



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 (except for Bank Holidays)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark – Registered Charity No. 235468

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2017 TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

In the **Entrance Antiphon** today we are reminded that the Lord is ‘... *Saviour of all people...*’ who, unlike even the best intentioned earthly friend, will be ‘...*always there...*’ and, very significantly, is unlimited in His ability to help us through life. We are expected, of course, to actively seek and *use these opportunities* to attain Salvation!

Isaiah (55:6-9), very wisely, urges us to seize every opportunity offered us by our Creator while we live on Earth, and ‘*Seek the Lord while He is still to be found*’. Until we draw our final breath we can, should we sin, repent and be assured of God’s Forgiveness; not that we should gamble our eternity on living apart from God and ‘getting in at the last moment’. God, who is so superior to His creatures, nevertheless leaves the final choice with us! As the **Responsorial Psalm** (From Ps. 144), recalls to mind, God ‘... *is close to all who call Him...*’ How aware are we of our constant need to examine our conscience and make sure that we are not living in ways that take us further away from God?

Saint Paul (Phil. 1:20-24,27), while looking with longing towards his entry into Heaven, acknowledges that, while he lives on earth, he has a vital role (as does each one of us) to play in the Salvation of Mankind. Paul’s ‘rule of thumb’ for the here and now, which will stand us in good stead when we die, is to keep from anything in our everyday life which will set us off in an opposing direction to God. Our Saviour, knowing our weaknesses, has left us the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through which we can, as long as life lasts, keep close to or even return to God. God, who clearly sees our exact knowledge of good and evil and our intentions, cannot lose any soul which, in all honesty, has striven to be faithful to Him.

In the **Gospel** (Mt.20:1-16) Jesus, in the *Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard*, very clearly emphasises our Creator’s absolute right to determine the reward promised to all who faithfully follow His Way. Each one of us,



whatever the proponents of various theories of ‘*superiority*’ and ‘*inferiority*’ throughout the ages might have decided, is equal before God. Our desire and our capacity to enjoy our eternity with God will be fully satisfied; no one will ‘go short’ or feel ‘deprived’. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, when a small child, asked her mother (Saint Zélie Martin) about our capacity for God and was shown two very different sized containers, each filled to the brim with water; as Zélie explained to her daughter, just as each vessel was completely filled, God fills us with His Grace according to our created capacity and our openness to it. We shall be as happy as God has created us to be; there will be no envious glances in Heaven, just total fulfilment, wrapped in God’s Embrace. All that is required of us is that we use, to the best of our ability, the talents and graces that God has seen fit to give to us as individuals. Reading ‘*The Story of a Soul*’, Saint Thérèse’s autobiography, will provide a wonderful and inspiring insight for anyone who seeks guidance on such matters.

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1718.00** (£1073.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.)

You also gave **£449.00** towards the Home Mission Sunday collection

Next Sunday, 1st October 2017, we have a special appeal at all Masses by the **St Francis Xavier Foreign Mission Society**, known as the **Xaverian Missionaries**. One of their priests will be with us from Saturday evening. Please give as generously as you can towards their appeal, and kindly pray for the success of the work they do. Please note that our Gift Aid envelopes and emergency envelopes do **not** count towards this collection.

The following Sunday, 8th October 2017, will be the date for the **CAFOD Harvest Fast Day collection**. The actual CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is Friday 6th October 2017. This day is set aside as a day of prayer and sacrifice. As we enjoy the fruits of the harvest in our own country, where we have everything in plenty, we consider those who have little or no harvest to speak of, our brothers and sisters in Christ, in foreign lands, who have need of our help. You will find special CAFOD envelopes in the porch areas. If you wish to Gift Aid your contribution, please complete the necessary details on the envelopes. Please note that normal Gift Aid envelopes and emergency envelopes may **not** be used. You must therefore use one of the envelopes provided for the purpose, otherwise just put your contribution into the collection basket. Special CAFOD envelopes are available as of now. Please take one

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, Erna Breese, Frances Caulfield, Fr Gerald Coates, Audrey Draude, Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte, Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, 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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL 10TH OCTOBER 2017

The Parish Office will not be staffed until 10th October 2017. You are asked to be mindful that you may not receive the normal swift response to your call or email. When phoning, please use the prompts on your keypad as required.

CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK—GROUP 1 PLEASE:

Ena Holland, Mary Icheke, Eileen McCarthy, Nancy McNamara, Kathleen O'Toole, Nwamaka Offor, Polin Rajaratnam, Irene Reynolds, Christiana Muoghalu. More members are required to help shoulder the burden, just once every six weeks. Please could you help clean God's house? Kindly contact the parish office. We shall shortly be amending the lists of cleaning groups, as some people understandably can no longer attend due to work and family commitments. This highlights the need for more volunteers to come forward and join our regular teams.

We Welcome into the family of the Church, **Chloe Bridget Bird**, who was Baptised here last Sunday.

POLYPHONY CHOIR

The Polyphony Choir is about to embark upon its preparations for autumn and Christmas, commencing with their practice 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 well renowned 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.

Please note that the annual Polyphony Choir Mass of Thanksgiving takes place at 8pm this Tuesday 26th September. All are most welcome to attend this extra Mass.

COFFEE MORNING TODAY

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

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS)

Please check the rack beside the repository, which you will notice has been refreshed with new stock. If you want to find out more about aspects of the Catholic Faith, this is an excellent way to do so. If you know somebody who is thinking about becoming a Catholic, CTS booklets explain clearly and simply what they need to know.

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.

CATECHISTS AND HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We are very short of catechists to help with the First Holy Communion Programme. If you are a parent or guardian of a child who is on the 2018 programme, and you would like to offer your help, please contact the parish office as soon as you are able. Fr Deo and Teresa Furtado would be happy to hear from you. DBS checks may be required, so we need to get things moving in good time for January 2018 to avoid the burden falling on just a few people.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

Help is needed with the Children's Liturgy Group. Children are welcome to join from School Nursery age through to Year 3. Anybody who is willing to become a catechist or helper in this most important aspect of parish life would be welcome, subject to the usual DBS check. Training will be provided. Please contact either Marion Brown on 020 8761 3895 or at mh.brown@virgin.net OR Linda Harries on 07770 623230 or at l.harries@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER IS SVP AWARENESS MONTH

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".

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.

ROSARY CRUSADE OF REPARATION

The 33rd annual national event takes place on Saturday 14th October 2017 at Westminster Cathedral. Please see posters in the porch for details of this event. There are also some flyers available.

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CATHOLIC SPHERE

There are a number of these, which you will find in the yellow folder in the porch.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S ORCHESTRA

Monday evening rehearsals have now resumed in the lower hall. Please see the poster in the porch for contact details, should you be interested in joining the orchestra, which currently has some vacancies for competent string players. They are now preparing for their next concert, at St Mary Magdalen's in Mortlake (Canon Francis Moran's new parish) which takes place on Sunday 19th November 2017.

THE 27th STREATHAM BROWNIES 2016-2017 NATIVITY PAINTING COMPETITION

Eleanor Martins and Lara Rodriguez, last year's winners of this competition organised by our Knights of St Columba, were presented with their prizes last Monday. Congratulations to them both! Our Brownies are run jointly by leaders Thérèse Clark Martins (Snowy Owl) and Mary-Anne Geary (Little Owl). Entries are now invited for this year's competition, which is open to all young people up to the age of 13, divided into two age groups.

Please contact Melvin Carty for full details on 07930 366721.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

We are pleased to announce that the next course takes place on BOTH Wednesdays 11th & 18th October 2017 at 8pm. Those seeking Baptism for their child should take a form from the porch, complete it fully and return it to the parish office. Parents will need to attend both sessions, unless they have been on a course in the last three years.

ALTAR SERVER UPDATE

Once again we are updating our Altar Server records. Will all servers please complete and return one of the forms which are located in the Servers' Sacristy. We are obliged to make sure that anybody who is 18 or over receives and completes their DBS paperwork. We should like to have all forms in by Sunday 29th October 2017.



Parish Masses This Week

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| Sunday Masses: | Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm | |
| | Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.131 | |
| 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 24th September, 2017 | | |
| TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 6.15pm (Sat 23rd September) | Sauver & Carmen Vella RIP |
| | 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 |
| Benediction | 4pm | |
| | 5pm | Mrs Martina Mensah RIP |
| Twenty Fifth Week in Ordinary Time: | | |
| Monday 25th September 2017 | 7.30am | Holy Souls |
| | 10am | Welfare & intentions of Adrian Nwagwu |
| Tuesday 26th September 2017 | 7.30am | Tejumade Onipede RIP |
| Saints Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs (Memorial) | 10am | Marcel Juan RIP |
| | 8pm (with Polyphony Choir) | Polyphony Choir Mass of thanksgiving |
| Wednesday 27th September 2017 | 7.30am | Dominic Cu Van Tran RIP |
| St Vincent de Paul, Priest (Memorial) | 10am | Louise & Lucien Agboigba RIP |
| Thursday 28th September 2017 | 7.30am | Salus Fernandes RIP |
| St Wenceslaus, Martyr (Memorial) | 10am | Pascal Haundegea RIP |
| Friday 29th September 2017 | 7.30am | Welfare of Margaret De Sa (90th Birthday) |
| Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (Feast) | 10am | UCM intention |
| Saturday 30th September 2017 | | |
| St Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Memorial) | 10am | Lorraine Harris RIP |
| Next Sunday 1st October 2017 | | |
| Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 6.15pm (Sat 30th September) | Thomas Corr RIP |
| | 8.30am | People of the parish |
| | 10am | Rosa Warwick RIP |
| | 11.30am (with Polyphony Choir) | Thanksgiving for the recovery of Joe Ryan |
| Benediction | 4pm | |
| | 5pm | Welfare of Christine Lucas |