



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)

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

SUNDAY 28th JANUARY 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

Continuing our series on the Church as more than just a building:



Just as a church building is an inanimate object without its parishioners, so Faith, a Gift of God, is not merely something we 'do' on Sundays and Holy Days. Faith is not just a set of facts to be learned from the Catechism or in lessons, but it is something which must be accepted and practised, i.e. 'taken on board' and have a definite effect on our day-to-day life if it is to live and grow in us and spread to those among whom we live. Faith, in a 'compartment' of the mind that means little or nothing to one is rather like a plant which, once in the soil, is then neglected and, in time, attacked by frost, insects and the sun, will either be stunted in growth or even shrivel and

die, whereas plants which are watered, fertilised, pruned and carefully nurtured flourish, producing flowers, fruit, seeds and further growth round the garden. Cuttings can spread this bounty far and wide. Who knows how many 'seeds of Faith' God will plant and how many 'cuttings' He will transplant through our efforts?

As with productive gardening, considerable effort 'growing' Faith is required on our part, perhaps more than ever in today's world which would seem to be governed by outward principles such as reputation, pleasure and material success; a world which, at times, might appear to be run according to the whims of pressure groups who, most decidedly, do not accept the Will of God, but strenuously oppose it!

In very early times the Christian message was, of course, spread by word of mouth and, of course, through example! Throughout the ages, until literacy became more widespread, and before written and printed matter were more readily available and understandable, other ways were essential to teach and recall the Truths of the Faith. The Rosary, for example, was originally developed from the prayers of the Psalter (book of psalms), having 150 beads corresponding to the 150 psalms; in this way even the uneducated could, through prayers, counted on their beads, join in the Prayer of the Church, truly a demonstration of one's equality before God which transcends all buildings and borders, and which does not depend on one's academic qualifications!

Thank you for your generosity

Collection for 21st January 2018: £1756.00 (£1111.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders).

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. There will be a **second collection** which helps to support the work of the Church in the promotion of racial justice in our schools, in our parishes and in wider society. If you make your weekly offering by Gift Aid, please use a spare blue envelope from your box. There is not a specially marked envelope for this collection. Once again, may we ask the many people who Gift Aid their offering by Standing Order, and who have still not collected their boxes and their end of year letters for the last tax year, to kindly do so.

Please take away with you a special Racial Justice Prayer Card from the porch.

WELCOME

We welcome back Father Innocent after his holiday back home in Nigeria. Talking of holidays, Fr Deo will be off to Tanzania this coming Monday for a two week break visiting his mother. During his absence we shall once again be welcoming Canon Joseph Collins to say the 10am & 11.30am Masses for the next two Sundays.

COFFEE MORNING WITH LIFE TODAY

This will take place after the 10am & 11.30am Masses today. Proceeds to Zoe's Place Baby Hospital in Liverpool. see www.zoes-place.org.uk. Also, after all morning Masses, goods and toys will be on sale by the Youth Club.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Candidates and parents/guardians are reminded that the Mass of Enrolment takes place this afternoon at 5pm.

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, Charmaine Meli, Mary Meyern, Janina Miller, 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 happy repose of the soul of Edgar Ming, of Heatherset Gardens, who died on Monday 22nd January 2018. Our thoughts and prayers as a parish go out to his widow and family.

CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK - GROUP 1 please: Ena Holland, Mary Icheke, Eileen McCarthy, Nancy McNamara, Christiana Muoghalu, Kathleen O'Toole, Nwamaka Offor, Polin Rajaratnam, Irene Reynolds. . If you can spare an hour or two every six weeks or so, or perhaps more often, to help clean the House of God, please get in touch with the parish office, so that you may be allocated to a group. We do need more people to come forward so as to avoid the burden landing on those who clean on a regular basis.

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, CANDLEMAS

This falls next Friday 3rd February 2018. On this day, also known as the Purification of the Virgin Mary, candles will be blessed before Mass. The Mass and blessing may be found in the Parish Mass Book, on pages 299-305.

THE REPOSITORY

Stock has arrived which includes your requirements for St Patrick's Day, Mothers' Day and Easter. As always, once it's gone, it's gone! Don't forget your bargain priced 2018 diaries at only 30p each! There are two different diaries. Their price is kept low by advertising, and some local businesses have advertisements in them, many of which are owned and run by parishioners. The glossy diary contains several popular Catholic prayers and some pictures of St Bartholomew's. We hope that you will purchase one as a memento of your parish.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE OF REDEMPTORIST FORCES CHAPLAINS

You are invited to a special service to remember the many Redemptorist Priests who served as chaplains to the forces in the two World Wars. This takes place at St Mary's Clapham on Friday 16th February 2018. A collection will be taken in support of the Royal British Legion. Please see the poster in the porch for full details.

LONDON SW CATHOLIC ADULTS

Our next social evening is on Saturday, 3rd February at 7.00pm at The Star of India, Cheam SM3 8SD. For further details visit our Facebook page or contact Miles Channing on 07790 441242.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The third session, entitled “**Celebrating our Rescue**” will take place next **Saturday 3rd February 2018 at 10am** prompt in the upper hall, finishing at 11.30am. This session is for the children only. Please ensure that your child arrives on time and is collected immediately afterwards so that everybody can get away on time. If, for any reason, your child cannot attend this or any session, please contact one of the catechists without delay.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018 AND ARRANGING BAPTISM

If you are considering Baptism for your child, you will need to attend a Baptism Preparation Course. This only applies if you have not been on such a course in the three years prior to this Baptism. In the first instance, please complete a Baptism Details Form, which you will find in the main porch. Please read it carefully, complete it in full and hand it to the parish office or to one of our clergy. The next course will run across two consecutive Tuesday evenings, 17th & 24th April at 8pm. You must attend both sessions.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY GROUP

The Children's Liturgy group need some adult supporters willing to come to our sessions about once a month to help supervise the children at the 10am Mass on Sundays. We have to adhere to a strict adult/child ratio and have plenty of group leaders but simply require another adult present. Anyone wishing to sit in on a session and see what is involved should speak to Linda Harries (07770 623 230) or just come to a session and introduce yourself to the Catechist. A DBS check will be required to be carried out on every adult, so please be prepared to complete forms and provide documentation. As a reminder, all children from school nursery age up to year 2 are welcome to attend - Year 3's are expected to remain in the church to support their First Holy Communion learning.

YOUTH CLUB

The club meets on Friday nights from 6.30pm until 9.30pm in the hall. Membership is open to those aged between 10 and 16 years inclusive. A small charge of £20 per term per member applies. New members are welcome, as are potential new helpers. Please contact Eddie Sanders on 020 8333 0690.

VOTIVE CANDLE STANDS

All our votive candle stands have now been replaced, since they have failed after many years of service. Also, in line with Health and Safety requirements, we have now replaced the candle stand in front of the Blessed Sacrament Altar with an electric one. The buttons on the new votive light stands have proven somewhat irresistible to children. Please try to discourage them from pressing the buttons. The only wax candles you will see in use will be those on the main altar, the Blessed Sacrament altar, the Sacred Heart altar and Our Lady's altar.

The Consecration candles will still be used at particular feasts, as will the Paschal Candle and, at Easter, the candles lit during the Easter Vigil. There have been several serious fires across the nation, directly caused by candles. We have followed advice to significantly reduce the risk of fire. The candles carried by our servers use oil, thus reducing the incidence of wax being dropped onto flooring. It is just as good as the real thing.

A DAY WITH MARY - SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2018

This event is just three weeks away. Posters are now up and flyers are available in the porch. These events are popular throughout the archdiocese and indeed the whole country, and will no doubt attract interest from many devotees of Our Blessed Lady. Please mark your diaries so that you may attend if you are able to do so.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please now consider the March Rota, which will run up to and including Palm Sunday, 25th March 2018. Please be pro-active in advising of your availability. Please also consider Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night and Easter Sunday itself, bearing in mind that there will be no 5pm Mass on Easter Sunday.

If you are interested in reading at Mass, or would like to be considered as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please see Father Deo or Father Innocent.

LOST PROPERTY

Several items remain uncollected in the porch. Please take a look and see if anything of yours is there.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS)

You will find a new selection of pamphlets in the CTS rack this weekend, all of which look at various aspects of our Catholic Faith and what the Church teaches on a wide range of social issues.

THE POLYPHONY CHOIR IS SEEKING AN ORGANIST

The Polyphony Choir is looking for an organist to accompany them for the Masses and Services at which they sing, and for the last two Tuesday evening practices each month. This opportunity may suit a grade 7-8 pianist wishing to extend their keyboard abilities to the pipe organ. Sight-reading skills a huge advantage.

A monthly stipend is available, negotiable according to ability.

Please contact Tony Price at director@polychoir.co.uk or 020 8647 4435 for more details.



Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.132; Friday - P 299 - 305	
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 & 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 28th January 2018		
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Saturday 27th Jan)	Carmen & Sauveur Vella RIP
Youth Club Toy Sale	8.30am	Holy Souls
Coffee Morning - LIFE/Youth Club Toys	10am	People of the parish
Coffee Morning - LIFE/Youth Club Toys	11.30am (Hymn choir)	Welfare of Joyce Ippoliti & family
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	Confirmation candidates - Mass of Enrolment
Monday 29th January 2018	7.30am	Welfare of Saaraa Bacchus
	10am	Margaret Fergus RIP
Tuesday 30th January 2018	7.30am	Mrs J Shelley RIP
	10am	Edna Graham RIP and all her friends
Wednesday 31st January 2018	7.30am	Thanksgiving and welfare of Mrs C Robinson
St John Bosco, Priest (Memorial)	10am	Julie Hockham RIP
Thursday 1st February 2018	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Peter Chapman RIP
Friday 2nd February 2018	7.30am	Welfare of Mother Winsome Durrant SBVM
The Presentation of the Lord (Feast); Candlemas - First Friday - Adoration after 10am Mass until Benediction at 2pm	10am	Thanksgiving - Kathleen Lawrence
Saturday 3rd February 2018	10am	Anton Ratnarajah RIP
St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr (Memorial)		
Next Sunday 4th February 2018		
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.15pm (Saturday 3rd Feb)	John Maguire RIP
	8.30am	Norah & Miah Moynihan RIP
	10am	People of the parish
	11.30am (Polyphony choir)	Thanksgiving - Jonathan Asuem
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	Holy Souls