



## 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 Archdiocese of Southwark CIO – Registered Incorporated Charity No. 1173050*

**SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2017**

**THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**YEAR A**

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, many people will have celebrated Halloween (*Hallow e'en* - from 'Hallow' - to make Holy). This somewhat secular occasion, nowadays with somewhat of an emphasis upon magic, was, long ago, a Christian event, namely the Eve of the Feast of All Saints. The Church has, through events such as the *Night of Light*, tried to restore this celebration to its Catholic roots; children have been encouraged to come to church dressed, perhaps, as the Saints after which they were named (Name-Saints) having, hopefully, with the help of their parents, done a little research on these illustrious forbears in the Faith. In the Light of Faith, they have looked towards the Light of Heaven.

On the first day of this month, we celebrated the Saints: those who have '*...fought the good fight... finished the race... and...kept the faith*' (2 Tim.4:7). On the following day, we commemorated the Holy Souls in Purgatory, to whom the month of November is dedicated. We are all, living and dead, members of the **Communion of Saints**. Those in Heaven (the **Church Triumphant**) now intercede for us, (the **Church Militant**) and for the Holy Souls in Purgatory (the **Church Suffering**) who we can also help through our Masses, Prayers and Sacrifices. There is a very beautiful prayer, particularly appropriate for this month, which we can say for our Brothers and Sisters in Purgatory: the '*De Profundis*' ('*Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord...*'). This prayer may be found in the Prayer section of our Parish Website.

Perhaps November, with its emphasis upon those who have, '*...gone before us...*' (i.e. the Holy Souls and the Saints), might provide a good starting point for research by parents and children into their Name-Saints. Our names do more than simply distinguish us one from another within our families. First names are traditionally called '**Christian Names**' for a very good reason, in that they are primary evidence of our Christian heritage. This is a practice which has sadly lost its importance as secularisation has increased its grip on society. Indeed, when parents present their children for Baptism, they are reminded of the importance of giving them at least one such name. Which of our Christian forbears are we named after? When did they live, and where? What kind of lives did they lead? Can we identify with any of their faults and failings? How did they die? etc.

Saints are, by no means, just figures from long ago. The Church has, in the last few years, canonised (i.e. recognised as being in Heaven and worthy of our imitation) a number of our Brothers and Sisters from more recent decades in history. Sister Josephine Bakhita from Sudan; St Pius of Pietrelcina, known as Padre Pio, who received the Stigmata (the Crucifixion wounds as borne by Christ); Maximilian Mary Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan Priest who gave his life in exchange for that of a Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz; Carmelite Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), a German convert from Judaism who, owing to her Jewish 'roots' also died in a concentration camp; Gianna Molla, from Italy, was a paediatrician who, rather than risk the life of her unborn daughter, put off cancer treatment and died shortly after her Birth; Pope John 23<sup>rd</sup>, who called the Second Vatican Council. More recently we have witnessed the Canonisations of Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa of Kolkata (Calcutta) and the two youngest Seers of Fátima, Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

This list barely 'scratches the surface' of a treasure trove of Christian Witnesses from all over the world. Here, expectant parents, those preparing to become Catholics, and Confirmation candidates will discover truly wholesome and inspiring role models, to be looked up to, imitated and prayed to as we strive to join them in Heaven. In an age when highly unsuitable role models may often be presented to children through the Media, there is an urgent need for them to, in some cases, rediscover their Catholic identity and purpose in life. They can best do this with the loving help of their first teachers, their parents!

## **Thank you for your generosity**

Last week's collection came to **£2002.00** (£1357.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.).

**Next Sunday** there will be a **second collection** for the **Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration**. This collection helps to meet the cost of the central administration of the diocese. Gift Aid givers will find a special BLUE envelope, in date order in their boxes, marked "Archbishop's Administration Fund". Gift Aiders who give by standing order, please collect your boxes from the Gift Aid office if you wish to contribute.

### **WELCOME**

We welcome into the family of the Church, **Darragh Joseph Dempsey** who was Baptised here last Sunday.

