his own much greater debt to his Master, so our own forgiveness (or not) will determine the Judgement we receive at the end of our life.

We need to recognise, of course, that Jesus is **not** saying that we shall not be wronged, perhaps deeply, during the course of our life. We may well be unable to forget grave wrongs done to us or our loved ones. We must, however (and we have some profoundly moving examples following recent terrorist murders) strive to forgive, whatever effort this may cost, those who have set out to hurt us. We may well recall, also, how the Mother of Saint Maria Goretti forgave Alessandro, who had attempted to rape and had then killed her daughter, Maria (who also had forgiven him on her deathbed). Also the example of Saint Pope John Paul II who, following his life-saving treatment in hospital, visited Mehmet Ali Ağca, his would-be murderer, in prison, publicly forgiving this man who had shot him with the intention of killing him. How many examples might we, personally, recall of, perhaps, very ‘costly’ forgiveness?

## **Thank you for your generosity**

Last week's collection came to **£2127.00** (£1482.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.)

You also gave **£381.00** towards the Catholic Education Service

**Today 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.

Please write "Home Mission Sunday" on the front, and the date, 17th September 2017.

Otherwise please use one of the special envelopes located in the main porch in the leaflet stand.

**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, Erna 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.

### **CARDINAL CORMAC MURPHY—O'CONNOR RIP**

You are invited to take a memorial prayer card from the porch for the late Cardinal Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster.

### **CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK: GROUP 6 PLEASE:**

Ena Holland, Mary Icheke, Eileen McCarthy, Nancy McNamara, Kathleen O'Toole, Nwamaka Offor, Polin Rajaratnam, Irene Reynolds, Christiana Muoghalu. 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.

### **THE REPOSITORY**

Can you help run the repository on Saturday evenings? Please call Maureen O'Donoghue on 020 8764 1846.

### **CATHOLIC MARRIAGE CARE**

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** and **Chaperone/Receptionists**. For more information or to apply, please visit: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) or email [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk).

### **PARISH PLAYGROUP**

This recommences this Thursday 20th September from 10am—11.30am in the lower hall.

### **POLYPHONY CHOIR**

The Polyphony Choir resumes practices this 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](http://www.polychoir.co.uk), clicking on 'About the Choir'. We look forward to seeing you.

### **ST JAMES THE GREAT CAR BOOT SALE**

This takes place on Sunday 1st October from 10am to 1pm. Entry only 50p. See poster for details. If you wish to book a space for a vehicle, kindly make a booking at: [Friendsstjg@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsstjg@gmail.com)

### **COFFEE MORNING NEXT SUNDAY**

With LIFE, after the 10am & 11.30am Masses, including a sale of cakes and knitted goods. Proceeds to LIFE HQ. Please help LIFE to help expectant mothers and their unborn children. Please see: [www.lifecharity.org](http://www.lifecharity.org)

## **SCHOOL REFERENCES FOR 2018 ENTRY**

Dates for school reference interviews have now been posted in all porch areas.

### **Please note that there is no need to make an appointment to see Fr Deo at these sessions.**

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 your child is moving to a higher 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. Also, if you are new to the parish, you may also need to seek a reference from the parish priest of your previous parish. Interviews will be held in the upper hall. The lower hall will be a waiting area. Please ensure that any other children you bring with you are supervised whilst they are in the lower hall. Application forms may be found in the main porch only. Please note that a family photograph will be requested, which you may send by email or provide a paper copy. Please bring with you any forms which you have received from schools. Some schools may send forms directly to us.

Photographs will be destroyed at the end of the process, unless you specifically ask for their return. Interviews requested outside of the stated times may take place only in the most exceptional cases and by appointment only.

## **SEPTEMBER IS SVP AWARENESS MONTH**

The theme of this month is "Welcoming the Stranger". Bertrand Ousset, former President of SVP France said: "Social isolation is the main poverty of our time, but when this is combined with other kinds of difficulty, social isolation becomes much greater." He also said: "Let us allow ourselves to be evangelised by the poor." This approach is strongly endorsed by Pope Francis, and remains at the very core of our Vincentian commitment. Please look out for a series of posters which will appear in the porch. If you would like some assistance from the SVP in this parish, or if you would like to join the SVP, please leave a telephone message with the parish office, or else write a note, enclosing it in an envelope marked "SVP". All communications will be treated in confidence.

## **PLEASE DONATE FOREIGN CURRENCY LEFT OVER FROM YOUR HOLIDAYS TO THE SVP**

If you have any unwanted currency, including former European currencies which no longer exist, and even old English money, please donate it to the SVP. You will find a collection basket in the porch for this purpose.

## **ALTAR SERVER TRAINING**

The second of two sessions takes place today, immediately after the 5pm Mass, lasting approximately 1 hour.

## **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.

## **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, next Saturday 23rd September 2017.

It is open to all catechists, including those involved in Children's Liturgy and RCIA. The day opens at 11am, ending 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.

## **THE BUTTERFLY SERVICE AT CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

This takes place next Sunday, 24th September. See the poster in the porch. Have you seen our Butterfly Window?

## **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.

## **A DAY WITH MARY**

Saturday 7th October 2017 at Westminster Cathedral. Please see the 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 might interest you.

## **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	
	<b>Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.128</b>	
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 &amp; 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 17th September, 2017		
<b>TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY</b>	6.15pm (Sat 16th September)	Michael McCready RIP
<b>IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30am	Teresa Forkan RIP
	10am	People of the parish
	11.30am (with Plainchant Choir)	Laval Lafine RIP
	<b>Benediction 4pm</b>	
	5pm	Maura Malone RIP
<b><i>Twenty Fourth Week</i></b>		
<b><i>in Ordinary Time:</i></b>		
Monday 18th September 2017	7.30am	John Joseph Murphy RIP
	10am	Hervé Yoo Foo RIP
Tuesday 19th September 2017	7.30am	Welfare of Erna Breese
	10am	Welfare of Dom & Kat
Wednesday 20th September 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
St Andrew Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul		
Chŏng Ha-sang, and companions,		
Martyrs (Memorial)	10am	Agboigba Pacôme RIP
Thursday 21st September 2017	7.30am	Welfare of Allison Furtado
St Matthew, Apostle and		
Evangelist (Feast)	10am	Pietro Mobile RIP
Friday 22nd September 2017	7.30am	Theresa Ndika RIP
	10am	Tracy Lawrence RIP & Welfare of Tony Lawrence & fam
Saturday 23rd September 2017		
St Piuls of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)		
Priest (Memorial)	10am	Emily Senathirajah RIP
<b>Next Sunday 24th September 2017</b>		
Twenty Fifth Sunday	6.15pm (Sat 23rd September)	Sauver & Carmen Vella RIP
in Ordinary Time	8.30am	Jim Calvo RIP
LIFE Coffee Morning after this Mass	10am	People of the parish
LIFE Coffee Morning after this Mass	11.30am (with Hymn Choir)	SVP intention
	<b>Benediction 4pm</b>	
	5pm	Mrs Martina Mensah RIP