



## 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)

*A parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO – Registered Incorporated Charity No. 1173050*

**SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2017**

**THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**YEAR A**

Next Sunday, we shall celebrate the *Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Universal King* who will, when earthly life ends, show us the eternity which that life has pointed us towards. If we have tried to, ‘...*know, love and serve God...*’, then Christ will be able to call us to, ‘...*be happy with Him forever...*’.

In today's second reading, Saint Paul (**1 Thessalonians 5:1-6**) delivers a timely warning of the foolishness of presuming that one can live as one pleases in this life and still count on attaining Heaven. We must, ‘*Be Prepared!*’ Scripture contains ample warnings to anyone who chooses a self-centred life at variance with God's Wise and Just Laws, such as the man who rejoiced in his material wealth and prosperity only to be told, ‘...*Fool! This night your Soul is required of you!*’ (**Luke 12:20**). The story of Dives and Lazarus (**Luke 16:19-31**) warns of the danger to one's soul of amassing personal wealth while failing to aid those who lack even basic necessities. Paul cautions us that death can come, ‘...*like a thief in the night...*’ i.e. when one may be unprepared for it.

We have recently remembered men and women killed in war. We, rightly, remember the members of our Armed Forces but, of course, many more souls found themselves before God's 'Judgement Seat': those civilians killed, for instance, in the Blitz or those who died in an instant at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We seem, regularly, to hear news of sudden and unexpected deaths in events such as terrorist attacks. We have recently commemorated the anniversary of the Croydon tram derailment. No-one can guarantee that they will have time to ‘*put their affairs in order*’. However this is not something to grow morbid about or to despair of. We are, simply, being warned to ‘...*stay wide awake and be sober...*’ i.e. always keep in mind that earthly life is but a preparation for Eternity, divesting oneself of the treasures of this world in order to amass ‘*Treasure in Heaven*’. We recently celebrated the Memorial of Saint Martin de Porres. Considered ‘inferior’ by those who counted themselves as ‘superior’ at the time, he was, in fact, richer than his detractors in what really counts with God, namely Grace and Charity. We can learn many lessons from this Holy man.

In today's Gospel (**Matthew 25:14-30**) Our Lord reminds His hearers that each of us has a vocation in life and the ability to answer this Call. He uses a scenario we will readily understand, that of investment and interest. Every one of us has been assigned a place in this life and given certain qualities / abilities. However ‘insignificant’ the worldly-wise may consider us, we are expected to use to the best of our abilities the gifts God has given us. Whether we have one, two or five ‘talents’ they are there to be used. This is where the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity come into play. We have a choice of either the arrogant presumption of the man who rejoiced in his full barns and forgot his Eternal Destiny or the faith of one who says, ‘*I place all my trust in thee*’.

Saint Augustine underlined the vital role each of us is expected to play in our Salvation when he famously (at that time referring specifically to the *Just War doctrine*) exhorted peacemakers to ‘*Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you!*’ It is a sobering consideration that Peace, or the lack of it, comes from within ourselves. As the proverb states, ‘*Charity begins at Home!*’ Through the Church, Mass and Sacraments we are offered abundant help. Please God we will avail ourselves of this Treasure and, ‘*Walk in the Light of the Lord*’.

## Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1628.00** (£983.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.).

You also gave **£679.00** to the Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration.

**Next week, the Solemnity of Christ the King**, also designated as **Youth Day**, there is a **second collection** for the **Catholic Youth Services**, which supports youth work across the Archdiocese and beyond, in particular the Southwark Catholic Youth Service. Gift Aiders should use the special BLUE envelope from their boxes, marked "**Catholic Youth Services**". Gift Aiders who give by standing order, please take your boxes from the Gift Aid office if you wish to contribute, as Standing Orders do not cover second collections.

### **SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC)**

Next weekend, Mr John Smeaton, Chief Executive of **SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children)** will be present at all Masses to tell you about the vital work which SPUC do in the cause of life, encouraging you to join them in their endeavours. Their presence coincides with the 50th anniversary of the heinous 1967 Abortion Act, since which EIGHT MILLION (8,000,000) innocent human lives have been lost through abortion. SPUC is the world's oldest pro-life organisation. This is not an appeal for funds, but is intended to raise awareness of the tireless work carried out by SPUC. The annual SPUC White Flower Appeal will take place in January 2018.

Next Sunday there will be a **Coffee Morning with LIFE**, after the 10.00am and 11.30am Masses.

Knitted goods will also be on sale. Proceeds to LIFE HQ. Please see: [www.lifecharity.org.uk](http://www.lifecharity.org.uk)

**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, Janina Miller, 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.

### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Vida May McGhie-Small**, of Glencairn Road, wife of Eldon Small and stepmother of Collette Pinnock. Vida died on 31st October 2017.

Also **Mrs Christine Deeth**, of Ellison Road, who died on 14th November 2017.

Our condolences and prayers as a parish go out to the families.

### **CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK - GROUP 3 PLEASE:**

Jeannette Da Silva, Brigid Griffin, Joyce Ippoliti, Berni Knight, Christiana Muoghalu, Antoinette Nwanoneze, and welcoming Blessing Otite to join them.