**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, 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.

### **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. Could you help clean God's house, just once every six weeks? If you are interested, or have recently volunteered but not been contacted, kindly contact the parish office.

### **THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS**

You will find our Book of Remembrance located beneath the main altar. You are invited to enter on its pages the names of all those whom you would like to be remembered at Masses during the month. Please ask for assistance if you cannot reach the book. A pen has been provided, which is attached to the book. If you would like to make an offering in respect of Masses for the dead, please use the Holy Souls wall boxes in the main and gallery porches.

### **PLENARY INDULGENCE**

A Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the Holy Souls, may be gained once in any church either on All Souls' Day, on the preceding or following Sunday or on the Feast of All Saints, on the usual conditions, namely a visit to a church, where the Our Father and Creed are recited, Sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's intention. Those who visit a cemetery between 1st and 8th November and pray for the Faithful Departed, may obtain a Plenary Indulgence, applicable to the Holy Souls (and at other times a partial indulgence).

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND—12TH NOVEMBER 2017**

Our uniformed groups will attend the 11:30 Mass, to honour those who have died in wars, with the Plainchant Choir singing. A wreath will be laid in honour of the war dead, and the colours of our uniformed groups will be lowered in respect. Also, at 10.30am that day, during the civic ceremony at the local war memorial by Streatham Common North, John Byrne who will be representing St Bartholomew's, laying a wreath on our behalf.

### **BLESSING OF GRAVES AT STREATHAM PARK CEMETERY, ROWAN ROAD**

This will also take place on Remembrance Sunday. Upon entering the cemetery, proceed past the car park and then either side of the office building; go to the end of the road ahead; then turn left and proceed towards the new tombs, which you will see on the right hand side along that stretch. There we shall gather at 2.45pm for a prompt 3pm start. As ever, do come prepared for poor weather, and keep an eye out for passing cars, and of course look after the more vulnerable among us. We shall hold a short service of remembrance, including readings, prayers, psalms and hymns, and a general blessing of graves. Following this, our priests will make themselves available to bless individual graves. Please remember that it may be muddy and wet, and our priests are not so agile as they once were. Please do not be disappointed if it is not possible for the graves of any of your loved ones to be blessed. The cemetery covers a very large area. Please also remember that all priests need to return to their parishes in good time for evening Mass. The cemetery gates close promptly at 4pm, and it will get dark very quickly.

### **THE YOUTH CHOIR**

We expect to be able to make an announcement shortly regarding the launch of this choir. It is most encouraging that so many of you have said how much you would like to be involved. Please keep an eye on the newsletter, so as to be ready when we are in a position to get started.

**ANNUAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR READERS  
& EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION .**

This event is to be held on Saturday 11th November at Bishop Thomas Grant School. The day will be led by Fr. Denis McBride CSsR. Registration from 10.30am, with an 11.00am start, concluding with Mass at 3.00pm celebrated by Bishop Pat Lynch. Please contact the parish office ASAP if you would like to attend.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

Are you interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith, or do you know somebody who is thinking of becoming a Catholic? Please contact either of our priests or the parish office as soon as possible. Our catechists are prepared to impart their knowledge of the faith to those ready to make the journey towards becoming Catholics.

**SCHOOL REFERENCES FOR 2018 ENTRY**

Details of the final session have been posted in the porch. No appointment is required to see Fr Deo.

**CATECHISTS AND HELPERS REQUIRED** We remain short of catechists to help with First Holy Communion and the Children's Liturgy. For First Holy Communion, please contact Fr Deo or Teresa Furtado. For Children's Liturgy, Linda Harries on 07770 623230 or by email: l.harries@gmail.com

**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S TODDLER AND BABY GROUP**

We meet in the lower hall every Thursday during term time from 9.30am to 11.30am. We provide free play, crafts, reading and rhyme time for the young ones. Refreshments available. We charge £2 for the first adult and 2 children, then 50p for extras. Please contact Betania on 07876 785746.

**UNCOLLECTED FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CERTIFICATES**

The following have yet to collect their certificates from last year: BENESA; JARDIM; NUNOO; PENNANT. The following certificates remain uncollected from this year: MISZCZYSZYN; NWAFOR. If you know any of the above, kindly remind them of these official records of their children's First Holy Communion.

**UNCLAIMED PHOTOGRAPHS**

Would families CRORKEN, HICKMAN, KELLY, MUTHY, VENEREAU, kindly collect and pay for the photographs which they ordered. There is one set of photos, marked ALLEN CLOSE in Mitcham. Again, if you know any of the above, please remind them that these photographs need to be collected and paid for.

**THE REPOSITORY**

In addition to the many books, diaries, calendars and devotional items which are always held, the repository is now fully stocked for Christmas, including cards, calendars, diaries, nativity scenes etc. Demand is always very high. So as to avoid disappointment, please don't delay your purchases until the last minute. When it's gone, it's gone!!

**PLEASE DONATE YOUR UNWANTED CURRENCY AND OLD MONEY TO THE SVP**

The SVP can get value from all unwanted foreign currency, old and new, as well as old Pounds Sterling. Please put your notes and coins into the special basket in the porch and help the work of the SVP to continue.

**USING THE HALL**

Will all groups using the hall please ensure that they keep the entrance door closed at all times. They should make arrangements for the door to be manned in order to admit only those who are expected. A doorbell will soon be fitted. There have been recent attempts by unauthorised persons to gain access. The safety of all hall users is paramount. Please report any sightings of strangers to the parish office or clergy. If necessary, call the police.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SCHOOL OPEN DAYS**

Please see the yellow folder on the windowsill on the right hand side of the porch.

**THE PILGRIM—NOVEMBER ISSUE**

Please take a copy of our diocesan newspaper from the porch. Though there is a marked price of 50p, we do not make a charge. If you would like to make a contribution, kindly put it in the wall box marked "Papers & CTS".

**ARE YOU ABLE TO GIVE SOMEBODY A LIFT TO MASS?**

An elderly gentleman from Ena Road, Norbury needs a lift to and from the 6.15pm Mass on Saturdays. Please call the parish office if you can help, whether occasionally or regularly.

**CONOR ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCING—TRADITIONAL IRISH STEP DANCING**

Those who attended the Parish AGM were entertained by this group. Boys and girls aged 5 upwards may attend classes at St Andrew's or St James the Great schools on Saturdays. Contact Bridie Willis on 07801 814748.



## Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses: Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm

**Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.149; Thursday—p.192**

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 (*Rosary and Benediction in May & October*)  
*On First Fridays - Adoration after 10am Mass, closing with Benediction at 2pm*

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 5th November 2017 THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Sat 4th November)	Cecil & Pat Milne RIP
	8.30am	Andy & May Byrne RIP
	10am	Deceased Brothers & families of KSC Council 266
	11.30am (Polyphony Choir)	Francis Butler RIP
<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish
<b><i>Thirty First Week in Ordinary Time:</i></b> Monday 6th November 2017	7.30am	Tom Grogan RIP
	10am	Welfare and God's blessings on Anthony Ilobi
Tuesday 7th November 2017	7.30am	Rev Leo Asciak RIP. (Former Assistant Priest here)
Dedication of St George's Cathedral (Feast)	10am	Rita Chapman RIP
Wednesday 8th November 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Eva Vida RIP
Thursday 9th November 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Feast)	10am	Welfare of the friends of Edna Graham RIP
Friday 10th November 2017	7.30am	Holy Souls
St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)	10am	Antoine Shun RIP
Saturday 11th November 2017		
St Martin of Tours, Bishop (Memorial)	10am	Don Woodruff RIP
<b>Next Sunday</b> 12th November 2017		
Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.15pm (Sat 11th November)	John Greally RIP
	8.30am	Sheilagh Goodspeed RIP
	10am	Celia Moran RIP
Uniformed Groups in attendance	11.30am (Plainchant Choir)	For all those killed in wars
<i>Rosary and Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish