



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 18th FEBRUARY 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

Last week, on Ash Wednesday, we began Lent (from the Anglo-Saxon 'Lencten', i.e. 'Spring'), a six week period of preparation for Easter, a time probably generally associated with 'giving things up'. Self-denial can certainly focus our minds more sharply on our Saviour's Sacrifice and help us become more detached from material things. Hopefully it will not be, simply, a yearly 'detox', foregoing such pleasures as alcohol or rich foods before eagerly taking them up again at Easter. Lenten self-denial obviously really needs to become a year-round discipline to be lastingly beneficial, whether spiritually and/or physically.

Probably more of a challenge is the 'positive side of the coin', i.e. doing extra. This must certainly include making great efforts with our spiritual lives and may well involve money saved through material self-denial. Hopefully, money saved from giving up certain foods and drinks will go to Charity. Also there are practical acts of Charity one can take on, such as giving time to visiting the sick and housebound.

Bearing in mind that we need God's Grace to do anything *truly* good will, hopefully, prompt us to try to get to Mass (in addition to obligatory Sunday Mass) at least once during the week, maybe at St. Bart's at 7.30am on our way to work or school. At Mass, we have the privilege of accompanying Christ in His once-for-all Sacrifice of His Life to His Father on Calvary. We receive Him in Holy Communion, an act which strengthens souls in the State of Grace so that they may persevere in faithfulness to God. If Mass in our Parish Church is not possible, do check Mass times at churches nearer to your school or workplace; Some Catholic schools may already offer students the possibility of daily Mass. In addition to morning Masses, some churches may well offer lunchtime or evening Mass.

As many churches our towns and cities are open all day, one has, if it is really impossible to get to Mass, *at least* the chance to pop in and make the Way of the Cross. Remember that, at St. Bart's, we have the opportunity to make this devotion together on Sundays (4pm) and Fridays (7.30pm) in Lent. The fourteen Stations (or Way) of the Cross, put before our mind's eye several events in Christ's Passion, from His condemnation by Pilate to His burial. This devotion, which can, of course, be practised every day of the year, is available in a variety of formats. Very young children will benefit from being taken and shown the beautifully carved and painted images in church, with very simple explanations from Parents or older Siblings or, maybe, they can be asked to tell the story in their own words. Some of us may well have a favourite version of the Stations we like to use. Even the sick and housebound can make the Stations; nobody need feel excluded! There are Apps for our Smartphones, not to mention a wealth of on-line versions, many of which have film footage with sound or subtitles.

A beautiful, simple and soul-searching version is that by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, published by CTS. For those of us who can use smartphones, mp3 players and computers. This is available at: <http://wdtprs.com/blog/2009/02/way-of-the-cross-by-st-alphonsus-liguori-voice-and-with-chant/>

Another, more contemporary meditation, by Fr. Hugh Thwaites, S.J. is available at: http://www.proecclesia.myfreeola.uk/talk_HTWay.mp3. Of course there are many versions available; it all depends on what we hope to gain, spiritually, from this great devotion. EWTN Catholic TV is certainly well worth looking at. How we meditate on the Passion is, of course, up to us. If we *really* don't have time to come and make the Stations in church (on our own, if we prefer) or to spend a short while making them at home, why not try, at least daily, during Lent, to say the beautiful Act of Contrition which is often included as part of the Way of the Cross: ***"I love Thee, Jesus, my love above all things! I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee! Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always and then do with me what thou wilt!"*** This wording can easily be explained to and adapted for our younger parishioners.

Whatever we elect to do let us do it with love, as part of our life-long journey, ***"...knowing, loving and serving God..."*** here on earth, so as to bring us to be ***"...happy forever with Him in Heaven."*** (Many of us will have learned through the 'Penny' Catechism (Q&A.2), still published (though, unfortunately, no longer 1 penny!) and available from the CTS, even in E-Book format these days! It is an excellent summary of our Faith and will 'stretch' both adults and children alike! (<http://www.ctsbooks.org/catechism-of-christian-doctrine>). For those still wishing to 'grow in Faith' this Constant Teaching of the Church is more fully explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Chs. 1-3). [HERE](#)

Thank you for your generosity

Collection for 11th February 2018: £1843.00 (£1198.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders).

The second collection for Poor Parishes raised £698.00

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

CAFOD Family Fast Day is set for Friday 23rd February 2018. Next Sunday, there will be a collection for **CAFOD**. As usual, we are asked to make a sacrifice for our brethren in poorer countries, remembering that God's Love is for everybody on this earth, regardless of their status in life. We are called to help those less fortunate than ourselves, many of whose lives are full of deprivation, hunger and disease. Lent Fast Day envelopes are now available in the porch, so please take one home for your family and perhaps discuss what you might like to do as a family in order to mark **CAFOD** Family Fast Day. The British Government has pledged to double all your donations, and of course Gift Aid will further enhance what you are able to give. It is important that you **DO NOT** use your normal Gift Aid envelopes for this collection; they cannot be included. You do not have to be a regular Gift Aid giver here to Gift Aid your contribution. Just check that you fulfil the requirements. If you wish to Gift Aid your offering to **CAFOD**, please use the special slip included with the **CAFOD** collection envelope. If you wish to write a cheque for this collection, please make it payable to St Bartholomew's Church. A Cheque will be sent to **CAFOD** as usual for the total amount collected both in baskets and envelopes.

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, Jean Cowie, 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 **Ermando Spinozzi**, of Heatherset Gardens, who died on Friday 16th February 2018. Our prayers and condolences as a parish go out to the family.

The funeral of **Fr Egdehonghon John Ehichioya** will take place this coming Wednesday 21st February 2018 at 12 Noon at St Andrew's Church, Thornton Heath, conducted by Archbishop Peter Smith. Fr John's body will be received into the church on Tuesday 20th February at 6pm, followed by Mass for the parish. Burial will take place in Nigeria.

WELCOME

We welcome into the Parish Community, **Rex Kenneth Christopher Dowdeswell**, 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. 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.

IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING GLENCAIRN ROAD AND HEPWORTH ROAD

Both of these roads are now ONE WAY. Hepworth Road is now One Way DOWNWARDS from Streatham High Road to Ellison Road, whilst Glencairn Road is now One Way UPWARDS from Ellison Road to Streatham High Road. Please be prepared for this new system, which may well cause some congestion around the Church as people get used to it. There is also a danger that some motorists will drive at speed. Please look out for any children, senior citizens and other vulnerable people who will be unprepared for this. NB: pedal cycles may still travel in each direction on both roads. Please also take extra care as there are some vehicles which are still facing in what has now become the wrong direction in both these roads. It is still possible that you may encounter another vehicle coming towards you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Sundays during the Season of Lent, commencing this afternoon, there will be Stations of the Cross at 4pm, followed by Benediction. Also, each Friday evening, at 7.30pm during Lent, Stations of the Cross will be led by various parish groups. This Friday, 23rd February, members of the PPC will be leading us.

COFFEE MORNING

Next Sunday with LIFE after the 10am and 11.30am Masses. Delicious cakes for sale, as well as knitted goods. Please help LIFE to assist mothers who might otherwise have turned to abortion, or who have experienced it, and who desperately need help. How lucky we are to have our lives! Proceeds to LIFE HQ. See: lifecharity.org.uk

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALTAR SERVERS - PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

On **Palm Sunday**, 25th March, the 11:30 Mass ONLY starts with a procession from the hall to the Church. There will be a **practice** on Sunday March 18th from 6pm, lasting 30 minutes. Please sign up on the sheet in the Sacristy.

Maundy Thursday, 29th March - Mass at 8pm. **Practice:** Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm;

Good Friday, 30th March - Service at 3pm. **Practice:** Good Friday Morning at 10.30am;

Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday 31st March - Mass at 8.30pm. **Practice:** Holy Saturday Morning at 10.30am.

Please sign up for each of the above on the notice you will find in the Sacristy.

Easter Sunday, 1st April - No practices. Please sign up for Masses, but please note, there will be NO 5pm Mass. It is a blessing that so many of our servers take part in these great events of the Easter Triduum, always closer than the congregation to all that goes on. It is particularly good to see our older servers continuing to participate. Please put yourself forward for as many services as you can. We always need so many of you, whatever your age!

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018 AND ARRANGING BAPTISM

If you seek Baptism for your child, you must attend a Baptism Preparation Course, unless you have done so in the three years prior to this Baptism. In every case, 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 takes place across two consecutive evenings, which are Tuesdays 17th & 24th April 2018 at 8pm.

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)

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please urgently provide your availability for March and for all Holy Week services and Easter Sunday.

This will help us to avoid a last minute rush, desperately seeking people to fill all the gaps!

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Session 3 takes place this Wednesday 21st February from 7.30pm to 9pm. NB: this session is for Candidates and Parents. Candidates will be in the upper hall; parents in the lower hall. All Candidates should bring their folders. Those who have not yet brought their contribution towards the programme are kindly reminded to do so this week.

In addition, Candidates will be presented with Bibles at the 5pm Mass next Sunday 25th February. All Candidates are expected to arrive in good time for 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction, after which there will be a short practice covering their various roles during the 5pm Mass. Please be in the church ready for a 4pm start.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The next session, number 4: "God Helps Me Get It Right", takes place next Saturday 24th February from 10am until 11.30am. NB: this session is for Candidates and Parents. Children upstairs, with parents downstairs.

Please also ensure that you have Wednesday 28th February in your diaries, when we shall be having a Reconciliation Service at 7pm, which will be followed by First Confession.

The Going Forth Lunch, will take place on Sunday 1st July 2018 at 1pm. Would parents of last year's First Communion children able to assist Teresa Furtado with this event kindly email: trizfurtado@aol.com.

GIFT AID BOXES

In the new financial year, and by popular demand, all those who give by Standing Order will be given a reduced pack of envelopes, only for second collections. As a result, we shall be allocating new Gift Aid numbers to all those who use Standing Orders. This will make no difference to your payments, as they are manually checked. However, you might wish to advise your bank to change the reference number they give for your own records.

PEACEFUL VIGILS OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINICS

Lambeth Council is among many seeking to prevent these peaceful and prayerful gatherings. As a direct result of these vigils, many women have chosen not to go ahead with abortion. Please visit the attached link to give your opinion and help to ensure that the pro life voice is heard by the closing date of 28th February 2018: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/consultations/have-your-say-on-a-public-space-protection-order-pspo-for-sexual-health-and>;

REPOSITORY

Don't forget your requirements for St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and Easter.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS)

Copies of the St Alphonsus Stations of the Cross books are now available in both normal and large print. There are also some booklets relating to Lent and to various tenets of our rich Catholic Faith.



Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.152	
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 18th February 2018		
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	6.15pm (Saturday 17th Feb)	Elisabeth Davies RIP
	8.30am	People of the parish
	10am	Hervé Yoo Foo RIP
	11.30am (Plainchant Choir)	Welfare of Ayobami Adeyoyin
<i>Stations of the Cross & Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	Christy & Rani Rajaratnam RIP
Monday 19th February 2018	7.30am	Welfare of Yvonne Greaney
	10am	Thanksgiving - Holy Child School Ghana, 25th year
Tuesday 20th February 2018	7.30am	Den Cafferkey RIP
	10am	Deceased members of the Tambirasa family
Wednesday 21st February 2018 (St Peter Damian)	7.30am	Jerome B Persaud RIP
	10am	Pietro Mobile RIP
Thursday 22nd February 2018 The Chair of St Peter the Apostle (Feast)	7.30am	Recovery of Sheila Murphy
	10am	Thanksgiving - Bridie Addison (90th Birthday)
Friday 23rd February 2018 (St Polycarp) CAFOD Lent Fast Day <i>Stations of the Cross - (PPC)</i>	7.30am	Recovery of Marie Wheelan
	10am	UCM intention
	7.30pm	
Saturday 24th February 2018	10am	Carmen & Sauveur Vella RIP
Next Sunday 25th February 2018 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	6.15pm (Saturday 24th Feb)	Thanksgiving - Fred & June Borg on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
	8.30am	Anthony Agius RIP
LIFE Coffee Morning after this Mass	10am	People of the parish
LIFE Coffee Morning after this Mass	11.30am (Hymn Choir)	Thanksgiving - Daniels family
<i>Stations of the Cross and Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	Confirmation Candidates' Bible Presentation Mass