As ever, the burden falls on the few. If you could possibly help out say once every 6 weeks, or if you have recently volunteered to help, but you have not yet been allocated to a group, kindly contact the parish office.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALTAR SERVERS**

At the Sunday 10.00am Mass, we are greatly blessed to have so many Altar Servers present. However, having so many servers at this one Mass means that it's difficult to give all the new servers a particular job every Sunday. And we realise that getting experience of doing all the different Altar Serving jobs is really important in the first few months after training. We really do need to have some additional servers at both the 8.30am and 11.30am Masses. Therefore we should like to ask whether any servers who normally attend the 10.00am Mass would be both willing and able to swap to either of these other Masses? We understand that this would most likely mean parents and guardians possibly making changes to their Sundays too. So, if it is possible for you to help in this way, would you please let Cathleen Nicholls or Jed Murphy know. Many thanks.

### **READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Would those who have not yet done so please contact the parish office as soon as possible with your availability for the rota for Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th December 2017) and Christmas Day (Monday 25th December 2017).

The next rota will run from New Year's Eve weekend (30th & 31st December 2017) through to 28th & 29th January 2018. That rota will be published in mid December, so your kind cooperation is sought so that the rota may be produced in good time. Would those of you who have email, and have yet to receive the rota by email, kindly advise the parish office of your email address. Printed copies are always available for those without computers.

## **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.

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018**

These are scheduled to take place in January, April and July next year. The first course is expected to be run on both Saturdays 13th and 20th January 2018. To join these sessions, and/or to book a date for your child's Baptism, please complete a Baptism Details Form, available from the Church porch, and hand this in to the parish office.

Further sessions are planned for April and July 2018.

## **BLESSED SACRAMENT ALTAR CANDLE STAND**

In order to reduce the risk of fire, please use only the votive lights provided at the Blessed Sacrament Altar. Also, please do not take candles from there and place them anywhere else in the church.

## **CAFOD WORLD GIFTS**

This year's catalogue is now available in the porch areas. Please would every family take a copy home and consider helping our poorest brothers and sisters by giving to CAFOD's work in this special way. You can choose which particular gifts your money will be used to provide for those in very great need.

## **THE CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS)**

There is now a good stock of booklets relating to Advent and Christmas. Please take a look in the rack which is situated on the wall just outside the Repository. If there is anything you wish to obtain, but you do not see in the rack, please contact Ann Daniels via the parish office, so that your request might be fulfilled. You may even download CTS booklets onto many portable reading devices. See: <http://www.ctsbooks.org>

## **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!!

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL THOSE 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.

## **THE PILGRIM - NOVEMBER ISSUE**

Copies are still available in the porch. Although 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".

## **SAFARI EXPEDITION TO TANZANIA 2018**

A meeting for all those who have put their names down for Fr Deo's Tanzanian Safari will be held in the upper hall on Saturday 2nd December at 7.30pm. This meeting will be primarily to discuss the itinerary for the safari. A further meeting will be held in March 2018. Please advise any of your friends from other parishes of the details of this meeting. Please confirm your email addresses and contact numbers to the parish office in order that all may be kept informed. A few places remain. Please contact Fr Deo or the parish office as soon as possible if interested.

## **CHILDREN'S NATIVITY TABLEAU: ACTORS, ACTRESSES AND SINGERS NEEDED!**

The Children's Liturgy Group are producing their annual Nativity Play for Christmas Eve, just before the 6.15pm Vigil Mass on Sunday 24th December 2017. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday 23rd December 2017 at 4.00pm in the church, at which roles will be allocated and costumes provided. Children of all ages from school nursery upwards are welcome. If you would like your child to be involved, please contact Linda Harries on 07770 623230 by 11th December at the latest. You may also contact Linda by email: [l.harries@gmail.com](mailto:l.harries@gmail.com)

## **ST JAMES THE GREAT CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

This takes place on Sunday 3rd December 2017 from 11.00am to 3.00pm. There will be Christmas stalls, lots of food and bags of fun, including good old Santa himself! For more information, contact: [friendsstjg@gmail.com](mailto:friendsstjg@gmail.com)



## Parish Masses This Week

- Sunday Masses: Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm  
**Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.155**
- 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 & 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 19th November 2017 THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Sat 18th November)	David Davies RIP
	8.30am	Ian Dallas RIP
	10am	People of the parish
	11.30am (Hymn Choir)	Ezinne Grace Florence Ezike RIP
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	Maria dos Ramos Miguel RIP
<b><i>Thirty Third Week in Ordinary Time:</i></b>		
Monday 20th November 2017	7.30am	John Joseph Murphy RIP
	10am	Journey mercy - Onwuekwe & Ilobi families, relations and friends
Tuesday 21st November 2017 The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)	7.30am	Mr Nwafor RIP
	10am	Ernest Joseph Borgonha RIP
Wednesday 22nd November 2017 St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr (Memorial)	7.30am	The Holy Souls
	10am	Pietro Mobile RIP
Thursday 23rd November 2017	7.30am	Giuseppe, Pasqualina & Grazia Garofalo RIP
	10am	Those who died defending freedom RIP
Friday 24th November 2017 St Andrew Dũng-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs (Memorial)	7.30am	Stephen & Christiana Uwagba RIP
	10am	UCM intention
Saturday 25th November 2017 Our Lady	10am	Christine Nicol RIP
<b>Next Sunday</b> 26th November 2017 SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING	6.15pm (Sat 25th November)	Thanksgiving - Harriet Elias on her 60th birthday
	8.30am	Sauveur & Carnen Vella RIP
Coffee Morning with LIFE after this Mass	10am	People of the parish
Coffee Morning with LIFE after this Mass	11.30am (Polyphony Choir)	Joe McNamara RIP
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	Mary Durkin RIP