



Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

Fathers Deodat Msahala & Innocent Ezeonyeasi and Deacon Ged Perkins

159 Ellison Road, London SW16 5DE

Telephone: 020 8679 3545

Email: parish.office159@virginmedia.com

Website: stbartsnorbury.co.uk

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 26th NOVEMBER 2017 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE YEAR A

For us, this last week in the Church's Year is not unlike New Year's Eve. Next Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new lectionary cycle **Year B**, the Year of Mark. Throughout each Liturgical year we re-live, through scriptural 'snapshots', the long and arduous history of Salvation, recalling how, in spite of the sin of our First Parents, Adam and Eve, God did not renege on His side of things. Through first the Old Testament, then the New Testament, we hear how the Father promised His errant creatures a way back on the road to Heaven. He chose and called Abram (later Abraham, *our Father in Faith*) whose descendants, the Jews, were to keep alive, over centuries, the message of Salvation, worshipping and obeying only Him, the One True God. Through His Son Jesus, '*...born of the Virgin Mary, He shared our human nature in all things but sin...*' (**Eucharistic Prayer 4**) the Father set mankind back 'on course'. He provided them with the fullness of Truth through the Catholic (Universal) Church, the Priesthood, Mass and Sacraments, pointing clearly to Eternal Life.

Sunday's readings bring out the image of the tender, self-giving Love of God through references to shepherds, underlining His faithful and unstinting care for His often straying flock. The Prophet **Ezekiel (34:11-12, 15-17)** portrays how the Good Shepherd seeks out and brings back His sheep which have strayed into dangerous territory. Once safely back in the sheepfold, there is healing of injuries, food, and security from predators. One might compare this to the Sacrament of Reconciliation where Grace lost or weakened through sin is, on our repentance, restored to or increased in our souls, strengthening them, as does Holy Communion, against falling into further sin. We must, of course, intend to cooperate with Graces received.

The **Responsorial Psalm (22: 1-3, 5-6)** the ever familiar, '*The Lord is my Shepherd*', which is commonly referred to as the 23rd psalm, again highlights the blessings of staying close to Christ Who will never abandon us, guiding, protecting and nourishing us, providing for us throughout our Earthly Life until we pass on to Eternity! The words, '*... there is nothing I shall want...*' provide a good basis for an examination of conscience in an age when, certainly among the wealthy nations, 'want' and 'lifestyle' seem to be regularly confused with 'need'!

Saint Paul, (1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28), recalls Christ's Resurrection, through which we were definitively given back the chance of Life after death with God in Heaven. He shows how, just as Adam and Eve lost the way to Heaven for us, so, in taking flesh as a Human Being, living in Perfection, Dying and Rising from the dead, Christ put Mankind 'back on track'. By faithfully co-operating with Grace in the here and now we shall come to share, one day, in Christ's Eternal Victory over evil.

Lest we grow complacent, due to the, sometimes, one-sided image presented of God's Love, forgetting that Love is a two-way process, the **Gospel (Matthew 25:31-46)** gives us a salutary warning that, for each and every one of us, life *will* come to an end; Christ *will* judge us and, if we are to live with Him in Eternal Happiness, we must have, during our lives, done what we can to exercise the virtue of Charity towards our fellow Human beings, many of whom do not have the spiritual and material advantages that we so often take for granted. It is made abundantly clear that, if we expect to receive a welcome in Heaven, we must, here and now, have extended help either directly or indirectly, to those around us who lack the spiritual and material necessities of life. How well are we preparing for Eternity? How ready are we?!

'From sudden and unprovided death, Good Lord, Deliver us!'

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£1656.00** (£1011.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders.).
The final total for the Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration collection was **£719.50**.

Today is 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 our own **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)

We regret that Mr John Smeaton, Chief Executive of SPUC will not be able to come this weekend as planned. He will arrange a visit at some point next year. Last month marked the 50th anniversary of the heinous 1967 Abortion Act, since which **EIGHT MILLION (8,000,000)** innocent human lives have been lost through abortion. The annual SPUC White Flower Appeal will take place on the weekend of 13th & 14th January 2018.

Today, there will be a **Coffee Morning with LIFE**, after all morning Masses. Knitted goods will also be on sale after the 10.00am & 11.30am Masses. Proceeds to LIFE HQ. Please see: 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 **John Beyer**, a former parishioner of St Bartholomew's, who died on 16th November 2017, after a long illness. In his time here, John was active in the Legion of Mary. He became secretary to the late Mary Whitehouse, who led the National Viewers & Listeners Association and subsequently became its director under its current name of Mediawatch-UK, where he fought tirelessly against pornography and other unsuitable material in the media. His parents were John and Claire Beyer, both violinists in St Bartholomew's Orchestra. Claire made many vestments for our clergy by hand. Also **Maurice Reaney**, former Headmaster of St Mary's High School in Croydon for 30 years. Many from this parish went to that school. Maurice died on 28th October 2017. A memorial Mass for Maurice will be celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks at St Mary's Catholic High School, Woburn Road, Croydon on Thursday 30th November 2017 at 6.00pm. All past pupils, staff and parents would be most welcome to come along. Please advise if you wish to attend by calling 020 8686 3837 or email Deacon Tony Flavin, the school Chaplain on: a.flavin@stmaryscroydon.co.uk.

The funeral of **Vida-May McGhie Small** will take place here on Monday 27th November 2017 at 11.30am.

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

WE WELCOME

into the family of the Church, **Leon Brian Higgins**, who was Baptised here last Sunday.

CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK - GROUP 4 PLEASE:

Agnes Campbell, Anna Howard, Juliet Mensah, Renata Serrao, Sophia Smith, Amarachi Soribe. 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

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? If you can help in this way, please let Cathleen Nicholls or Jed Murphy know.

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. If you wish to be emailed the rota, please send your email address to the parish office.

A SERIOUS THREAT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Do you support Catholic schools, and the right of Catholics to send their children to those schools? Archbishop Peter Smith writes:

“We need you to make your voice heard. The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. This cap was introduced by the Coalition Government in 2010. The present Government have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and indeed they promised to abandon it. Now we most urgently need you to tell them that they must not perform a U-turn on that public promise they made to Catholics. Please visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk> or search for Catholic Education in your search engine. There you will be able to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic Schools. If you do not have access to a computer, please write to the Secretary of State for Education, The Right Hon Justine Greening MP directly instead at: Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith St, Westminster, London SW1P 3BT . Thankyou.”

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018

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.

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!!.

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 next 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. 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, during the 6.15pm Vigil Mass on Sunday 24th December 2017. Please note that the rehearsal will now take place on Saturday 23rd December 2017 at 11.30am (**not 4.00pm as previously advised**) 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

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This takes place next Sunday 3rd December 2017 from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Contact: friendsstjg@gmail.com

ADVENT

Advent begins next weekend, and we shall also begin Year B in the Parish Mass Book. Therefore the turquoise coloured books will come into use. There will be a Day of Penitence later in the month, when Confessions will be available for a whole day, giving you a great opportunity to prepare for Christmas.

Each Sunday during Advent, a candle will be lit on our Advent Crown, as we look forward with great longing for the coming of the Light of the World, Christ Himself at Christmas.



Parish Masses This Week

- Sunday Masses: Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm
Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.158
- 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 26th November 2017		
SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	6.15pm (Sat 25th November)	Thanksgiving - Harriet Elias on her 60th birthday
Coffee Morning with LIFE after this Mass	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

Thirty Fourth & final Week in Ordinary Time:

Monday 27th November 2017	7.30am 10am 11.30am	Dominic Cu Van Tran RIP Deceased members of Onwuekwe & Ilobi families Funeral of Vida-May McGhie-Small
Tuesday 28th November 2017	7.30am 10am	Michelina & Antonio Paone RIP Deceased relatives & friends of Richard & Sabina Bush
Wednesday 29th November 2017	7.30am 10am	Salus Fernandes RIP Michael & Anna Leahy RIP
Thursday 30th November 2017 St Andrew, Apostle (Feast)	7.30am 10am	Constanza, Angelo & Carlo Gaudio RIP Welfare of Anita & Alan Blaquiere
Friday 1st December 2017 FIRST FRIDAY. ADORATION AFTER 10am MASS - BENEDICTION AT 2pm	7.30am 10am	The Holy Souls Wilfred & Letitia Rebello - Golden Wedding
Saturday 2nd December 2017 - Our Lady	10am	Welfare of Michelle Jouan-Luger

Next Sunday 3rd December 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.15pm (Sat 2nd December)	Nellie O'Donnell RIP
	8.30am	Mary Houlihan RIP
	10am	Alessandro & Vera Di Brita and Clara Lucia RIP
	11.30am (Polyphony Choir)	Future welfare and happiness of baby Robyn Price
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish